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Intellectual Property Rights

CBD WORKING GROUP ADOPTS GUIDELINES ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES

At the Sixth Conference of the Parties (COP-6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 7-19 April in The Hague, The Netherlands, Working Group II (WG-II) adopted the first-ever international guidelines on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing (ABS). The draft Decision containing the guidelines along with a plan of action for capacity building for ABS and decisions on the role of intellectual property rights and the relationship between the CBD and the WTO Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) has now been forwarded to the plenary of COP-6 for final adoption.

Seen as a "first step of an evolutionary process", the voluntary "Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization" aim to facilitate access to genetic resources on 'mutually agreed terms' (MAT) and on the basis of the country of origin's 'prior informed consent' (PIC) by providing guidance to Parties in the development of ABS regimes while promoting capacity building, transfer of technology and the provision of financial resources.

Most issues resolved

WG-II managed to resolve most of the outstanding issues in the Guidelines. Notably, Parties reached a compromise regarding the inclusion of products and derivatives of genetic resources, removing the reference in the scope of the Guidelines and including them instead in the context of MAT and PIC. Some points, however, were left for further discussion at the reconvened Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing. Thus, regarding the 'use of terms', the Guidelines state that the terms as defined in the CBD shall apply and instructs the Working Group to advise Parties on the "use of terms, definitions and/or glossary, as

appropriate". Regarding compliance, the Guidelines instruct Parties to take measures to support compliance with PIC and MAT provisions -- including, inter alia, encouraging the disclosure of origin of the genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge (TK) in applications for intellectual property rights, voluntary certification schemes, and measures discouraging unfair trade practices -- and ask the Working Group to consider the "feasibility, practicality and costs" of such measures.

The role of intellectual property rights

During the negotiations, several countries highlighted the close link between the draft Guidelines and related discussions in the TRIPs Council, in particular ongoing discussions on the review of Article 27.3

(b) (patentability of life forms). In line with its position at the TRIPs Council (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 21 March 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-03-21/story4.htm>), India -- supported by Colombia, Jamaica and Peru -- stressed that the Guidelines should encourage countries to require the disclosure of the country of origin of the genetic resources, and evidence of benefit-sharing and PIC of TK holders in patent applications. In the end, requirements for disclosure of the origin of the genetic resources and TK were added to the Guidelines as a possible compliance measure (see above) with 'intellectual property rights' (IPRs) substituted for 'patents'. In addition, a section on the role of IPRs in implementing ABS arrangements contained in the draft Decision invites Parties to encourage the inclusion of disclosure requirements in IPR applications and requests the CBD Executive Secretary and the World Intellectual Property Organization to provide further information on this issue. The draft Decision furthermore requests the Executive Secretary to renew the application for observer status on the TRIPs Council as called for by a number of countries, including India.

Some reactions

While delegates generally welcomed the WG-II's adoption of the Guidelines, some expressed concerns about budgetary implications and realities regarding inter-sessional work to address outstanding issues on ABS. Some delegations, including Cameroon on the behalf of the African Group, Ethiopia and the Philippines, called for negotiations on an internationally binding instrument on ABS.

Representatives of indigenous peoples criticised the voluntary guidelines as too weak and as providing insufficient protection for the knowledge and natural wealth of local people. They also reiterated previously voiced concerns that national governments rather than indigenous peoples would benefit from the commercial exploitation of TK.

The need for a binding instrument was echoed by the NGO caucus, which also strongly supported the inclusion of disclosure requirements in patent applications and called on the Parties to make a clear statement against patents on life. In their joint statement to COP-6, NGOs stressed "corporate-led globalisation and the economic models imposed by it" as a fundamental underlying cause of biodiversity loss, singling out the WTO as "the main driving force imposing this economic model of corporate control upon countries". They expressed concern that the results of the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha could undermine the implementation of the CBD and urged Parties to "stand up to the challenge and protect their Convention against the WTO and other forms of corporate-led globalisation".

Immediately following COP-6, governments will convene for the third Intergovernmental Committee on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP-3) on 22-26 April in The Hague. BRIDGES Weekly and BRIDGES Trade BioRes will report on the outcomes of the two meetings in forthcoming issues.

Additional Resources

For daily coverage of the meetings, see IISD Linkages at <http://www.iisd.ca/>.

ENB, Vol. 9 No. 229-236, 8 April - 17 April; "Biodiversity is not for sale, nor is it free; it is priceless," ECO, 8 April 2002; "UN moves to curb bio-piracy," BBC ONLINE, 17 April 2002; ICTSD Internal Files.

Trade at WSSD

PREPCOM III FAILS TO AGREE ON DRAFT TEXT FOR WSSD

Delegates at the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom III) for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) on 25 March to 5 April in New York failed to achieve their objective of producing the first draft of a 'review' document for WSSD, instead asking the PrepCom Chair Emil Salim (Indonesia) to come up with a new text for discussion at PrepCom IV in May. Many environmental groups blamed the US, Canada, Australia and the oil exporting nations for "blocking meaningful targets and timetables" and reiterated concerns that WSSD would be subordinated to the multilateral trade regime.

Failure blamed on lack of commitment and inadequate guidance

Following the delegates' failure to agree on a draft text for further action to be discussed at WSSD, informal consultations will be held in the lead-up to PrepCom IV, including three days of discussions immediately prior to the meeting. At the request of the G-77/China and several other delegations, the Chair will compile an action-oriented and concise draft document for PrepCom IV, based on these informal consultations and incorporating the concerns articulated during PrepCom III.

With this setback so close to the main event, many critics pointed to a lack of high-level political commitment and inadequate preparations of government delegations. Others also expressed frustration with the insufficient guidance on process, content and direction of the talks provided by the PrepCom Bureau, as well as logistical and time constraints. Many participants furthermore criticised the more than 100-page long compilation text put forward by Chair Salim after the first week of the meeting (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 4 April 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-04-04/story4.htm>) as unwieldy and difficult to negotiate. Some, however, cautioned that the difficulties apparent at PrepCom III were an inevitable stage in any multilateral negotiating process that had also plagued preparations for the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio.

Trade issues in the draft text - where and how?

Discussions on how and where to include trade-related issues in the draft text continued at PrepCom III mainly in the context of Sections V (Sustainable Development in a Globalizing World) and IX (Means of Implementation) of the Chair's text. While the G-77 proposed general references to subsidies and trade barriers in the Introduction with more specific points in the Sections V and IX, focusing in particular on market access, special and differential treatment and the elimination of trade barriers, the US preferred trade references to be restricted to encouraging WTO Members to implement the outcomes of Doha. For its part, the EU emphasised technical assistance and preferential market access for least-developed countries, proposing that such reference should be included in Section IX. In the end, delegates reached a tentative agreement to move trade references from Section V to a subsection on "trade" in Section IX, leading some NGOs to question how trade references would link to other sections of the paper if trade was merely included as a means of implementation.

Civil society criticises unconditional support of trade agenda

At PrepCom III, many civil society groups at PrepCom III expressed concern regarding governments' seemingly unconditional support of the Doha Agenda agreed to at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference last year. WWF criticised governments for not making any efforts to explore how WSSD could complement the Doha mandate on sustainable development and environment, instead restricting themselves to political statements supporting the implementation of the Doha mandate. These sentiments were echoed by the Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED) which criticised the "unconditional support" for the new trade round, even among developing countries (G-77), which ANPED claimed would "seriously undermine the efforts to implement a sustainability agenda". Similarly, Friends of the Earth International (FOEI) remarked the lack of references in the Chair's text to potential negative impacts of economic globalisation on wider society, sustainability and the environment, accusing governments of "ignoring civil society's concerns about the trade liberalisation process".

NGOs furthermore reiterated calls for a clarification of the relationship between multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and WTO rules in the context of WSSD, which they say should not be left to WTO Members to decide. [A clarification of the MEA-WTO relationship is part of the mandated negotiations launched at Doha.] In a joint statement by FOEI, Greenpeace, WWF, TWN, ANPED and the Sierra Club, the NGOs called on governments to reaffirm the authority and autonomy of MEAs and to clarify that "the objectives, principles and provisions of MEAs must not be subordinated to WTO rules". While singling out the EU as the only government at PrepCom III to bring forward any concrete trade-related proposals, such as references to the promotion of trade in organic products, WWF expressed disappointment that the EU did not raise the MEA-WTO issue despite pushing for its inclusion in the new round of trade talks and circulating a controversial paper outlining preliminary ideas on the MEA-WTO relationship at the last negotiating session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 4 April; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-04-04/story3.htm>).

NGOs wary of 'partnership' discussions

Delegates at PrepCom III also began informal discussions on partnerships -- the so-called "type 2" outcomes of WSSD -- which are meant to focus on concrete and specific initiatives to strengthen the implementation of Agenda 21 (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 4 April 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-04-04/story4.htm>). While generally agreeing that these partnerships should be of a voluntary and self-organising nature, many delegates and NGOs suggested establishing a framework that would ensure their alignment with the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. NGOs furthermore reiterated previously voiced concerns that such initiatives should not be a substitute for concrete action by governments, but should rather aim to reinforce the implementation of Type 1 outcomes.

Efforts to formulate a draft text for WSSD and informal consultations on partnerships will continue at PrepCom IV, to be held at the ministerial level in Bali, Indonesia, on 27 May to 7 June (with three days of informal discussion prior to the meeting). Delegates will furthermore aim to finalise a political declaration that will be endorsed by heads of State and Government attending the Summit on 26 September to 4 August in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Additional Resources

Documents of the PrepCom III and further information on WSSD and the preparatory process are available at <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org>. In addition, the National Preparatory Committee of Indonesia has launched a website for PrepCom IV which provides information on the preparation, a free message board and a free mailing list (see <http://baliprepcom.org>).

For daily coverage, see IISD Linkages at <http://www.iisd.ca/2002/pc3/>.

"From Doha to Johannesburg: Who Will Decide Our Common Future?", Victor Menotti, BRIDGES Monthly Review, March/April 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/monthly/bridges/BRIDGES6-3.pdf>

ENB, Vol. 22 No. 29, 8 April; "Bali next stop for Johannesburg Summit preparations," WSSD PRESS RELEASE, 5 April; "With us or against us to save the planet?" FOEI, 5 April 2002; ICTSD Internal Files.

Biotechnology

CHINA, PHILIPPINES MOVE AHEAD ON BIOTECH REGULATION

China is considering its first biosafety law to regulate the country's use and development of biotechnology, the state-run Xinhua news agency reports. According to officials of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), biosafety refers to potential negative impacts of living modified organisms in research, development, use and transboundary movement on biodiversity, the environment and human health. The law would make the use of biotechnology in agricultural production and mass production of transgenic or

genetically modified foods subject to risk evaluations, the report said. Also, the law would include rules for evaluating and inspecting alien species imports, including transgenic seeds, according to Wang Dehui, director of the SEPA Department of Nature and Ecology Conservation.

It was not immediately clear, however, whether the proposed law might be linked to China's recent biotech rules regulating the import of agricultural biotechnology products. The rules were scheduled to enter into force in March, but were temporarily waived allowing for a transition period of nine months (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 4 April; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-04-04/story7.htm>). Soybean trade worth USD 1 billion, which had virtually ground to a halt as traders awaited temporary safety permits for their biotech products, is now expected to resume after China today began issuing the first permits just before the US' peak export season ends. The Chinese government is also reported to have issued labels for genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to domestic importers. China is the biggest buyer of the US soybean crop, which is estimated to be 70 percent bioengineered.

In related news, the Philippine government adopted guidelines to regulate the import of GMOs by 1 July 2003 (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 21 March 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-03-21/inbrief.htm>). Under the administrative order -- approved by the President and signed by the Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor earlier this month -- the government will prepare a list by 30 June 2003 of approved GM commodities allowed in the country, after which date importers of GMOs will be required to obtain a permit.

"China to draft laws on bio-safety," XINHUA NEWS AGENCY, 8 April 2002; "China mulls first law to regulate biotech," REUTERS, 9 April 2002; "Philippines to regulate import of GMOs," REUTERS, 4 April 2002; "China issues temporary GMO permits, trade applauds," REUTERS, 18 April 2002.

MEXICAN GM MAIZE STUDY QUESTIONED

In an unprecedented move, Nature -- one of the world's leading science journals based in London -- has disavowed an article by Igancio Chapela and David Quist published in the journal last November which had found native varieties of corn grown in remote regions of Mexico to have been contaminated by transgenic DNA (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 6 December; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/01-12-06/index.htm>). "Nature has concluded that the evidence available is not sufficient to justify the publication of the original paper," an "editorial note" said earlier this month. The 11 April issue of Nature contains two articles which highlight basic errors in the study. Inter alia, Nick Kaplinsky of the University of California, Berkeley, questioned the methodology used, arguing that one of the conclusions that transgenes were "jumping around the genome" of Mexican corn "would have changed some basic assumptions about biotechnology, if correct". While acknowledging some mistakes, Chapela and Quist stood by their main finding regarding the presence of transgenic DNA fragments in Mexican native corn varieties, and accused biotechnology advocates of wanting to undermine the study. "To read Nature you would think our entire research had gone south," said Chapela. "That is not the case. Our main statement, that there is GM contamination, is not contested by the critics." The Mexican Government has commissioned two reports on this issue, which are expected to be released shortly.

"Scientist claims vendetta over GM research," THE HERALD, 4 April 2002; "Journal Editors Disavow Article on Biotech Corn," WASHINGTON POST, 4 April 2002; "Still more on the Mexican GM maize scandal," ETC, 5 April 2002.

In Brief

INDONESIA PLANNING TO IMPOSE LOG EXPORT BAN. On 12 April, a senior Indonesian trade and industry ministry official announced that Indonesia was planning to impose a permanent ban on exports of logs to protect its dwindling tropical forests. The move follows a temporary ban placed on exports of logs for wood chips that was put in place in October 2001 but expired this month. Director General of Exports, Sudar SA, said that the government would first extend the temporary ban while discussing permanent measures with the

International Monetary Fund, which has a \$US5 billion loan programme with Indonesia that is contingent upon a series of economic reforms being implemented across all sectors. In 1980, Indonesia banned exports of logs but later replaced it with a 200 percent export tax aimed at protecting local industry and encouraging exports of higher value wood products. However, in accordance with an agreement signed with the IMF in 1998, the taxes were reduced to 10 percent by the end of 2000, which environmentalists claim has contributed to increases in illegal logging. In related news, on 12 April, Greenpeace activists boarded a ship carrying Brazilian mahogany to the Port of Miami as part of a campaign to pressure the US government to halt illegal shipments of the valuable hardwood, the trade of which was recently outlawed by the Brazilian government in an effort to protect the Amazon jungle from deforestation.

"Indonesia planning permanent log export ban," REUTERS, 15 April 2002. "Greenpeace strikes in Miami against mahogany trade," REUTERS, 15 April 2002.

PROGRESS RECORDED AT CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE MEETING. During the 18th meeting of the Animals Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held in San José, Costa Rica from 8-12 April 2002, 110 participants from governments, and non- and intergovernmental organisations discussed, inter alia, implementation and review of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) on significant trade reviews; periodic review of animal taxa; trade in traditional medicines; universal labelling of caviar; trade in sturgeon; and trade in alien species during the plenary session as well as in working and contact groups. One of the issues that made significant progress during the meeting was caviar labelling and sturgeon conservation. A group of technical experts, exporters, producers and conservationists from Caspian Sea range States, which are engaged in the production and trade of sturgeon products, including caviar, put forward a draft resolution for the 12th Conference of the Parties of CITES (COP-12) proposing a new system to extend labelling requirement for exporters, re-exporters and for domestic trade. Furthermore discussions centred on solutions for the conservation of sturgeon, touching on the complex socio-economic aspects of sustainable use and conservation of sturgeon. Overall, delegates expressed satisfaction with the meeting and the input it will deliver to COP-12, scheduled for 3-15 November 2002, in Santiago, Chile.

"Summary of the 18th meeting of the CITES animals committee," ENB, 16 April 2002.

WILDLIFE TRADE THREATENS BIODIVERSITY IN ASIA. Uncontrolled hunting and trade is the greatest threat to wildlife and wild lands in Asia, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) concluded at a four-day workshop in Thailand earlier this month which brought together the society's field staff from nine Asian countries and experts from its New York headquarters. WCS noted that the global scale of illegal wildlife trade was "enormous" with annual trade of wildlife products, such as rhino horns and bear paws for use in medicines and gourmet food, estimated to amount to USD 8 billion annually, "a scale surpassed only by the illegal trade in drugs and arms". The resulting threat of extinction of wildlife species "is a real, not a theoretical problem", WCS concluded, adding that uncontrolled trade also threatened the livelihoods of people in Asia who rely on wildlife for their daily protein. WCS called on Asian governments to renew their commitment to meeting their treaty obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and to severely restrict commercial trade of wildlife across much of the region.

"Hunting Pushes Asia's Wildlife To Extinction," WCS, 12 April 2002.

OXFAM REPORT ATTACKS TRIPS AGREEMENT AS AN OBSTACLE TO DEVELOPMENT. On 11 April, Oxfam International (OI) released a 272-page report entitled "Rigged Rules and Double Standards: Trade, Globalisation and the Fight against Poverty" as part of its newly launched "Make Trade Fair" Campaign. Using a combination of qualitative and quantitative analyses, the report's authors describe what they see as some of the hypocrisies in international trade rules and the double standards employed by industrialised countries. The report, inter alia, challenges the current multilateral trade rules related to intellectual property rights (IPRs) as an obstacle to development, describing the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of

Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) as a "dream come true for lawyers and a nightmare for everyone else". In this context, the report puts forward several suggestions for improving the current IPR regime, which it says must begin "by abolishing the standard, universal model of intellectual property protection" to be substituted with rules "tapered to take into account the level of development of particular countries". In particular, the report recommends that in order to ensure food security and biodiversity conservation, patent protection of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) should not be allowed under WTO rules, that developing countries should retain the right to develop their own sui generis system of IP protection of plant varieties, and that the TRIPs Agreement should be brought in line with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on PGRFA.

The full version of the report can be found at <http://www.oxfam.org> or <http://www.maketradeair.com>.

Events & Resources

EVENTS

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

16-26 April, New York, United States: 12TH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA. For further information contact: UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea; tel: (1-212) 963-3972; email: doalos@un.org; Internet: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm>

21-25 April, Bled, Slovenia: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DROUGHT MITIGATION AND PREVENTION OF LAND DESERTIFICATION. The conference is co-organised by the European Regional Working Group of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, and will discuss, inter alia, the impact of climate change on the Central and East European and Mediterranean countries; national strategies and action programmes to mitigate drought; and international cooperation for solving related common drought problems. For further information contact: email: SDNO-SINCID@guest.arnes.si; Internet: <http://www2.arnes.si/~ljsdno2/eng7.htm>

22-23 April, Singapore: ASIA BIO-FUELS 2002 CONFERENCE. The conference will address the development of bio-fuels projects in Asia, including case studies, analysis of the economic and social benefits from bio-fuels application, and evaluation of technology options for fast track project implementation. For further information contact: Juliana Lim; tel: (65) 732-1970; fax: 733-5087; email: juliana.lim@ibcasia.com.sg; Internet: <http://www.ibc-asia.com/biofuels.htm>

22-26 April, The Hague, Netherlands: THIRD MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY (ICCP-3). Organised by Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. For further information contact the CBD Secretariat; tel: (1 514) 288 2220; fax: 288 6588; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.asp?wg=ICCP-03>

24-25 April, Riga, Latvia: MCPFE PREPARATORY GROUP ON NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES. The meeting is organised by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and is open to participants and observers of the MCPFE. For further information contact: Peter Mayer, Liaison Unit Vienna; tel: (43-1) 710-7702; fax: 710-77-0213; email: liaison.unit@lu-vienna.at; Internet: <http://www.mcpfe.org>

24-25 April, Beijing, China: 3RD CHINA BIOTECHNOLOGY & CROP PROTECTION, FOOD SAFETY. The event is organised by the Centre for Management Technology and will discuss the impact of China's new GM import and labelling rules and address related questions such as: will domestic crushers run out of supplies

of foreign soybean? What are lessons China can learn from the different implementation of GMO Biosafety Regulations in other countries? Participants at the meeting include representatives from the leading agrochemical manufactures, biotechnology & life science companies, as well as consultants and government officials. For further information contact: Ms Sandy Leong, Centre for Management Technology; tel: (65) 6345 7322; fax: 6345 5928; email: sandy@cmtsp.com.sg, Internet: <http://www.cmtevents.com/3crop02.pdf>

25-26 April, Brussels, Belgium: WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: UNDP PARTNERS ROUNDTABLE. The theme of this roundtable is "Energy for sustainable development". The roundtable will focus on energy and environment, pro-poor policies and poverty eradication strategies. It will gather officials from ministries of energy, trade and economy of Russia and other countries; key business representatives e.g. Shell, British Petroleum, World Energy Council. For further information contact: Yasmin Padamsee, UNDP; tel: (1-212) 906-6175; email: yasmin.padamsee@undp.org, Internet: http://roo.undp.org/undpcalendar/app_display/index.cfm

25-27 April, Atlanta, Georgia, US: FOREST LEADERSHIP FORUM - COLLABORATIVE PATHWAYS TO RESPONSIBLE TRADE. Participants at the forum will consist of environmentalists, the forest products industry and retailers and buyers to highlight shared values and opportunities to promote trade in responsible forest products. For further information contact: the Certified Forest Products Council; tel: (1-503) 224-2205; email: membership@certifiedwood.org; Internet: <http://www.forestleadershipforum.org>

25-26 April, Zürich, Switzerland: STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT. Organised by Swiss Re and IDC Rio. Participants, including water experts and politicians, will discuss priority measures for sustainable water management. The outcome of the conference will flow as input into PrepCom IV and contribute to the negotiations at the WSSD on an international agenda to protect water resources. For more information visit: http://www.johannesburg2002.ch/en/prozess/2_0_0_stand.php#122

29 April - 1 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM – THE DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND BEYOND. The WTO is hosting the public symposium on the challenges and opportunities arising from the Doha Ministerial Declaration. Participants from governments, parliaments, civil society, academia and the media are invited to discuss how the new negotiations can address key challenges facing the multilateral trading system. For more information contact: Bernard Kuiten; tel: (41) (0)22 739 5676; e-mail: Bernard.kuiten@wto.org or Hans-Peter Werner; tel: (41) (0)22 739 5286; e-mail: Peter.Werner@wto.org; Internet: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/symp_devagenda_02_e.htm

2 May, London, UK: SD UK 2002 CONFERENCE. The conference will explore sustainable development practice, policy and delivery, focusing on the UK's own sustainable development strategy, in the build up to the WSSD. For further information visit: <http://www.sduk.org/>

Other forthcoming events

6-8 May, Hamburg, Germany: CONFERENCE ON EU AND GERMAN CLIMATE POLICY - CHALLENGES BEFORE THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL. The meeting is organised by the Hamburg Institute of International Economics, and will focus on the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol in the EU, challenges with regard to EU national climate strategies, internal EU emissions trading, integration of EU accession countries, the role of the Kyoto mechanisms, and EU strategies for achieving entry into force. For further information contact: Axel Michaelowa, Hamburg Institute of International Economics; tel: (49-404) 283-4309; fax: 283-4451; email: michaelowa@hwwa.de; Internet: <http://www.hwwa.de/climate.htm>

7-9 June, Toronto, Canada: bioJUSTICE/bioDIVERSITY 2002: 6TH INTERNATIONAL GRASSROOTS GATHERING ON GENETIC ENGINEERING. Organised by the Polaris Institute, Council of Canadians, BIOdevastation Toronto Coalition, and Institute for Social Ecology. It will be a gathering to learn, strategise and network about genetic engineering in agriculture and pharmaceuticals, biowarfare, genetic and non-genetic discrimination, trade regimes and corporate control, patenting of life and more. This event is timed to challenge the industry's annual convention BIO2002, Toronto, June 9-12. For further information contact the Council of Canadians; tel: (1 800) 387-7177; email: inquiries@canadians.org; Internet: www.biodev.org

17-21 June, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe: 9TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE IASCP - THE COMMONS IN AN AGE OF GLOBALISATION. The conference theme is addressed from a broader perspective to include issues of governance, economic systems and hidden values, tourism and global ideology. For further information contact: Cass Trust, Zimbabwe; tel: (263) 4 303080; fax: 4 307720; email: iascp@cass.org.zw, Internet: <http://www.iascp2002.org>

17-21 June, Geneva, Switzerland: 6TH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT FOR IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON CERTAIN PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs INC). Organised by UNEP Chemicals. For further information contact: Mr. Jim Willis, UNEP Chemicals; tel: (41) (0)22 979-9111; fax: 797-3460; email: jwillis@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops>

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

RESOURCES

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

IMPLICATIONS OF WTO NEGOTIATIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY. By Friends of the Earth International, 2002. The paper focuses on the major areas agreed during the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha in 2001 and their implications for biodiversity. Available at <http://www.foei.org/publications/biodiversity/index.html>.

"Governing biodiversity" by Catherine Mougenot & Marc Mormont in INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES 2 (1-2, 2002):78-99 The hypothesis of this paper is that the value conferred on nature designates both the 'objects of nature' that are the subject of consideration, and the human beings for whom they are intended or who are responsible for them. The paper first looks at what could be considered as the 'classical nature conservation network', and then examines how it is called to evolve. The fact is that contemporary situations lead us to take account of different types of networks for conserving and maintaining nature. These are compared, and the paper examines how each of them attempts to take account for the increasingly complex and also increasingly open concept of biodiversity.

THE EMERGING INTERNATIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS MARKET. By Richard Rosenzweig et al, Pew Centre, 2002. A market for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions has begun to emerge over the past five years. This market is driven in large part by ongoing negotiations of an international global climate change treaty, which will likely impose limitations on GHG emissions. This paper describes, inter alia programs and initiatives that have provided a framework for early trades and policy development; characteristics of the emerging GHG market and key features of early transactions; potential evolution of the market due to ongoing concurrent domestic and international climate change policy development; and potential scenarios regarding the U.S. response to climate change. A copy of the report is available at: <http://www.pewclimate.org/projects/trading.cfm>

"The new directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms into the environment: changes and perspectives" by Silvia Francescon in REVIEW OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (RECIEL) 10 (3, 2001): 309-320 This article aims to provide an overview of the key elements of the Revised Directive. It also highlights the Commission's proposal on traceability and labelling, its undertaking to bring forward a further proposal in a 'sensitive' sector such as environmental liability, and the repercussions of the Revised Directive on further sectoral legislation, in particular on the use of GMOs in foods, feed and seeds.

"GM crops: science, policy and environmentalists" by Dave Toke in ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS 10 (4, 2001): 115-120 While conservative environmentalists support field trial research into the environmental impact of GM crops as part of an effort to reform conventional agriculture, radical environmental groups are opposed, outright, to

GM crop technology. They espouse a different trajectory based on organic farming and allege that appeals to a partial science are being used to prevent a real examination of the possible dangers of GM food and crops.

"Genetically modified organisms (GMOs): The significance of gene flow through pollen transfer" by K. Eastham and J. Sweet in ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE REPORT NO 28. This report, written for the EEA by experts from the European Science Foundation, considers the significance of the transfer by pollen of genes from six major genetically modified (GM) crop types that are close to commercial release in the European Union. Oilseed rape, sugar beet, potatoes, maize, wheat and barley are reviewed in detail using recent and current research findings to assess their potential environmental and agronomic impacts. The report also includes a short review of the current status of GM fruit crops in Europe. Katie Eastham and Jeremy Sweet, with contributions from other participants in the AIGM programme. Available at: http://reports.eea.eu.int/environmental_issue_report_2002_28/en

"Elephants, ivory and international law" by David Favre in REVIEW OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (RECIEL) 10 (3, 2001): 277-286. How do you protect elephants from international smuggling? From the demands of local people? From the corruption within government agencies? The article develops the context of the debate and a few suggestions are made about the wisdom of alternative future courses of action for the international legal status of the elephant. The legal context for this topic is the international treaty CITES.

THE WTO, AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Edited by Heinrich Wohlmeyer and Theodor Quendler, Greenleaf Publications, April 2002. The goal of this book is to identify the strengths and weaknesses of liberalised world trade, in particular in the agricultural sector, and to investigate to what extent the current WTO agreements provide the necessary fail-safe devices to react to trade-related negative impacts on sustainability, environmental protection and food security. Copies are available at: <http://www.greenleaf-publishing.com>, or contact: Samantha Self, Greenleaf Publishing, Aizlewood Business Centre, Aizlewood's Mill Sheffield S3 8GG, UK; tel: (44) 114 282 3475; fax: 282 3476; email: sales@greenleaf-publishing.com

WORLD TRADE REVIEW. The WTO has launched this new scholarly trade journal as a joint initiative between the WTO and Cambridge University Press, in an effort to deepen understanding of issues facing the international trading system through critical analysis and constructive debate. For further information, see http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres02_e/pr284_e.htm

Electronic Resources

NEXUS -- a new quarterly newsletter published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development -- explores the linkages between poverty reduction and the environment and lends clarity to the discussion with feature articles, editorials and interviews with experts in the field. Subscription information and a link to the first issue are available at http://www.iisd.org/economics/pov_sd/nexus_newsletter.asp

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The International Plant Genetic Resources Institute is offering research fellowship opportunities to work on topics related to plant genetic resources. For more information, visit <http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/training/vavilov.htm>

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