



International Centre for Trade  
and Sustainable Development

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## **Environment and Market Access**

### **NEW EU 'GSP+' OFFERS ENVIRONMENT AS CARROT**

On 20 October, the European Commission adopted a proposal setting out the details for a revised EU Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) scheme for 2006-2008. Included in the package is a new programme, called "GSP+", that would grant duty-free access to the EU for approximately 7,200 products from small and vulnerable countries that sign onto the major multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) as well as key human rights and governance agreements.

#### **Simplicity, fairness key goals**

The new system would reduce the number of GSP arrangements from the current five programmes to three (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 27 October 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-10-27/story5.htm>). Under previous arrangements, developing countries could use the general scheme that provided preferential access and special schemes for countries promoting the protection of labour rights, environment, combating drug production and trafficking, or belonging to the group of least developed countries (LDCs) (the "Everything But Arms" initiative). Under the new scheme, the general arrangement would remain largely the same, as would the "Everything But Arms" program for LDCs, but the remaining three programmes would be compiled into the "GSP+," reserved for countries that meet new criteria for sustainable development and good governance.

## Introducing GSP+

The "GSP+" programme replaces the three former incentive schemes (drugs, social and environment arrangements) by a new single scheme that covers approximately 7,200 products which can enter the EU duty-free from vulnerable countries that accept the main international conventions on social issues, human rights, environmental protection and governance. In order to qualify, countries must demonstrate that they are very small beneficiaries under the GSP (with their GSP-covered imports representing less than one percent of total EU imports under the GSP); and that their economies are poorly diversified and vulnerable. Additional preferences would be immediately granted to those countries that have ratified and effectively implemented the 16 core conventions on human and labour rights, as well as seven (out of 11) conventions related to good governance and the protection of the environment, including all the major MEAs. In any case, beneficiary countries would be required to ratify all 27 conventions by 31 December 2008. Pascal Lamy, the EU Trade Commissioner, said he was "delighted that in today's scheme, we are also making a sizable and concrete downpayment on sustainable development".

## Muted reactions

Non-governmental organisations, in general, spoke out in favour of GSP+ and its attempt to make trade more supportive of environmental goals, while criticising other aspects of the new GSP such as the low threshold for graduating out of the system and the failure to make the rules of origin more development-friendly.

Others were quick to condemn the GSP+ scheme including the Financial Times who described it as a "misguided idea" symptomatic of "woolly thinking" and "thinly veiled protectionism". They suggested that the multilateral system is already weighted down by too many non-trade issues and that the trend would lead to the "entire multilateral system collapsing under the weight of extraneous policy matters which would be better dealt with elsewhere". Also mentioned is the idea that "trade agreements should not be a lever for rich countries to force other governments to implement unrelated policies, however symbolic".

Among the listed conventions are the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer, the Stockholm Convention on persistent Organic Pollutants, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

ICTSD Reporting; "Trading in Pieties," FT, 22 October 2004; "EU's Lamy Urges Parliament to Reform GSP; Labor, Environment Standards to Be Specified," WTO REPORTER, 15 October 2004; "Developing countries: facts and figures on the new EU scheme of trade preferences for 2006-2008," EU, 20 October 2004; "Developing countries: the Commission proposes system of trade preferences for 2006-2008" EU, 20 October 2004.

## World Conservation Congress

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### TRADE @ THE IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

The 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC3), meeting from 17 to 25 November in Bangkok, Thailand, aims at setting priorities for conservation action. The first four days of the Congress feature more than 300 events on issues such as species loss, ecosystems, poverty and market instruments in the World Conservation Forum, attracting over 3,000 representatives of governments, business, science and civil society (see the Events section below for trade-related events at the Forum). The Members Business Assembly starting on 21 November will decide on the IUCN Programme 2005-2008, set long-term policies for IUCN and issue recommendations to other bodies.

### The IUCN Programme 2005-2008

The draft programme to be adopted in Bangkok identifies population dynamics, consumption patterns, inequity, market failures and policy distortions as the four major underlying threats to sustainability and

commits itself to deliver towards the Millennium Development Goals. It notes that multilateral instruments, not dedicated to the environment, are having a major impact on biodiversity and sustainable development and cites the WTO as an outstanding example. To address these impacts, the programme aims at improving the understanding of how markets, institutions and socio-economic forces create incentives and disincentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Non-environmental international arrangements such as the WTO should promote biodiversity conservation as a key element of successful sustainable development. This work includes incorporating biodiversity and sustainable development criteria into three regional trade agreements.

### **Trade-related motions**

IUCN was given a strong mandate to work on trade and the environment at the 2nd World Conservation Congress in Amman 2000 with resolution 2.33. This mandate is incorporated in IUCN's ongoing work and programme. Thus, no motions on trade and environment in general have been tabled so far, though a good number of motions feature trade as a means to achieve their objective or cite trade as a cause for concern. Under certain conditions, motions can still be submitted during the congress.

A motion called "Protecting the Earth's waters for public and ecological benefits" (CGR3.RES010) tabled by the Sierra Club amongst others notes that "global trade and investment agreements treat water as a commodity and contain rules that favour profit by transnational corporations over the protection of the resource". It calls on the Director General and IUCN members to promote access to water as a human right and to take action to exclude water and water services from any multinational, regional or bilateral trade and investment agreement. The Centre for Sustainable Development (CENESTA) and others propose to promote "food sovereignty to conserve biodiversity and end hunger" (CGR3.RES067) within IUCN's policies, especially in relation to FAO, WTO and CBD, and improve understanding of the role biodiversity conservation could play for reducing hunger.

A further motion by the Wildlife Conservation Society targets "Illegal and unsustainable international trade in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Mekong river riparian states" (CGR3.RES072) and urges all states to enforce legislation to control the illegal international trade in wildlife and wildlife products. This aim is supported by a motion on "Addressing the linkages between conservation, human and animal health, and security" (CGR3.REC025) which amongst others calls for action to control global wildlife trade as a threat to human health worldwide. The importance of trade in species is acknowledged widely (e.g. for medicinal plants). Several species-specific motions (e.g. on Saiga Antelopes) call for trade bans or other trade measures to protect the species.

"The Precautionary Principle in Environmental Governance" (CGR3.REC008) is the title of a motion by Fauna and Flora International and others. It recalls the "increasing controversy over the Precautionary Principle [that] is impeding its effective implementation, and hampering progress within major policy-making arenas, including the Convention on Biological Diversity". The motion demands that the principle's application should be based on assessments that take into account conservation, livelihoods, food security and economic considerations and incorporate socio-economic understanding and indigenous and traditional knowledge as well as formal environmental science. Reverting to the Precautionary Principle, another motion on Genetically Modified Organisms (CGR3.RES011), put forward by the Ecological Society of the Philippines, calls for a moratorium on further releases until they can be demonstrated to be safe beyond reasonable doubt.

While the IUCN Programme already places a strong emphasis on supporting efficient and equitable environmental governance and cooperation between institutions, a further motion (CGR3.REC004) by the National Wildlife Federation and others calls for the creation of multilateral commissions on cooperation to achieve sustainable development which, inter alia, should address the challenges for capacity building in the context of economic integration and sustainable development. .

Bridges Trade BioRes will report on the outcomes of WCC3 in the forthcoming issues.

## Additional Resources

Draft Programme 2005-2008: <http://www.iucn.org/ourwork/ppet/files/Programme.pdf>  
Amman resolution 2.33: <http://www.iucn.org/amman/content/resolutions/res33.pdf>  
WCC3 Documents: [http://www.iucn.org/congress/members/official\\_documentation.htm](http://www.iucn.org/congress/members/official_documentation.htm)  
WCC3 Programme: <http://www.iucn.org/congress/programme/index.htm>  
Daily coverage of WCC3 will be provided by IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin,  
<http://www.iisd.ca/sd/iucn/wcc3/>  
ICTSD reporting.

## Biotechnology

### GMO UPDATE: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EU AND US

#### Commission approves another GM maize variety for food use

The EU on 26 October approved Monsanto's Roundup Ready Maize NK-603 for human consumption and placing on the market. The maize variety, which is tolerant to Monsanto's herbicide glyphosate ("Roundup"), is the second genetically modified (GM) product authorised for food use in the EU since the de facto moratorium on GMO approvals effectively ended in May (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 28 May 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-05-28/story3.htm>). The decision by the European Commission to put the maize on the market, though not to cultivate it domestically, follows a decision in July to allow the variety to be imported for animal feed (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 23 July 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-07-23/inbrief.htm#4>) and in August to allow it to be imported and processed.

The EU authorisation met with hostility across the continent's consumer and environmental groups. Geert Ritsema, GMO campaigner at Friends of the Earth Europe, said, "despite scientific disagreements over its safety and huge public rejection the Commission decided instead to put the interests of corporate America before the safety of Europeans". Monsanto, on the other hand, applauded the EU decision, saying that it was an "indication that the EU is willing to look at products through the regulatory process they have instituted".

Critics say that the authorisation of NK-603, along with the May 2004 authorisation of Syngenta's Bt-11 Maize variety, was motivated by pressure to accept GMOs from the US, Canada and Argentina who have brought a case against the EU's (no longer existing) de facto moratorium on GMO approvals to the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 25 August 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-08-25/story2.htm>). The case has been delayed several times, including for the establishment of a scientific panel (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 10 September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-09-10/story1.htm>). While the panel was expected to deliver its ruling by March 2005, it is now expected to announce another extension soon.

#### US states, counties move to regulate GMOs

On 2 November counties in California voted in a referendum to ban the growing of genetically engineered food and animals, with Marin County, north of San Francisco, voting in favour of the ban and San Luis Obispo and Butte counties voted against it, with the Humboldt measure failing owing to questions about the legality of the language. Marin becomes the third county in the US to ban biotech crops, joining California's Mendocino and Trinity counties, which enacted bans earlier this year. Lora O'Connor, coordinator of the ban campaign in Marin County, said, "this is the beginning of a movement that's going to be spreading across California and the country. Once people realise that they have a choice, they're choosing no."

Moreover, the US state of Vermont put into effect a new law, known as Act 97, on 1 October requiring the labelling of all genetically engineered seeds sold in Vermont. Dave Zuckerman, P-Burlington, the law's original lead sponsor, said his goal was to make certain that "consumers have the information they want to make decisions for themselves". However, Monsanto Corp. and Dow AgroSciences, two major biotech companies that sell genetically engineered seeds in Vermont, indicated publicly that they did not intend to

use the words "genetically engineered" on their seed labels next year. In the last three years some 36 US states have passed 73 laws regulating or promoting agricultural biotechnology. Most of the new laws create tax breaks for new biotechnology companies, but California last year passed a law outlawing the cultivation of genetically altered fish in coastal waters under the state's jurisdiction and Maine passed legislation in 2003 making it a civil offence to falsely label commercial feed as not having genetically modified components.

### **German Chancellor campaigns for GMOs**

On 29 October German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder called for more open-mindedness towards the use of genetic engineering, saying that "extreme reluctance to implement genetic engineering" was "leading to a situation that weakens our market position and does not promote German innovation". He said that Germans had a "too restrictive stance" owing to the outlook of environmental movements, traditional technology scepticism and Christian motivations. At the same time, the lower house of the German Parliament debated a bill governing the release of GMOs as well as the co-existence of conventional agriculture with transgenic plants. The bill was adopted in the lower house on 30 October and will now move to the upper house. Negotiations in the lower house included contentious discussions on co-existence and liability for cross-contamination of conventional crops by GMOs. The bill originally stated that if traits from GM plants owned by one farmer were to contaminate the field of another farmer, this would be defined as "damage" and the first farmer, who owned the GM crop, would be liable for all damages, regardless of accidental contamination. In order to resolve the debate the government announced that they would start negotiations with the insurance industry in order to reach a solution that will provide researchers and farmers with a payable insurance coverage against damage claims.

"Modified crops issue divides voters," USA TODAY, 3 November 2004; "Labels will be required on GMO seeds," TIMES ARGUS, 1 November 2004; "In three years, 36 states pass laws regulating or aiding biotechnology," THE OREGONIAN, 12 September 2004; "Genetically modified NK603 maize authorised for both food and feed," EU, 26 October 2004; "German Chancellor campaigns for genetic engineering," Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 29 October 2004; "Tentative agreement reached on German bill," Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 29 September 2004.

### **Climate Change**

#### **KYOTO PROTOCOL PASSES LAST HURDLE, CARBON EMISSIONS SET TO RISE**

Following Russian President Putin's endorsement of the country's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, the entry into force of the multilateral environmental agreement is finally set to become a reality. However, according to new energy statistics by the International Energy Agency (IEA), carbon emissions are projected to rise worldwide even if countries succeed in implementing sustainable energy policies. Meanwhile a number of civil society groups warned that accelerating climate change would provide an obstacle to poor countries' ability to develop.

#### **Putin signs off on Kyoto Protocol**

On 4 November, Russian President Putin signed a bill endorsing Russia's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to combat climate change. The Russian parliament had voted in favour of ratification on 27 October (see BRIDGES Weekly, 27 October 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-10-27/inbrief.htm#1>), leaving Putin to complete the process. Russia had been stalling on ratification for over two years, leaving observers to question what the final fate of the Protocol would be. Only Russia could trigger the Protocol's entry into force after the US -- the world's largest greenhouse gas emitter -- pulled out in 2001. Russia's ratification has been linked to EU support for Russia's WTO accession, formalised at a summit in May (see BRIDGES Weekly, 2 June 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-06-02/story5.htm>). Once the ratification documents are delivered to the UN, the Kyoto Protocol will enter into force after 90 days.

The Kyoto Protocol obliges developed countries to reduce carbon emissions by five percent as compared to 1990-levels. They can also buy and sell carbon credits, and a new market is already developing. Russia is expected to be a major seller. "Russian ratification means a new market and a new economy has been given

the green light," commented Jeff Fiedler of the US-based Natural Resources Defense Council. He regretted that US businesses would remain outside this market due to the US pull-out from the Kyoto Protocol.

### **IEA and WTO release energy stats**

As countries prepare for a carbon-constrained future, patterns of energy use and trade will be affected. The latest projections from the IEA -- released in the "World Energy Assessment 2004" on 26 October -- show, however, that under the status quo, world primary energy demand is set to rise by 59 percent from now until 2030. About 85 percent of the increase is projected to be in the form of carbon-emitting fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas; two-thirds of the new demand would come from developing countries, primarily from China and India. The IEA also provides an alternative scenario based on vigorous government action to steer the world onto a sustainable energy path. Under this "Alternative Policy Scenario" -- centred on energy efficiency measures and a shift towards renewable and nuclear energy -- global energy demand in 2030 would be 10 percent lower, carbon dioxide emissions 16 percent lower, and global reliance on Middle East oil would decrease. Claude Mandil, Executive Director of the IEA, stressed that ultimately, "achieving a truly sustainable energy system will depend on technological breakthroughs that radically alter how we produce and use energy". He called for technology policies in that area of energy that "would allow us to meet our growing energy needs without compromising our energy security and the environment".

The WTO, in its newly-released World Trade Statistics for 2004, noted the growing impact of energy costs on economies, as energy imports, and oil imports in particular, grew more than usual last year. Oil, coal and gas exports grew in value by 20 percent, while China's fuel imports increased by USD10 billion over the same period. The sharply increased oil prices over the last year were triggered by rising demand as well as speculation on supply glitches; they did not dampen overall trade growth, with the volume of world trade likely to grow by 8.5 percent the end of 2004.

### **Global warming threatens development goals**

In related news, a recent report by a coalition of environment and aid agencies, entitled "Up In Smoke", warns that climate change may sabotage attempts to lift the world's poorest out of poverty and make the Millennium Development Goals unattainable. The report draws on UN predictions of the effects of climate change in poor countries over the next 50 years, which indicate that these countries will experience more flooding, declining food production, more disease and the deterioration or extinction of entire ecosystems. According to the coalition -- comprised of 17 members, including ActionAid, Christian Aid, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Oxfam and WWF -- the link between climate change and the widespread prevalence of poverty can no longer be ignored. Andrew Simms, co-author of the report and director of the New Economics Foundation in the UK, comments that, "to rescue the situation we need a global framework to stop climate change that is based on equality, and we have to ensure that plans for human development are made both climate-proof and climate-friendly". The report calls on the international community to introduce a global risk assessment of the likely costs of adaptation to climate change in poor countries. Policies should decrease, as opposed to increase, vulnerability to the effects of climate change. The report also calls for cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases by industrialised countries. Beyond policy formulation, the report emphasises the value of education, research and agricultural assistance in poor countries.

### **Additional Resources**

World Energy Assessment 2004: <http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org>

2004 World Trade Statistics: [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres04\\_e/pr386\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres04_e/pr386_e.htm)

"Up in Smoke": [http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/z\\_sys\\_publicationdetail.aspx?pid=196](http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/z_sys_publicationdetail.aspx?pid=196)

"Putin clears way for Kyoto pact," CNN, 5 November 2004; "Russia's upper house backs Kyoto," BBC, 27 October 2004; "Russia ratifies Kyoto protocol," ITAR-TASS, 27 October 2004; "Russian Parliament's Kyoto Ratification Underlines Bush Isolation," ONEWORLDUS, 25 October 2004; "IEA Director Releases Latest World Energy Outlook, Says Current Energy Trends Call for Urgent and Decisive Policy Responses", IEA RELEASE, 26 October 2004; "Fuel goods imports up - WTO," AFP, 25 October 2004; "Aid Agencies' Warning On Climate," BBC NEWS, 20 October 2004; "Coalition Warns About Human Cost Of Climate Change," CHANNEL NEWS ASIA INTERNATIONAL, 20 October 2004; "Global Warming A Bigger Threat To Poor," GUARDIAN, 20 October 2004.

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**In Brief**

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**BASEL CONVENTION FAILS TO MOVE ON BAN AMENDMENT**

The Basel Convention's seventh Conference of the Parties (COP-7), which took place from 25-29 October in Geneva, succeeded in affirming that toxic ship dumping is to be controlled, but failed to make progress on securing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment. The Amendment was negotiated by the third Conference of Parties in September 1995 in an effort to give the Convention greater force. If ratified, the amendment would ban hazardous wastes exports for final disposal and recycling from OECD countries to non-OECD countries. However, a number of countries, including Australia, the US, Canada, Japan, and the UK, as well as various organisations, such as the International Chamber of Commerce and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) oppose the ban.

Advocates argue that most developing countries cannot manage hazardous waste and that countries will only stop the production of such wastes when they have nowhere to offload it. Critics counter this argument by saying, *inter alia*, that some developing countries, especially in Asia, may have better capacities for environmentally sound management of wastes than certain OECD members. Furthermore, a ban would most likely not resolve cases of illegal traffic in hazardous waste nor assist in the creation of waste treatment and recycling capacity in developing countries. The critics also question the need for the ban as the Convention already allows countries to prohibit the import of any waste they declare hazardous under domestic legislation. Regarding the trade implications of the amendment, a study commissioned by the International Council on Metals and the Environment raises concerns that the ban might be "GATT-inconsistent and trade-disruptive", arguing that it would discriminate between countries where the same conditions may prevail. Thus far, 44 countries have ratified the Basel Ban Amendment, and 62 are needed before it enters into force.

For daily reports and summary of COP-7, see IISD's Earth Negotiations Bulletin, <http://www.iisd.ca/basel/cop7/>.

"Basel Convention Export Ban Amendment: A Business Perspective," ICC RELEASE, 1 November 2004; "The Basel Convention," GREENPEACE TOXICS CAMPAIGN; "The Seventh Meeting Of The Conference Of The Parties To The Basel Convention," LINKAGES, 29 October 2004; "Toxic Ship Dumping To Be Controlled: Greens Declare Victory Over Shame of Shipping," BAN/GREENPEACE PRESS RELEASE, 29 October 2004; "The Basel Convention Export Ban Amendment: Arguments Against Ratification," ICME.

**UN REPORT HIGHLIGHTS THREATS TO ARTISANAL FISHERIES**

Greater privatisation, export orientation and subsidies of the fishing industry have jeopardised the right to food of poor fishing communities worldwide, according to a recent report by UN Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights. Despite attempts over the last two decades to address fishery-related issues, such as the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, a number of factors are leading to the loss of livelihoods and access to food of poor fishing communities. The UN report says that developed country subsidies to their fishing fleets and fishing industry, estimated to be at least US\$15 billion annually, lead them to demand greater access rights in developing countries, resulting in control over former traditional fishing grounds. Also, the report suggests that inequities in bilateral fishing negotiations can lead to the neglect of equity concerns and potential impacts on poor fishing communities, artisanal fishers and small-scale fisheries. Poorer countries also have less capacity to monitor their fisheries and government budgets in this area may be constrained by "globalised economic policy". Moreover, the drive towards privatisation -- going hand in hand with the assumption that market-based trade in quotas (as in the ITQ, "individual transferable quota") is necessary to prevent overexploitation -- has resulted in the exclusion of traditional fishing communities from access to their marine resources, even though it is often large-scale fishing that is most responsible for overfishing. The report goes on to note that with the increasing popularity of fish farming over marine catching, the required capital-intensity of fishing is increasing and thereby excluding small-scale fishing communities. Fish farming can also have harmful environmental effects, it suggests, particularly in cases such as large-

scale shrimp farming which is most often unsustainable and, as noted by the Indian Supreme Court, can result in loss of access to safe drinking water. The report concludes by reminding governments of their obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the right of all people to food, and in particular to ensure that the transformation of the fishing industry does not threaten the food security and livelihoods of the poor.

The report is available at <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/informal/documents.htm>.

"Rights And Resources Of Artisanal Fishing Communities Should Be Respected, Says UN Report," SUBLEGALS, Vol. 10, No. 13, 29 October 2004; "The Right To Food," UN, Interim Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, September 2004; "Sri Lanka: Deep Sea Fishing Policy Threatens The Livelihood Of One Million Fisher Folk," FIAN, 9 October 2004.

## **FOOD INSECURITY LINKED TO DECLINE IN TRADITIONAL FOODS**

Thousands of food producers gathering in Turin, Italy, for the "Terra Madre: A World Meeting of Food Communities" from 20-23 October voiced concerns that the decline in traditional food production was posing a serious threat to food security in a world where hunger affects 846 million people and 35 countries suffer from food insecurity. Nguyen Van Vinh, from a Vietnamese rice growing community, called on farmers to cooperate with governments to confront the globalisation process that has forced farmers to cut prices. "We are among the leading producers of rice in the world, but we sell at 30 cents on the dollar per kilo," he noted. Globalisation was also thought to impact on the decline in traditional food production by influencing consumer preferences, causing many younger people to prefer "junk food" to traditional dishes. Monitoring the effects of globalisation and trade liberalisation on local markets, supporting the production of traditional foods and diversifying economies were raised among possible solutions to these problems. Participants also suggested that governments advocate the consumption of highly nutritious, indigenous cereals and grains, which are also resistant to extreme climate and disease. The meeting was initiated by the "Slow Food" movement, which aims to promote gastronomic culture, develop taste education, conserve agricultural biodiversity, and protect traditional foods at risk of disappearance.

For further information, see <http://www.terramadre2004.org>.

"Development: Traditional Foods In Fight Against Hunger," TERRAVIVA, 3 November 2004; "Slow Food Launches Terra Madre: A World Meeting of Food Communities," SLOW FOOD, 26 August 2004; "A Politically-Charged Food Fest," IHT, 22 October 2004.

## **JOINING FORCES TO STRENGTHEN SUSTAINABLE WOOD TRADE**

WWF's Latin American branch of the Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN) and International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Latin America and Caribbean Small and Medium Enterprise Facility, a member of the World Bank Group headquartered in Washington, DC, have joined forces to develop environmentally responsible wood trade in Latin America, with a special focus on Bolivia, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Peru. The two organisations intend to launch pilot projects linking manufacturers, traders and forest managers committed to the business of sustainable forestry. The pilot projects have been developed in compliance with the World Bank's Revised Forestry Strategy, which stresses "integrating forests into sustainable economic development, harnessing the potential of forests to reduce poverty, and protecting vital environmental services and values". WWF and IFC hope the pilot projects will help indigenous communities and landowners to partake in sustainable forest management instead of engaging in illegal logging. Other goals include improved business management and production of project participants and greater finance and investment opportunities within supply chains. According to Atul Mehta, director of Latin America and the Caribbean at IFC, "Forging strategic local partnerships is a pivotal part of the facility's technical assistance strategy. By collaborating with key local stakeholders, the facility is able to carry out its work program more efficiently and effectively while building local capacity and increasing the sustainability of its projects."

"IFC and WWF To Enhance Sustainable Forestry Trade," WWF-US, 29 October 2004; "Sustainable Forestry Trade Enhanced in Latin America," ENS, 2 November 2004.



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**Events & Resources**

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**EVENTS**

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar, <http://www.trade-environment.org/page/calendar.htm>. Events at the IUCN World Conservation Congress will be held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, Bangkok, Thailand. For the full Programme, see <http://www.iucn.org/congress/programme/index.htm>.

**IUCN-ICTSD Events @ the IUCN World Conservation Congress**

19 November, 9:00-16:30, Meeting Room 4: INTERNATIONAL TRADE - FRIEND OR FOE OF BIODIVERSITY? This session will look at a number of key challenges, including balancing the benefits of trade against environmental risk, controlling illegal trade in natural resources, ensuring equitable and efficient use of genetic resources, and reconciling the liberalisation of trade in services with sustainable use of natural resources. The sessions will include:

- Setting the stage – Trade and Investment, Friend or Foe?
- Cutting our Losses – Reducing Illegal Trade in Natural Resources
- Seeking Synergies between the CBD and TRIPS
- Environmental Services at the WTO: Liberalisation, Privatisation and Subsidies

21 November: LINKING CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND TRADE POLICY. A Training Workshop for conservation practitioners, jointly organised by IUCN and ICTSD as part of the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress. The course will assist practitioners in understanding how trade policy affects biodiversity-related activities on the ground and consequently try to soften or advert negative effects while enhancing potential positive effects. It aims to enable actors to implement and develop progressive ideas aimed at strengthening the mutual supportiveness between trade policy and biodiversity objectives. For further information visit Heike Baumüller, tel: (+41 22) 917 8478; email: [hbaumuller@ictsd.ch](mailto:hbaumuller@ictsd.ch); Internet: <http://www.iucn.org/congress/programme/forum-programme.cfm?toi=event-list&datePass=21#point8>.

**Other Trade-related Events at the Congress**

18-20 November: MARKETS, BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENT. This theme will explore how markets can function more sustainably, how companies can manage biodiversity in their operations, how to develop new business based on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the role of governance frameworks. Specific sessions include:

- Will capitalism conserve or consume the planet?
- Corporate social responsibility - Help or hindrance?
- Business & Biodiversity partnerships - Making it happen!
- Certification for sustainability
- Investing in Sustainability - What tools do we have? What tools do we need?
- Ecosystems for sale in an unequal world
- Strengthening corporate social responsibility, law and policy

18-20 November, Bangkok, Thailand: BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND SPECIES EXTINCTION - MANAGING RISK IN A CHANGING WORLD. Relationships between risk and global change, including globalisation, security and global warming, and the impact of change on our capacity to reverse the loss of biodiversity and secure ecosystem integrity will be explored. The effectiveness of approaches to monitor change and assess risks to biodiversity and people will be reviewed. The tools and mechanisms to better manage conservation interventions and address species extinction will be identified. Broadly, the workshop will address vulnerability and adaptation to climate change; meeting the World Summit on Sustainable Development target of reversing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010; and capacity and technology transfer needs to conserve species.

18 November, 19:30-22:00, Breakout Room 08: WHAT FUTURE FOR ASIA WILDLIFE TRADE? TRAFFIC Southeast Asia - Sponsored Workshop. This workshop will identify and further investigate means to forge a comprehensive and strategic approach to managing wildlife trade, including the role that IUCN can play in this regard.

18 November, 19:30-22:00, Breakout Room 05: PRESENTING THE ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES: SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN LIVELIHOODS. Sustainable Use Specialist Group of IUCN/SSC – Sponsored Workshop. This workshop will set out the Addis Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity recently adopted by COP 7 of the CBD at Kuala Lumpur, highlighting some of the Principles by examples of sustainable use and its relevance for livelihoods from various sectors and regions, including wildlife trade.

18 November, 20:30-22:00, Press Centre: LIVE REEF FOOD-FISH TRADE: UNSUSTAINABLE PRACTICES TARGET SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS AND JUVENILES FISHES. Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations – Conservation Platform. International trade in live reef food-fish is growing in the Indo-Pacific region but, despite potential to add value to fish production, is often practiced unsustainably. In particular, spawning aggregations and juveniles are often exploited, undermining fish populations, threatening species, and compromising dependent fisheries and livelihoods.

19 November, 12:00-14:00, Roundtable D1: NEW INSTITUTIONS FOR MULTILATERAL COOPERATION ON ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. National Wildlife Federation – Sponsored Workshop. The need for institutions like the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation to develop plans to assist developing countries to deal with consequences of trade and enhanced economic activity (toxic pollution, habitat destruction, etc.) and to foster multilateral cooperation on solutions will be discussed.

19 November 2004, 17:00-19:00, Breakout Room 11: BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS - WHAT DIFFERENCE DO THEY MAKE? Several case studies will explore the impacts of partnerships with business - What difference do partnerships make for conservation? How is this measured and reported? What can partnerships do that conservation NGOs or companies cannot achieve by themselves? To what extent is the conservation agenda compromised to accommodate business interests?

19 November, 19:30-21:00, Breakout Room 06: COMBATING ILLEGAL LOGGING AND ASSOCIATED TRADE IN THE TROPICS. International Tropical Timber Organization – Conservation Platform. Illegal logging is a major threat to sustainable forest management in the tropics. How can international organisations such as ITTO and IUCN help to reduce this threat?

20 November, 11:30-14:00, Breakout Room 08: ESTIMATING AND REALISING THE VALUE OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES. Organised by the Foundation for Sustainable Development. This workshop will discuss methods and guidelines for economic valuation of ecosystem services and provide practical examples of how this information can be used to finance sustainable use of ecosystems and protected areas. The workshop will launch a Clearing House on Ecosystem Service Valuation and Financing.

### **Coming up in the next two weeks**

15-19 November, Rome, Italy: SECOND MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ACTING AS THE INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is a permanent forum where governments discuss and negotiate matters relevant to genetic resources for food and agriculture. The main objectives of the CGRFA are to ensure the conservation and sustainable utilisation of genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, for present and future generations. For further information contact Alvaro Toledo, email: [Alvaro.Toledo@fao.org](mailto:Alvaro.Toledo@fao.org); Internet: <http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/>; tel: 39-6-5705-2753; fax: 39-6-5705-6347.

15-16 November, Monterray, Mexico: 8TH INTERNATIONAL HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION. The United Nations Environment Program's 8th International High-level Seminar on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) will address two basic themes: 'Environment and Basic Needs' and 'Global Challenges and Business' and will seek to create a new vision for the work of the international community to promote more sustainable lifestyles. For further information contact UNEP DTIE, Production and Consumption Branch, email: SCP8@unep.fr; Internet: <http://www.uneptie.org/pc/SCP8/first.htm>; tel: 33-1-4437-1439; fax: 33-1-4437-1474.

22-26 November, Prague, Czech Republic: 16TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. Organised by: Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. For further information contact Montreal Protocol Secretary, tel: + 254 2 623850, Fax: +254 20 62 4691; email: [ozoneinfo@unep.org](mailto:ozoneinfo@unep.org); Internet: <http://www.unep.ch/ozone/index.asp>

29 November - 2 December, Beijing, China: UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR TRAINING PROGRAMME ON THE WTO AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This 4-day training workshop is organized by the United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), in collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO). The workshop will provide training on WTO and sustainable development issues for 40 university professors from North East Asia. Trainees will come from developing (China, Mongolia and Russia) and developed countries (Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau, Japan and South Korea) in North East Asia. The workshop aims to provide participants with an understanding of the WTO's rules and regulations and their implications for sustainable development, including topics such as trade and environment, trade and health, etc. The program also aims to promote the integration of these topics into university curricula, in order to enhance developing countries' capacity to participate and negotiate in the multilateral trade system in a more meaningful way. For further information contact Dr. Joy Kim, UNU-IAS, email: [kim@ias.unu.edu](mailto:kim@ias.unu.edu); tel: 81-45-221-2316.

## 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).

ACCESSING BIODIVERSITY AND SHARING THE BENEFITS: LESSONS FROM IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. Edited by Santiago Carrizosa, Stephen B. Brush, Brian Wright, and Patrick E. McGuire (IUCN and the University of California Genetic Resources Conservation Program, 2004). This book will be launched at the third IUCN Congress in Bangkok, Thailand in Breakout Room 11 between 20h00 and 22h00.

BILATERAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS: AGENTS OF NEW GLOBAL STANDARDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS? By Carlos M. Correa (August 2004). This study, commissioned by GRAIN, is an independent exploration into the implications of bilateral investment treaties and free trade agreements with chapters on investment, in terms of international standards for the protection of intellectual property rights. For more information visit <http://www.grain.org/briefings/?id=186>.

LEGAL FACTORS DRIVING AGROBIODIVERSITY LOSS. By Franziska Wolf in Environmental Law International network Review (1, 2004): 25-36. This article describes the problem, diagnosis and the causes identified. In particular, it will analyse how legal and institutional structures in the international, European and national realm contribute to the problem. The focus is on intellectual property rights, sovereignty regimes as well as on seed trade and livestock breeding regulations. Finally, chances for sustainable use and protection of agrobiodiversity in the future are discussed. To access this document visit: <http://www.agrobiodiversitaet.net/site/page/downloads/dateien/ABD.Elni.pdf>.

RURAL LIVELIHOODS AND POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES IN FOUR AFRICAN COUNTRIES. By Frank Ellis and H. Ade Freeman in the Journal of Development Studies 40 (4, 2004): 1-30. This paper compares and contrasts rural livelihoods in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi, with a

view to informing rural poverty reduction policies within Poverty Reduction Strategy Plans (PRSPs). Low household incomes in rural areas of all countries are associated with low land and livestock holdings, high reliance on food crop agriculture, and low monetisation of the rural economy. The paper also includes lessons from PRSPs centre on the creation of a facilitating, rather than blocking, public sector environment for the multiplication of non-farm enterprises; seeking creative solutions to the spread of technical advice to farmers; and examining critically the necessity for, and impact of, tax revenue collection by district councils on rural incomes and enterprise.

**FROM CANCUN TO HONG KONG: CHALLENGING CORPORATE-LED TRADE LIBERALISATION.** By the Seattle to Brussels Network (S2B)(October 2004). The publication, a collection of contribution from a number of S2B's Members, which include Greenpeace, Attac and the World development Movement, offers an analysis of some of the most pressing issues in the current international trade setting, touching, among others, matters related to development, the environment and gender. The focus of the analysis converges on the European Union's corporate-led trade agenda and its role and behaviour in the aftermath of the failed ministerial of the World Trade Organisation in Cancun in September 2003, and in view of the foreseen 2005 Ministerial in Hong Kong. To access the report visit <http://www.s2bnetwork.org/cancuntohongkong.pdf>.

**ALTERNATIVES TO ECONOMIC GLOBALISATION: A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE, 2ND EDITION.** Eds. John Cavanagh and Jerry Mander (International Forum on Globalisation, 2004). The International Forum of Globalisation presents a new edition of the popular 2002 book that incorporates hundreds of living examples of on-the-ground alternatives as well as some of the better proposals for alternatives at local, national, and global levels to the challenges posed by globalisation. The book has been expanded and updated to incorporate information received over the past two years. Coauthors include Maude Barlow, Walden Bello, Vandana Shiva, and David Korten writing on issues such as the military responses to the terrorist attacks of 9-11, reclaiming the commons, local action and ten principles for sustainability. For more information and to order the book visit <http://www.ifg.org>.

**MARKET LIBERALISATION AND SUSTAINABILITY IN TRANSITION: TURNING POINTS AND TRENDS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.** By Sandra O. Archibald, Luana E. Banu, and Zbigniew Bochniarz (Environmental Politics 13 (1, 2004): 266-289. This chapter assesses the impact of market liberalisation on the sustainability of transformation in ten Central and East European countries, emphasising the impact of liberalisation on the environment. For CEE countries, assessing environmental effects of structural change in the economy, rising personal consumption, rapid transition to market-oriented economies, and dramatically increased liberalisation is critical. This study demonstrates the progress of the CEE10, relative to other CEE and new independent states (NIS), and how much progress is still needed.

## Vacancy

**UNEP-GEF REGIONAL TRAINING EXPERTS.** The UNEP-GEF Project for "Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)" is seeking qualified candidates for consultancy positions. Specifically, UNEP-GEF is seeking to identify 20 Regional Training Experts on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB); and 50 Regional Training Experts in Information Technology (IT). Further information is available at <http://www.unep.ch/biosafety/BCH/experts/>

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