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## Sustainable Fisheries

### US COMMERCE DEPARTMENT SUSPENDS CHANGES TO 'DOLPHIN SAFE' TUNA LABEL

The US Department of Commerce has suspended its decision to change the 'dolphin safe' labelling standard for yellowfish tuna to allow tuna fishing that involves the chasing and encircling of dolphins, following pressure from environmental and animal welfare groups. This is the second time that the US government is trying to introduce these changes after the first attempt failed when conservation groups successfully challenged the decision in a US court. The changes could pave the way for Mexican tuna to be sold under the US label and thereby end what Mexico calls a 'de facto embargo' on its tuna. Within hours of the announcement of the Commerce Department's decision to weaken the label, however, outraged environmental groups filed a lawsuit against the Secretary of Commerce in an effort to again overturn the decision.

Under the new (suspended) rules, tuna harvested by purse seine vessels using nets intentionally set on dolphins would be eligible to be labelled as 'dolphin safe', even if dolphins are encircled, so long as an on board observer certifies that no dolphins were killed or seriously injured in the process. The Commerce Department had tried to introduce these changes in 1999 in response to the legally-binding Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Programme (IDCP), which does not prohibit any particular fishing technique (Bridges Year 5 No. 6, p. 13). The changes had been successfully challenged by the Earth Islands Institute, Defenders of Wildlife and other conservation groups when the court ruled that the Department of Commerce had failed to obtain and consider relevant scientific evidence. This time, the Bush administration has based its decision on recent findings by the Commerce Department's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) that this practice of encircling dolphins to catch tuna has no significant adverse impact on dolphin population in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean.

## Conservation groups outraged

Environmental and animal welfare groups were quick to mount a renewed legal challenge of the amended labelling standards, filing a lawsuit shortly after the decision was announced. The groups strongly criticised the Commerce Department's decision, highlighting the NOAA report's findings that dolphins in the Pacific were not recovering as quickly as could be expected given significant reductions in reported mortality associated with tuna fishing. According to the report, a possible hypothesis to explain the slow recovery were effects of purse seine fishery beyond the reported bycatch, such as separation of mothers from calves and physiological effects of chase and encirclement ('stress') that affect subsequent survival and reproduction.

"The whole point of the 'dolphin safe' label is to give consumers a choice of tuna that wasn't caught by netting dolphins," said William Snape of Defenders of Wildlife, one of the groups trying to overturn the decision. "We have great confidence that the courts will strike down this blatantly illegal decision," he added. The Earth Island Institute another plaintiff, joined in the scathing attack of the revised labelling standards, calling them "arbitrary and capricious". They contended that the successful federal 'dolphin safe' tuna program was being jeopardised "to accommodate tuna millionaires in Mexico and other countries in the name of 'free trade', not science". "This is no more than a political gift to Mexico at the expense of dolphin lives," said David Phillips.

Following negotiations with the conservation groups, introduction of the new rules was delayed for 90 days while the groups agreed not to seek a temporary restraining order against the government. The case will be heard by the court on 10 March, which will have 90 days to make its decision.

## Opening the door for Mexican tuna?

Mexico is among the countries that would profit most from a weakening of the tuna label. Along with Ecuador, the country already has affirmative determination from the Commerce Department that they have an adequate system in place to track tuna down the production chain from fishing vessel to the can. This determination, which is still pending for Spain and Panama, is a prerequisite for marketing their tuna as 'dolphin safe'. How the new rules would actually affect Mexico's tuna exports remains uncertain given that three of the major US tuna processors have vowed that they would not buy tuna caught by chasing and netting dolphins.

While use of the label is voluntary, Mexico saw the previous standard as a 'de facto embargo' on its tuna, as nearly all US canners buy only 'dolphin safe' tuna and label their products accordingly. The Mexican government had previously threatened to leave the IDCP if the US did not change the labelling criteria, causing speculation that the US Commerce Department's decision was partly motivated by efforts to avoid Mexico and other countries pull out of the international compact. Already in 1991, Mexico had challenged the US regulations related to tuna fishing as incompatible with the national treatment requirement in GATT. While the dolphin-safe label was found to be compatible with the GATT, the Mexican government has continued to lobby for changes to the labelling requirements that would give its industry better access to the US market.

For further information, including the NOAA Fisheries' report, see [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/PR2/Tuna\\_Dolphin/tunadolphin.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/PR2/Tuna_Dolphin/tunadolphin.html).

ICTSD reporting; "U.S. changes meaning of dolphin safe tuna label," ENS, 6 January 2003; "Commerce Department Determines No Significant Adverse Impact Of Fishing On Dolphin Populations," NOAA PRESS RELEASE, 31 December 2002; "Lawsuit filed against Secretary of Commerce; groups seek restraining order," EII PRESS RELEASE, 2 January 2003; "Rule weakening definition of 'dolphin safe' is delayed," NYT, 9 January 2003.

## EU MINISTERS ADOPT COMMON FISHERIES POLICY, SET FISHING QUOTAS

After five days of intensive discussions at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 16-19 December (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 20 December 2003; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-12-20/story2.htm>), Ministers adopted the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which aims to respond to concerns over depleted fish stocks, overcapacity of the European fishing fleet, insufficient control mechanisms and limited stakeholder

involvement. The Ministers furthermore finalised fishing quotas for 2003, including substantial reduction for a number of threatened stocks.

### **Ministers agree on CFP reform**

The reformed CFP, which entered into force on 1 January 2003, replaced the basic rules governing the Community's policy since 1993. Under the reformed CFP, the objectives have been reviewed to focus more on the sustainable exploitation of living aquatic resources based on sound scientific advice and on the precautionary approach to fisheries, as well as on sustainable aquaculture. Specifically, the Policy takes a more long-term approach to fisheries management by setting multi-annual recovery plans for stocks outside safe biological limits. The Commission can take emergency measures in cases of serious threat to the conservation of resources, while member states are allowed to adopt conservation and management measures applicable to all fishing vessels within their 12-mile zones. To tackle the overcapacity of the European fishing fleet, aid for the renewal of fishing vessels is being phased out and will only be available for two more years (up to the end of 2004).

The reformed Policy furthermore strengthens control and enforcement, inter alia, by reinforcing cooperation between member states so that each state can control vessels flying its flag throughout Community waters, except in the 12-mile zones of another member state. Regarding the involvement of stakeholders, the Council will establish Regional Advisory Councils, made up of fishermen, scientists and representatives of other interest groups, including the fisheries and aquaculture sector and environmental and consumer groups, which can submit recommendations and suggestions or inform the Commission or the respective member state of problems concerning the implementation of the CFP in their area.

In addition to the reformed CFP, Ministers also established an emergency fund to encourage the decommissioning of vessels (the so-called "Scrapping Fund").

While the environmental group WWF welcomed the decision to phase out subsidies to build new boats by 2004 as "a step in the right direction", they pointed out that the recovery plans for threatened stocks envisaged in the reformed Policy would be "senseless" if they were not accompanied by an obligation to reduce fishing effort. The group also criticised the Policy for not making multi-annual management plans obligatory for stocks other than those that are already threatened. "WWF fears this is the death sentence for cod," said Karl Wagner, Director of WWF's Fisheries Campaign. WWF noted as well that the European Commission had yet to come forward with proposals for improving fishing deals with developing countries, which the organisation believes is an essential element of CFP reform.

### **EU fishing quotas set for 2003**

Following long and difficult talks on fishing quotas for 2003, EU Ministers reached an agreement that involves cutting cod catches back by 45 percent compared to 2002 levels. The compromise deal includes urgent recovery measures for cod, 2003 quotas for cod and other fish stocks, and reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Scientists had recommended a full fishing ban in order to preserve cod stocks for the future, while fishermen and nations with significant fishing fleets were seeking to save jobs and safeguard coastal economies and communities. Environmental groups say the current agreement is insufficient to save the cod. Germany and Sweden voted against the agreement on the same grounds. Fishermen's organisations said the cuts would devastate their economies. Scottish fishermen stressed that large concessions were made to southern EU states, while the UK fleet was hit hard by the agreement. In addition to the cod quota, hake quotas were also set at 45 percent of the 2002 catch. Fishing will only be allowed for 15 days per month, and subsidies for building new fishing vessels will be gradually phased out.

### **Additional Resources**

For further details on the outcomes of the Fisheries Council and the reformed CFP, see [http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/news\\_corner/press/inf02\\_61\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/news_corner/press/inf02_61_en.htm).

"EU fisheries ministers reach deal on 2003 quotas," REUTERS, 23 December 2002; "Outcome of the Fisheries Council of 16-20 December 2002," EU PRESS RELEASE, 23 December 2002.

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**Biotechnology**

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**GMO UPDATE: EU-US DISPUTE HEATING UP; AUSTRALIA; BRAZIL-CHINA****Pressure mounting in US to challenge EU moratorium at WTO**

The US National Security Council is reportedly planning to schedule a cabinet-level meeting in the next two weeks to discuss whether to mount a legal challenge of the EU's de facto moratorium on the market approval of new genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Support for such a challenge appears to be steadily growing in the US. Speaking to reporters on 9 January, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick expressed his belief that there was "broad support" in the Bush administration for such a challenge and called for a case to be brought "sooner rather than later". His position was supported by a number of farm-state senators who in a 19 December letter to US President George W. Bush urged the President to "take that step without delay", claiming that the ban was costing US farmers hundreds of millions of dollars in lost exports.

European Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler, however, warned that the US would lose out if it were to challenge the de facto moratorium, no matter the outcome. He added that even if the US won the case, it would jeopardise the possibility of "real dialogue" that was necessary to move to a less emotional debate.

**Concerns raised in Australia over impact of GM corn on meat exports**

Australian Democrats have voiced concerns that the recent importation of corn, which might contain GM seeds, could endanger the country status as a 'GM-free' exporter of meat. While it is not known whether the shipment actually contained GM seeds, "you could see spill-over effects occur very easily because segregation systems are not in place in the US," Democrat spokesman John Cherry warned. The concerns were echoed by Australian environmental groups who called on their government to reject the shipment. "US genetically engineered corn is not needed here as animal feed, even for drought relief," said Bob Phelps for the Gene Ethics Network. Farmers, however, who the ongoing drought had forced to import the corn from the US to feed their livestock, stressed the urgent need to import the corn, describing calls by anti-GM groups to reject the corn as "an insult to Australian farmers who are suffering enormously." The shipment was approved by quarantine officials and gene technology regulators provided that the corn was transported in covered trucks and processed in such a way that it could no longer be grown from seed.

**China expected to clear way for Brazilian soy shipments**

Chinese officials were expected to authorise shipments of soy from Brazil shortly, after Brazil submitted a revised draft certificate to comply with China's GMO import regulations. Specifically, the draft certificate states that if Brazil's shipments contained GMOs, they would consist of soybean resistant to Monsanto's herbicide Roundup and would not pose a safety risk. China had already authorised imports from the US and Argentina, but authorisation for Brazil is still pending, raising speculations that China might turn to US soy that has been certified as not genetically modified. For now, Brazilian soy exports to China are continuing as usual, but traders have expressed concern that the March shipment might be affected by the delay. While Brazil has not yet authorised the commercial release of GM crops, illegal plantings are thought to be widespread throughout the South raising doubts over the country's GM-free status.

ICTSD reporting; "Zoellick Says Favors WTO Case Vs EU on Biotech," REUTERS 9 January 2003; "US corn shipment stirs GM debate in Australia," REUTERS, 13 January 2003; "GM corn may jeopardise meat exports," ABC, 11 January 2003; "Brazil hands China GMO soy draft to clear trade," REUTERS, 16 January 2003; "Brazil says soy exports to China 'normal for now'," REUTERS, 8 January 2003.

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**Natural Resources**

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**BANANAS SLIPPING INTO EXTINCTION?**

Bananas could face extinction within ten years, according to findings by the International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBP) reported in the magazine *New Scientist* on 16 January. This would pose an economic problem to many countries who depend on banana exports and plantations as a main source of income, as well as to the approximately 140 million people mainly in Africa and Asia whose staple diet is based on bananas and plantains.

INIBP notes that bananas are already extinct in Cuba and that it could be globally extinct in 2013. The once dominant Gros Michel banana was wiped out in the 1950's by a soil fungus called Panama disease. The successor of the Gros Michel variety is now under attack by a fungus called black sigatoka. The sigatoka has become a global epidemic and has already reduced yields in Uganda by 40 percent and is now spreading through the Brazilian Amazon and the Far East. Experts expect yields in Brazil to decline by 70 percent because of the fungus. The crisis is due to the fact that almost all varieties of bananas today are sterile mutants and new fungus-free varieties cannot easily be produced. Because these sterile bananas cannot breed, the fruit cannot evolve to develop resistance to pests and diseases.

The head of INIBP, Emile Frison compared the banana crisis with the potato crisis in Ireland 150 years ago: "In some ways, the banana today resembles the potato before the blight brought famine to Ireland," she said, adding that "one thing we can be sure of is that the sigatoka won't lose in this battle." The scenario for half a billion people in Asia and Africa who depend on the banana for their livelihood is looking grim. Several scientists are now pushing large banana producers to invest in the development of genetically modified varieties, which are fungus resistant. However producers have until now refused to back up the research because of high costs and fears that consumers will not buy genetically modified bananas.

"Bananas Now Face Extinction", THE MONITOR NEWS, 18 January 2003. "Banana on slippery slope to extinction", DAILY NEWS, 16 January 2003. "Bananas could be extinct in 10 years: Scientists," THE TIMES OF INDIA, 16 January 2003.

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**In Brief**

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**MALAWI SETS ON ECOTOURISM**

In the hope of capitalising on its natural endowments and enhance the country's tourist drawing powers, Malawi -- a country battling with widespread starvation -- has developed a strategic plan of action to build up an ecotourism industry. The plan, put together with the financial assistance of the UN Development Programme, will take approximately five to ten years to implement. According to Malawi's Tourism Minister Bernard Chisale, "the new strategy aims to generate increased tourism and foreign currency earnings, create long term employment opportunities, raise the standard of living of the poor people, and support conservation through sustainable development tourism in Malawi's national parks and areas of outstanding national beauty." Lake Malawi, shared by two other Southern African countries, Tanzania and Mozambique, is one resource being considered for inclusion in Malawi's ecotourism plan. However, environmentalists are concerned about the potential degradation of the lake's catchment area and biodiversity. Last September officials of the three countries met to enhance cooperation in protecting the lake.

"Malawi Plans to Jumpstart Economy with Ecotourism," ENS, 9 January, 2003.

**AUSTRALIA CONSIDERS ALLOCATION OF WATER RIGHTS FOR IRRIGATION**

Australian scientists have proposed an unprecedented national water-trading system to define water rights for irrigation. As Professor Mike Young of the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial and Research Organization (CSIRO) noted, "the [current] water trading and allocation systems contain serious flaws. It's time for Australia to bring together all existing licenses into a form that is consistently robust." The new framework, proposed by Young and his colleague Jim McColl, uses share trading, banking and Torrens Title registration procedures that would facilitate the trading of water through electronic transfers with clear trading rules and licensed brokers. Despite Young and McColl's optimism, the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF),

Australia's largest environmental group, opposed the expansion of existing private rights to water and vegetation, which they fear would lead to diminishing the public's right to healthy water resources. ACF added that "any increase of farmers' rights to land and water resources can only come at the expense of the natural environment."

For further information, see: <http://www.clw.csiro.au/research/agriculture/economic/publications.html>  
"Trade in Australian Irrigation Water Rights Proposed," ENS, 3 January 2003.

### **NEW PROTECTION FOR CANADA'S ENDANGERED SPECIES**

On 12 December, Canada's Species At Risk Act (SARA) was given Royal Assent, making the legislation the first federal level protection the country has ever passed for endangered species. While many biologists have long stressed the urgency of species protection, the act took nine years to pass due to various setbacks, attempts to water it down, and industry and landowner opposition. Under SARA, species can only be designated as endangered following a thorough and independent scientific assessment. The new process also calls for the creation of recovery action plans for all species considered most at risk. Industry and landowner concerns were appeased by removing several enforcement provisions that were replaced by compensatory mechanisms to reimburse landowners for the protection costs associated with implementation on their lands. SARA is scheduled to take effect this year.

To view the SARA bill text, see: [http://www.parl.gc.ca/PDF/37/1/parlbus/chambus/house/bills/government/C-5\\_3.pdf](http://www.parl.gc.ca/PDF/37/1/parlbus/chambus/house/bills/government/C-5_3.pdf).

"Species at Risk Act Given Royal Assent," GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, 12 December, 2002; "Canada Adopts Endangered Species Protection Act," FISHLINK SUBLEGALS, 20 December 2002.

### **'SKEPTICAL ENVIRONMENTALIST' UNDER FIRE**

The Danish Committee on Scientific Dishonesty (DCSD) has found Bjørn Lomborg -- author of the controversial publication 'The Skeptical Environmentalist' -- guilty of scientific dishonesty, concluding on 7 January 2003 that the book is "clearly contrary to the standards of good scientific practice." The book spurred avid debate at the time of its publication in 2001, with the environmental movement challenging its claims that climate change, energy, overpopulation, species loss, deforestation, water scarcity, and a host of other issues are exaggerations and not supported by a proper analysis of environmental data. However, journals such as the Economist and the New York Times embraced its message. Bjørn Lomborg went on to be appointed head of the new Danish Institute of Environmental Valuation by the right-wing Danish government in 2002. However, criticism of his work continued, notably in an article in the Scientific American by prominent scientists and experts on climate change, energy, population and biodiversity. While scientists and environmental groups have welcomed the conclusion of the DCSD, Bjørn Lomborg himself has rebutted the ruling, alleging it is completely unfounded and based on a systematically biased selection of data. The Economist published an article on 11 January, calling the DCSD's ruling "dishonest and shameful."

"Lomborg Frenzy Takes Hold in Denmark," ENS, 9 January, 2003; "Thought Control: The Scourge of the Greens is Accused of Dishonesty," THE ECONOMIST, 11 January, 2003.

## **EVENTS & RESOURCES**

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### **Events**

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at <http://www.ictsd.org/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**

21-24 January, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: SUB-REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON RISK

ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ASIA. Organised by UNEP/GEF Biosafety Unit.

For further information, contact: Dr. Christopher Briggs, UNEP/GEF Biosafety Unit, tel: (41 22) 917 8411; fax: 917 8070; email: [chris.briggs@unep.ch](mailto:chris.briggs@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.unep.ch/biosafety>.

22 & 24 January, Geneva, Switzerland. WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. For further information, contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41 22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

22-24 January, Stellenbosch, South Africa: SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT. Organised by the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS). The theme of the event is "Towards Sustainable Water Utilisation in the 21st Century." For further information, contact: André Görgens, IAHS: tel: (27 21) 424-5544; fax: 424-5588; email: [agorgens@ing.sun.ac.za](mailto:agorgens@ing.sun.ac.za); Internet: [http://www.unesco.org/water/water\\_events/Detailed/227.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/water/water_events/Detailed/227.shtml)

22-24 January, Bangkok, Thailand: FIRST MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES TO THE IOSEA MARINE TURTLE MoU. For further information, contact the UNEP / CMS Secretariat tel: (49 228) 815-2401/02; fax.: 815-2449; email: [cms@unep.de](mailto:cms@unep.de); Internet: [http://www.wcmc.org.uk/cms/IOSEAturtle\\_2003meeting\\_docs.htm](http://www.wcmc.org.uk/cms/IOSEAturtle_2003meeting_docs.htm)

23 January, 1:00 PM ET, the Pew Initiative, WashingtonPost.com. GENETICALLY MODIFIED FISH: PROMISE OR PROBLEMATIC? Michael Fernandez from the Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology, Eric Hallerman from Virginia Tech's Fisheries and Wildlife Science department and Elliot Entis from Aqua Bounty Farms Inc. will be online to answer questions and discuss important issues surrounding genetically modified fish. Questions and comments can be submitted in advance or during the discussion. For further information, see: [http://discuss.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/zforum/03/viewpoint\\_pew012303.htm](http://discuss.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/zforum/03/viewpoint_pew012303.htm)

23-27 January, Davos, Switzerland: THE PUBLIC EYE ON DAVOS 2003. Coordinated by the Berne Declaration in collaboration with other NGOs. At the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), the international NGO-coalition "The Public Eye on Davos" organises an independent conference in Davos. NGO experts, academics and political representatives from the global North and South will provide a critical analysis of corporate-driven globalisation and present alternatives towards more equitable and sustainable world economic policies. For further information, contact the Berne Declaration, tel: (41 1) 277 70 06; email: [publiceye@evb.ch](mailto:publiceye@evb.ch); Internet: [http://www.evb.ch/index.cfm?page\\_id=1772](http://www.evb.ch/index.cfm?page_id=1772).

23-28 January, Porto Alegre, Brazil: WORLD SOCIAL FORUM (WSF). This year's WSF focuses on five themes: democratic sustainable development; principles and values, human rights, diversity and equality, media, culture and counter-hegemony; political power, civil society and democracy; and democratic world order, fight against militarism and promoting peace. For further information, contact: Adriana Guimarães; tel/fax: (55 11) 3258-8914; email: [fsm2003oficinas@uol.com.br](mailto:fsm2003oficinas@uol.com.br); Internet: <http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/home.asp>.

23-28 January, Davos, Switzerland: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING. The theme of the next meeting of the World Economic Forum is "Building Trust". During the Annual Meeting, civil society organizations - including church, non-governmental and non-profit organizations - will hold discussions for the general public. These events will be held in conjunction with the Forum under the heading "OPEN FORUM DAVOS 2003" and will be held in the assembly hall of the Schweizerische Alpinen Mittelschule secondary school on Guggerbachstrasse 72 in Davos. Entry will be free of charge. For information contact: World Economic Forum, 91-93 route de la Capite, CH - 1223 Cologny/Geneva; tel: +41-22 869 12 12; fax: +41 22 786 27 44 email: [contact@weforum.org](mailto:contact@weforum.org); Internet: <http://www.weforum.org>

30-31 January, Brussels, Belgium: TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: OPTIONS FROM LIFE SCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGIES? The conference will bring together representatives of developing countries, scientists, representatives of the biotechnology industry, non-governmental organizations involved in development, governmental and international organizations, education and media specialists, and European citizens. For further information, contact: Mrs White-Branagan; email: [Margaret.White-Branagan@cec.eu.int](mailto:Margaret.White-Branagan@cec.eu.int); Internet: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2003/sadc/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2003/sadc/index_en.html)

31 January - 1 February, New Delhi, India: GREENTECH 2002: CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT. The Conference, organised by the Greentech Foundation, aims to take a comparative look

at the environmental management experience in Indian Public and Private Sector organizations/enterprises and foreign companies organization For further information, contact: Tel: (011) 559-3846; Fax: 559-3846; email: ksharan@mantraonline.com; Internet: <http://www.greentech.org>

3-7 February, Guatemala City, Guatemala: CONTRIBUTION OF CRITERIA AND INDICATORS TO SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT- THE WAY AHEAD. Organised by the National Forest Service of Guatemala (INAB), in cooperation with the ITTO, FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland and the US Government. This event has been planned in response to the recommendations made during the FAO/ITTO/UNEP/CIFOR/IUFRO Expert Meeting on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management held in Rome in November 2000. For further information, contact: INAB, tel: (502) 379-9838; fax: 379-9830; email: [cici2002@inab.gob.gt](mailto:cici2002@inab.gob.gt); Internet: <http://www.inab.gob.gt/>

3-7 February, Nairobi, Kenya: 22ND SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL. Organised by UNEP. For further information, contact: Mr. B.A. Miller, UNEP Office of the Secretary for Governing Council; tel: (254-2) 62-3411; fax: 62-3748; email: [millerb@unep.org](mailto:millerb@unep.org); Internet: <http://www.unep.org/GoverningBodies/GC22/>

3-7 February 2003, Chiang Mai, Thailand: 3RD WORLD CONGRESS ON MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS FOR HUMAN WELFARE: "From Biodiversity through Science and Technology, Trade and Industry to Sustainable Use". Organised by Wocmap III. For further information contact: Wocmap III, email: [secretariat@wocmap3.org](mailto:secretariat@wocmap3.org); Internet: <http://www.wocmap3.org>

6-9 February, New Delhi, India: DELHI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT (DSDS). The third Delhi Sustainable Development Summit will focus on "The Message from WSSD: translating resolve into action for a sustainable future." For further information, contact: TERIIN, tel: (91 11) 468-2100; fax: 468-2144; email: [program@teri.res.in](mailto:program@teri.res.in); Internet: <http://www.teriin.org/dsds/>

### **Other forthcoming events**

10 - 12 February, Montreal, Canada: EXPERT MEETING ON INDICATORS OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY INCLUDING INDICATORS FOR RAPID ASSESSMENT OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS. Organised by Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. For further information, contact: Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, tel: (514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org); Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org>

11-14 February, Phnom Penh, Cambodia: THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE MANAGEMENT OF LARGE RIVERS FOR FISHERIES. This events plans to work towards three main goals, including: provide for people working on the management and development of rivers a forum to review and synthesize the current status of large rivers systems including their ecology, fisheries, environmental impact assessments, multiple uses of resources and associated socio-economic considerations; raise the political, public and scientific awareness of the importance of river systems, the living aquatic resources they support and the people that depend upon them; contribute to better management, conservation and restoration of the living aquatic resources of large rivers. For further information, contact: email: [info@lars2.org](mailto:info@lars2.org); Internet: [www.lars2.org](http://www.lars2.org).

13-14 February, Geneva, Switzerland: UNEP WORKSHOP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT. UNEP is establishing a Working Group to develop a framework for integrated assessment and to help guide 8 country projects to test the framework. The objective of workshop, which launches the project, is to review and provide input to the preparation of the framework and agree on a road map for the testing of the framework and selection and implementation of country projects. For further information, contact: email: [etb@unep.ch](mailto:etb@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/Integrated%20Assessment/Feb2003.htm> .

### **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).



ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE: EMPLOYING THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION. This project was launched by a consortium of conservation organisations, including IUCN's Species Survival Commission, its Regional Office for Southern Africa and the Environmental Law Centre, Fauna & Flora International, Resource Africa and TRAFFIC International, to examine the role of the Precautionary Principle in natural resource management and biodiversity conservation. The project will carry out cases studies in the field of natural resource management, taking into account, in particular, the perspectives of developing countries. The aim is to produce guidance on the application of the principle to natural resource management and biodiversity conservation. For more information, contact: Barney Dickson, Acting Project Coordinator, email: [pprinciple@iucn.org](mailto:pprinciple@iucn.org).

MONITORING LARGE SCALE RELEASES OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS (EPG 1/5/84). By Carol Norris and Jeremy Sweet, December 2002. This report states that gene flow from crops of genetically modified (GM) herbicide-tolerant oilseed rape (OSR) into crops of non-GM OSR has been detected at a farm-scale evaluation site in the U.K. The report concludes that future commercial-scale releases of GM OSR "could pollinate" non-GM OSR as well as *B. rapa*. The report also concludes that because of the findings, "There may be a need to review isolation requirements in keeping with current [UK] legislation on contamination thresholds in crops." For further information, see: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/research/epg-1-5-84.htm#Summary>

"COMERCIO Y BOSQUES - El libre comercio y la conservación y manejo sostenible de los bosques," en SAVIA, Número 39, Enero 2003. Este número de SAVIA colabora con el análisis del dialogo político internacional existente, sobre comercio y bosques, principalmente: (1) Algunas implicaciones de la liberalización del comercio para los bosques, (2) La OMC / ALCA puede socavar los Acuerdos Multilaterales Ambientales (MEA) existentes y (3) Una opinión desde el punto de vista económico sobre el ALCA y los bosques. Para recibir SAVIA o ser miembro de la Red Latinoamericana de Bosques (RLB), contáctese con la RLB, email: [rlb@fnatura.org.ec](mailto:rlb@fnatura.org.ec)

DOWN TO EARTH: GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA. By the National Research Council, published by The National Academies Press, Washington, D.C., USA, 2002. This report assesses the potential and applicability of geographic data and remote sensing systems to the sustainable development agenda in Africa. From topographic and climatic variability to land use, the data provided by geographic information systems are integral to the monitoring of current trends and the crafting of timely and responsive economic policy. For further information, see: <http://www.cid.harvard.edu/cidbiotech/featuredpubs.htm>.

STATE OF THE WORLD 2003. By the Worldwatch Institute, January 2003. While some have been critical stating that little was accomplished on key issues at WSSD, this report believes that scaling up recent successes in curbing infectious disease, increasing the income of the poor, and advancing the use of renewable energy, among others, can put the world's economy on a more sustainable path. For further information, see: <http://www.worldwatch.org/pubs/sow/2003/>

"Fingerprints Of Global Warming On Wild Animals And Plants," by Terry L. Root, Jeff T. Price, Kimberly R. Hall, Stephen H. Schneider, Cynthia Rosenzweig, and J. Alan Pounds, in NATURE, Vol. 421, 2 January 2003. Data from species and global warming from 143 studies reveal a consistent temperature-related shift, or 'fingerprint', in species ranging from molluscs to mammals and from grasses to trees. Consequently, the balance of evidence from these studies strongly suggests that a significant impact of global warming is already discernible in animal and plant populations. The synergism of rapid temperature rise and other stresses, in particular habitat destruction, could easily disrupt the connectedness among species and lead to a reformulation of species communities, reflecting differential changes in species, and to numerous extirpations and possibly extinctions.

FUTURE FISH: ISSUES IN SCIENCE AND REGULATION OF TRANSGENIC FISH. By the Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology, January 2003. According to this report, it is unclear whether the approach currently being used by government regulators gives them the tools to effectively evaluate environmental issues surrounding transgenic (genetically modified) fish. The report provides an overview of current research efforts to apply genetic engineering technology to aquaculture and discusses the food safety and environmental issues associated with transgenic fish, examines FDA's proposed plan to evaluate transgenic fish through the same process the Agency uses to evaluate new animal drugs. For further information, see: <http://pewagbiotech.org/research/fish/>

"The Efficacy Of TRIPS: Incentives, Capacity And Threats," by William A. Kerr in THE ESTEY CENTRE JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND TRADE POLICY 4(1), 2003. This paper looks at the major split between developed and developing countries over the protection of the patents in pharmaceuticals in the TRIPS Agreement. The paper believes that the related dispute is symptomatic of the difficulties of incorporating a non-trade issue into a trade organisation. Incentives and threats are examined in the context of the TRIPS Agreement. It is concluded that developing countries have no direct incentives to protect intellectual property, that the threat of trade actions is unlikely to induce compliance and that the use of indirect incentives is discredited and will fail to achieve its objective over the long run. For further information, see: <http://128.233.58.173/estey/>

NEGOTIATING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: MANDATES AND OPTION IN THE DOHA WORK PROGRAMME. By Jonathan Hepburn, November 2002. This paper is an attempt to identify important mandates and options in the Doha work programme of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), and bilateral and regional initiatives. It seeks to explore the main challenges facing developing countries, as well as ways in which they might pursue their interests. Its purpose is to serve as a guide for those interested in following the negotiations. For further information, see: <http://www.geneva.quno.info/pdf/OP10%20JH.pdf>

### Fellowships

THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND PUBLIC POLICY (STPP) PROGRAM, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (BCSIA) at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government offers fellowships for pre-doctoral, post-doctoral and mid-career researchers for ten months, with a possibility for renewal. Salaried fellowships are available for outstanding interdisciplinary researchers in the grant-funded research projects. A limited number of non-stipendiary fellowship opportunities are available for scholars with their own funding in other areas of science and technology policy. For further information, see: [http://bcsia.ksg.harvard.edu/fellowships.cfm?program=STPP&pb\\_id=118&gma=24](http://bcsia.ksg.harvard.edu/fellowships.cfm?program=STPP&pb_id=118&gma=24)

UNESCO/BIOTECHNOLOGY ACTION COUNCIL PROGRAMME. Two short-term (2-3 months) plant biotechnology (potato, sweetpotato) fellowships are available in Pretoria, South Africa. Candidates from Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa or Swaziland will be selected based on their scientific background, potential, active involvement in biotechnology and their expressed interest in plant transformation. Deadline: 31 January 2003. For further information, contact: [gthompson@vopi.agric.za](mailto:gthompson@vopi.agric.za).

### Call for Views - GURTs

International organisations, smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities are invited to submit to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), at their earliest convenience but no later than 31 January 2003, their views on the potential impacts of GENETIC USE RESTRICTION TECHNOLOGIES (GURTs) on smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and on Farmers' Rights. The views submitted will be compiled in a document to be used for a meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on GURTs to be held on 19-21 February 2003, in Montreal, Canada. For further information, see <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/notifications/2002/ntf-2002-113-gurt-en.pdf>

BRIDGES Trade BioRes© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), <http://www.ictsd.org>, in collaboration with IUCN - World Conservation Union, <http://www.iucn.org>, and IUCN's Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, CEESP, <http://www.cenesta.org/ceesp/>. This edition of BRIDGES Trade BioRes was edited by Heike Baumüller, [hbaumuller@ictsd.ch](mailto:hbaumuller@ictsd.ch). Contributors to this issue were Jordan Gold and Marianne Jacobsen. The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, [rmelendez@ictsd.ch](mailto:rmelendez@ictsd.ch). ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 13, ch. des Anémones, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (41-22) 917-8492; fax: 917-8093. Excerpts from BRIDGES Trade BioRes may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editors or the Director. BRIDGES Trade BioRes is made possible in 2003 through the generous support of the Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning, and the Environment (Netherlands) and the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (BUWAL). It also benefits from ICTSD's core funders: the Governments of Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden; Christian Aid (UK), the Rockefeller Foundation, MISEREOR, NOVIB (NL), Oxfam (UK) and the Swiss Coalition of Development Organisations (Switzerland). ISSN 1682-0843

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