



Bridges Trade BioRes

News, events and resources at the intersection of trade and biodiversity

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| | |
|--|----------|
| Environment at the WTO | 1 |
| CTE Gets Down To Details On Environmental Goods | |
| Biodiversity | 2 |
| CBD Considers Partnerships, Private Sector For Implementation | |
| In Brief..... | 4 |
| Events & Resources | 6 |

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Environment at the WTO

CTE GETS DOWN TO DETAILS ON ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS

Convening for the Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE-SS) from 15 to 16 September, WTO Members focused on how to advance negotiations on environmental goods and largely put aside issues on to the relationship between WTO rules and multilateral environmental agreements (MEA). Moving on from broad debates on approaches to environmental goods liberalisation, delegates got down to more pragmatic discussions regarding the environmental and developmental justifications of specific products.

Identifying win-win-win opportunities

As part of a product-specific process, WTO Members welcomed a meeting convened by the US just prior to the CTE session where it provided

case studies on the environmental and developmental benefits of proposed environmental goods. Many delegates felt that such an exercise could help to test the credibility of and streamline the lists, and to critically analyse potential win-win-win opportunities for trade, environment and development. Some Members, including Switzerland and Canada, raised the possibility of holding similar workshops for their goods lists.

On a way forward for the negotiations, Canada proposed to structure discussions according to categories, naming sanitation, wastewater management and renewable energy as three possibilities. Such an approach was seen as a way to clean up existing lists and support developing countries in the preparation of their own lists. The proposal was generally welcomed as a potential starting point for moving to a more detailed debate, although additional categories were expected to emerge in the course of the discussions.

The 'environmental project approach' continued to be promoted by India. Under this methodology, environmental goods and services used in approved environmental projects would qualify for trade concessions for the duration of the project (Bridges Trade BioRes, 13 July 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-07-13/story5.htm>). In contrast to the previous CTE meeting, India appeared more willing to consider a combination of the project and list approaches, as long as its two main concerns were addressed -- namely that environmental goods chosen for increased liberalisation did indeed contribute to environmental protection and that the 'dual use' issue (i.e. that certain environmental goods may have both environmental and conventional uses) was dealt with.

However, Brazil, while welcoming the US and Canadian initiatives, also insisted on the need to consider criteria for identifying environmental

goods. They noted that such criteria would help to more clearly specify the limits of the expected outcome, including the expected scope and volume of trade in the listed goods, and to build confidence among developing countries to come forward with their lists.

The road to Hong Kong

While expectations for Hong Kong are still unclear, observers generally agreed that the finalisation of a list by the Ministerial meeting was unlikely. While discussions in the CTE have for some time focused almost exclusively on environmental goods under paragraph 31(iii), a suggestion by the CTE-SS Chair Toufiq Ali from Bangladesh to drop MEA-related negotiations under paragraphs 31(i) and (ii) until after the Hong Kong meeting was rejected by some. Developing countries in particular feared that such a move could set a procedural precedent, given that so far no other negotiating issue has been formally dropped from discussions in the lead-up to December. In addition, MEA-related issues, which are of particular interest to some developed countries such as the EC and Switzerland, may provide a potential bargaining chip -- on which movement could be achieved in exchange for agreement on an issue of interest to developing countries -- later on in the discussions.

Citing the lack of agreement on other important negotiating items, notably agriculture, several countries highlighted that movement in these areas would be necessary before any major progress on environment-related issues could be expected.

The next regular session of the CTE will be held on 12 October and followed by the CTE-SS from 13 to 14 October.

ICTSD reporting.

Biodiversity

CBD CONSIDERS PARTNERSHIPS, PRIVATE SECTOR FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Unprecedented rates of biodiversity loss and the urgent need to get on track to achieve the 2010 target of reducing this trend drove delegates at a 5-9

September meeting on implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to consider new options. The Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI), which met for the first time in Montreal, Canada, discussed the creation of innovative new methods of ensuring that the CBD's objectives and strategic plan are implemented in practice. Highlighting the importance of cooperation with other actors who impact on biodiversity, the possibility of the creation of a global partnership for biodiversity was complemented with a more short-term request for the Executive Secretary of the CBD to talk to the WTO Secretariat about the possible creation of a memorandum of cooperation between the two institutions. In addition, delegates looked at the potential of enhanced private sector engagement as a mechanism to implement the convention.

Innovative solutions considered

While delegates noted that a voluntary and flexible global partnership for biodiversity could provide a single system of cooperation among different organisations (examples given were the WTO, the UN Forum on Forests, indigenous groups, the FAO and the Commission on Sustainable Development), assist in national implementation and raise the profile of biodiversity in other international fora, they decided as a preliminary step to ask the Executive Secretary of the CBD to liaise with other conventions and organisations on implementation and the possibility of developing a joint work programme "such as the global partnership for biodiversity". Delegates described other characteristics of the partnership, including that it should be issue-based and voluntary, and asked the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP-8, March 2006) to mandate a process that would have concrete proposals delivered for COP-10. Delegates also decided to in particular ask the Executive Secretary to liaise with the WTO Secretariat to consider options for closer collaboration. The collaboration could include a memorandum of cooperation that promotes cooperation on shared CBD-WTO issues such as observership of the CBD in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, access and benefit sharing and incentives. The procedures for regular information exchange between MEA Secretariats and the relevant WTO committees, and the criteria for the granting of observer status, is mandated for negotiations in the WTO Committee on Trade and

Environment by paragraph 31 (ii) of the Doha Ministerial Declaration. In addition, the relationship between the WTO and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) such as the CBD is the subject of negotiations mandated by paragraph 31(i) of the Declaration.

The potential of private sector bodies to assist in the implementation of the CBD was also raised. Further work on tools such as certification schemes based on companies' biodiversity performance; internationally agreed standards on activities that impact biodiversity; biodiversity valuation models; guidelines and tools to assist companies in implementing good practice; and biodiversity offsets could facilitate enhanced private-sector engagement in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing. However, controversy arose quickly during the exploratory talks on the attractiveness of biodiversity offsets as a means of engaging private sector actors. While the EU, Brazil and Canada supported such offsets -- i.e. allowing businesses to give financial aid to biodiversity conservation efforts to compensate for activities they conduct that are harmful to biodiversity -- Russia objected to the idea. Offsets, it argued, would allow the private sector to cause damage and offset it by providing compensation, without effectively addressing or ameliorating the harmful effects of the business activity. However, the offset option remains at a preliminary stage, although mention was made of the idea in the final recommendations of the meeting. The definition of biodiversity to be used, the nature of the mechanism and the feasibility of such an instrument have yet to be discussed.

Priority of national vs CBD processes in question

Delegates differed on how the WGRI should go about its work and what emphasis it should give to different mechanisms. While developed countries went into the meeting stressing that CBD policy could best be implemented by streamlining and simplification of Convention processes, developing countries said that Convention implementation could only be enhanced by increased assistance and capacity for national implementation was their first priority. Such assistance, they added, must not be overly constrained by unsuitable eligibility criteria. For their part, developed countries said that the streamlining of CBD processes would end overlap amongst decisions, guidance and instruments and release resources that are currently being spent on

the CBD's many processes and meetings for national-level concrete implementation.

Although increased national assistance and capacity, procedural streamlining, enhanced cooperation with other organisations and private sector engagement were all welcomed as concrete ways to make the CBD more effective in its work towards its objectives, some delegates also feared that the work load imposed by all these initiatives could just add to the already heavy financial and procedural burdens of the Convention. Nonetheless, it was clear that national initiatives and innovative engagement with other actors, and not just more meetings, would be necessary to meet the CBD's 2010 target.

Background

The WGRI was established by the seventh COP to the CBD in February 2004 with a wide-ranging mandate to address the implementation of the Convention and the CBD's Strategic Plan to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010; to assess the impacts and effectiveness of Convention processes and bodies along with reporting and evaluation processes; to address cooperation with other conventions, organisations and initiatives and stakeholder engagement; and find a means of identifying and overcoming obstacles to the effective implementation of the Convention. The goal of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, which was agreed upon at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002, brought clearly into focus the need to critically assess the extent to which the Convention has been put into practice and what can be done to make it better realise its objectives in the future. This was reinforced by the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, which indicated that humans are destroying the planet's ecosystems at unprecedented rates (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 1 April 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-04-01/story3.htm>). As a result, expectations were high for the Working Group, with some delegates seeing it as marking a crossroads in the ability of the CBD to make its objectives a reality.

Additional Resources

Daily coverage provided by IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/wgri/>

Documents from the meeting are available at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=WGRI-01>

ICTSD Reporting; ENB, Vol. 9 No. 327, 12 September 2005.

In Brief

'DISAPPOINTING' RESULTS EMERGE FROM UN SUMMIT

Resolutions agreeing to prevent the incitement of terrorism and enhance conflict prevention by the UN, along with agreement to create a human rights Council, were lauded as a positive outcome of the 14-16 September Millennium World Summit in New York. However, the lack of progress on key issues such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), biodiversity issues and nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament drew criticism from participants and observers alike. Criticism was clearly apparent from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who remarked, "let us be frank with each other and the peoples of the United Nations. We have not yet achieved the sweeping and fundamental reform that I and many others believe is required". Much of Annan's concern was focused on the failure of the meeting to act on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament or fundamental reform of the UN. Others cited the lack of progress on the MDGs -- a set of eight development goals that range from ensuring environmental sustainability to a 50 percent reduction in poverty and hunger by 2015 -- as a major failing of the summit.

While biodiversity issues were sidelined at the UN Summit, the final summit document does make reference to sustainable development and a number of biodiversity-related conventions. In particular, it states that the "parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety should support the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol as well as other biodiversity-related agreement" and the 2010 goal to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity. Despite the lack of progress at the UN Summit, Annan is continuing to pursue other avenues for the advancement of the MDGs. This was most recently seen in a new UNCTAD report presented to the summit which calls on the WTO to promote trade liberalisation in goods and services from developing countries in order to help achieve the MDGs.

The UNCTAD report is available at <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/60/225>

"Draft Outcome Document," UNGLS, 13 September 2005; "Intriguing opening for UN summit," BBC NEWS, 15 September 2005; "UN Calls on World Trade Organization to Deliver on Development Promises," UN NEWS CENTRE, 15 September 2005; "Swiss Back Annan Over Summit Failings," NZZ ONLINE, 15 September 2005; "Terrorism Takes Centre Stage at UN Summit," THE GLOBE AND MAIL, 15 September 2005; "They Came, They Talked, But Couldn't Agree," THE AGE, 16 September 2005; "World leaders united on terrorism at the UN summit," L'EXPRESS, 16 September 2005; "U.N. Summit: Pushing Forward on Human Rights Reform," BBC NEWS, 16 September 2005.

EU TO EXEMPT SMALL QUANTITIES FROM REACH LEGISLATION

According to a decision by the EU Internal Market and Industry committees on 13 September, chemicals that are only produced in small quantities of one to ten tons in the EU will likely be exempt from the proposed EU REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restrictions of Chemicals) regulatory system obligation to provide chemical and safety reports (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 31 October 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-10-31/story1.htm>). The chemicals -- which make up two-thirds of the total number of chemicals in use in the EU -- will only be subject to the strict REACH registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals procedures if they have been deemed particularly hazardous. The two committees of the European Parliament made the decision in reaction to industry concerns regarding the impacts of the heavy regulatory burden on small and medium sized enterprises in the EU and in trading partners. Instead, industry has been advocating the "risk approach", where only products which have a high risk of adversely affecting health and the environment would be subject to regulation, which was effectively adopted for small quantities by the two committees in their decision. Environmental groups and the Green party condemned the decision, however. "Committee members today voted in favour of improving the short-term profits of the chemical industry and removing their responsibility for the safety of their own products, at the expense of protecting public health, workers, consumers, and the environment from hazardous chemicals," WWF, Friends of the Earth and the European Public Health Alliance - Environment Network said in a joint statement. While the legislation aims to protect the environment and human health from hazardous chemicals by shifting the burden of proof of safety to business, industry groups within and outside the EU have raised concerns regarding the potential impacts of the

legislation on their costs and international trade. REACH is due to be voted on conclusively in November after approval by the Environment Committee on 4 October.

ICTSD Reporting; "Two EP committees streamline EU chemicals law," EURACTIV, 15 September 2005; "EU Lawmakers Vote to Ease Rules for Chemical Firms," REUTERS, 14 September 2005; "IMCO and ITRE votes fatally undermine REACH," WWF, FOE AND EPH-EN, 13 September 2005.

GLOBAL WATER SAVINGS POSSIBLE THROUGH STRATEGIC TRADE

Countries can save domestic water resources and reduce global water use by importing water-intensive products and exporting commodities that are less water intensive, according to a new report released this month. As outlined in "Saving water through global trade" by A.K. Chapagain, A.Y. Hoekstra and H.H.G. Savenije, national water saving through the import of a product can imply saving water at a global level if the flow is from sites with relatively high water productivity (commodities with a low "virtual water" content, i.e. that use a smaller quantity of water in their production process) to sites with low water productivity (commodities with a high virtual water content). The authors, through new research and analysis of global and national water savings for the period 1997-2001, estimate that virtual water flows save global water resources by 352 Gm³/yr, amounting to a six percent reduction in water use. In order to ensure that global water use is reduced and that scarce water resources are freed up for other uses, they suggest countries should take into account the efficiency of their water use and the value of alternative uses of their water when deciding what products to import and export. Such trading decisions are often made using the idea of comparative advantage, which says that nations can gain from trade if they concentrate or specialise in the production of goods and services for which they have a comparative advantage, while importing goods and services for which they have a comparative advantage. Considering water usage in the analysis of comparative advantage, the report suggests, will lead to trade gains that have higher sustainable development value. If a country uses water inefficiently relatively to other countries, and at the same time does not have enough water for sanitation or consumption, it may make sense for the country to import water-intensive crops such as cotton rather than use domestic water resources to

produce them.

The report is available at <http://www.waterfootprint.org/Reports/Report17.pdf>

WTO HORMONES DISPUTE FOCUSES ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES

The WTO panel assessing a complaint brought by the EC against continued trade sanctions by the US and Canada on certain EU exports (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 2 September 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-09-02/story3.htm>) gathered for its first meeting from 12 to 15 September in Geneva. The EC claims that the ongoing sanctions are illegal after it had implemented new measures in 2003 to comply with the 1998 WTO ruling in which the Appellate Body agreed with the US and Canada that the EU ban was in violation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). The panel proceedings have been dominated by procedural questions on how best to address the continued sanctions and very few substantive references have been made regarding risk assessment, the scientific evidence or SPS rules. The question whether new scientific evidence provided by the EC has been used in a satisfactory risk assessment process, and whether this assessment has been made according to the description of a risk assessment in the SPS Agreement, was not argued before the panel. Instead, the parties disagreed on whether the EC, or the US and Canada, are responsible for bringing a case. The EC argues that if the US and Canada thinks that the EC is not in compliance, they should bring a non-compliance case. The US and Canada, on the other hand, have been urging the EC to bring a compliance case if they believe that their 2003 measures have brought them into compliance and that the sanctions should be lifted. At stake is where the burden of proof lies -- whether Members, and which ones, should have to prove compliance or otherwise with a WTO ruling. These proceedings were open to the public -- being broadcast through closed-circuit television to an audience of between 20 to 100 trade negotiators, NGOs, media and academics at the WTO -- after the panel members accepted a joint request by the three parties.

For further information on the proceedings, see Bridges Weekly, 14 Sept 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-09-14/story3.htm>.

ICTSD Reporting.

MAKE ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT CENTRAL TO TOURISM, REPORT SAYS

The World Tourism Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on 6 September released a report promoting sustainable tourism that enhances economic growth while avoiding harm to the environment and local communities. The report, entitled "Making Tourism More Sustainable: a Guide for Policy Makers", provides tourism decision makers with a framework for developing policies for more sustainable tourism, a toolbox of instruments that they can use to implement these policies, and some selected case studies. Although the massive increase predicted in tourism in coming years could enhance living standards in host countries, potentially alleviating poverty in small communities and providing markets for handicrafts, the study authors also point to potential threats to the environment and local communities. The need for sustainable forms of tourism, which the report presents in a set of twelve aims, has also been addressed by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development and a new draft user's manual for the CBD guidelines. Tourism is one of the twelve negotiating areas in the Committee for Trade in Services at the World Trade Organization, and ecotourism in particular has been proposed by the EC as part of their "core list" of environmental services under the Doha Declaration article 31(iii) mandate for enhanced liberalisation of environmental goods and services.

The WTO/UNEP Study is available at <http://www.unep.fr/pc/tourism/library/A%20Guide%20for%20Policy%20Makers.htm>

The CBD Guidelines and draft User's Manual are available at <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/socio-eco/tourism/guidelines.asp>

Information on World Trade Organization negotiations on services can be found at http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/serv_e/s_negs_e.htm

ICTSD Reporting; "WTO And UNEP Are Launching A Joint Publication: Making Tourism More Sustainable: A Guide For Policy Makers," WTO PRESS RELEASE, 6 September 2005.

Events & Resources

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>.

Coming up in the next two weeks

19-23 September, Chiba, Japan: FIFTH SESSION OF THE CODEX AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON FOODS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY. The Codex Alimentarius Commission, at its 23rd session in 1999, established an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology to consider the health and nutritional implications of such foods. For further information contact the Codex Secretariat, tel: (+39 06) 57051; fax: 5705.4593; email: codex@fao.org; Internet: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/report/653/bt05_01e.pdf

20-22 September, Rome, Italy: FAO/FISHCODE AND WORLD FISH STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP ON INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO THE ASSESSMENT OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES. This workshop will unite key stakeholders of the FAO, the WorldFish Center, independent researchers and donor organisations and aims to outline activities to be undertaken for the development of interdisciplinary approaches to assess small-scale fisheries. For further information contact Eric Reynolds, tel: (+39 06) 570 56807; Fax: 570 56500; email: eric.reynolds@fao.org; Internet: http://www.fao.org/fi/NEMS/events/detail_event.asp?event_id=31835

23-24 September, Geneva, Switzerland: STUDY SESSION ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. This session, organized by Equitable Economy, will explore how human rights rules and mechanisms can be applied in support of fairer, development-oriented IP regimes. For further information contact Caroline Dommen, tel: (+41 22) 320 21 21; fax: 320 69 48; email: info@3dthree.org; Internet: <http://www.3dthree.org>

24-28 September, Rome, Italy: THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE PLANT PRODUCTION UNDER DROUGHT STRESS (INTERDROUGHT-II). The main mission of this conference, organized with technical contributions from FAO, among others, is to explore the possibilities of science and technology applications to crop improvement and crop management under drought-prone farming by linking progress made at the molecular level to that at the whole plant and crop levels in the field. For further information contact Dr. Abraham Blum, tel: (+39 051) 656431; fax: 6564350; email: congressi@avenuemedia.it; Internet: <http://www.plantstress.com/id2/>

26-28 September, Jakarta, Indonesia: REGIONAL ARTISANAL FISHERIES CONFERENCE. This event is organised by the SEAFish for Justice Network in collaboration with Oxfam International and will unite artisanal fisherfolk organisations to discuss the characterisation of artisanal fisheries, the possible impacts of the WTO's non-agricultural market access negotiations on fisheries as well as the scope for special and differential treatment in multilateral trade negotiations. For further information contact Ephraim Patrick T. Batungbacal, tel: (+63-2) 928 82 89; fax: 926 44 15; email: sonny@tambuyog.org; Internet: <http://www.tambuyog.org/cgi-bin/news/files/Southeast%20Asian%20Artisanal%20Conference.pdf>

26-30 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO NEGOTIATING GROUP ON RULES. For further information contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: (41-22) 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org; Internet: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.pdf

26-30 September, Rome, Italy: SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION (PIC COP-2). The conference will discuss the 1988 Convention on Prior Informed Consent which requires exporters trading in a list of hazardous substances to obtain the prior informed consent of importers before proceeding with the trade. For further information contact the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, tel: (+41-22) 917-8296; fax: 797-3460; e-mail: pic@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.pic.int>

28-29 September, Washington DC, US: PRO-POOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. This international dialogue is organized by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in order to investigate the potential synergies of partnerships in development. Partnerships in research and innovation enhance our capacity to solve complex development problems and to provide options to smallholder farmers, food-insecure households, rural women, and other vulnerable groups. For further information contact David J. Spielman, tel: (+1 202) 862-

5600; Fax: 467-4439; email: d.spielman@cgiar.org; Internet: <http://www.ifpri.org/events/conferences/2005/20050928PPP.htm>

29 September, Geneva, Switzerland: FORUM ON FOREST CERTIFICATION – DO GOVERNMENTS HAVE A ROLE? The UN Economic Commission for Europe and FAO will host this policy forum, which will focus on questions of whether governments should use forest certification to promote sustainable forest management and, if so, how and whether forest certification is an obstacle to international trade. For further information contact Cynthia De Castro, tel: (+41 22) 917-3254; fax: 917-0041; e-mail: cynthia.de.castro@unece.org; Internet: http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/docs/tc-sessions/tc-63/english/2005TC_Forum.pdf

Other Upcoming Events

10-14 October, Lisbon, Portugal: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTEGRATED OCEAN POLICY. This conference will examine the growing experience around the world with the formulation and implementation of integrated ocean policies at national and regional levels, with the intent of drawing lessons and suggesting emerging best practices. For further information contact Biliana Cicin-Sain, tel: (+1-302) 831-8086; fax: 831-3668; e-mail: bcs@udel.edu; Internet: <http://www.globaloceans.org>

12-14 October, Montreal, Canada: EXPERTS MEETING ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. This meeting, organised by the CBD Secretariat, will analyse activities and situations that contribute to damage to biological diversity, including situations of potential concern; look at proposals regarding the possible introduction of elements to address liability and redress for damage to biological diversity into existing liability and redress regimes; and examine the appropriateness of a liability and redress regime under the Convention. For further information contact the CBD Secretariat, tel: (+1 514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=EGLR-01>

17-21 October, Alnarp, Sweden: BRIDGING THE GAP - POLICIES AND SCIENCE AS TOOLS IN IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT. The conference is organized by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and aims to bring together policy makers, stakeholders and scientific community to identify and analyse gaps between existing knowledge and policy implementation in the field of sustainable forestry management; review the knowledge base for criteria of sustainability; and identify directions for future relevant research in support of sustainable forest management.. For further

information contact Desirée Johansson, tel: (+46 40) 415 183; Fax: 462 325; email: desiree.johansson@ess.slu.se; Internet: <http://www2.ess.slu.se/BridgingTheGap/Homepage.htm>

28 November - 9 December, Montreal, Canada: FIRST MEETING OF PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL AND ELEVENTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UNFCCC. Canada is hosting the historic first Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (MOP-1), which is taking place in conjunction with the eleventh session of the Conference of Parties (COP-11) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). For further information contact the UNFCCC Secretariat, tel: (+49 228) 815-1000; Fax: 815-1999; email: secretariat@unfccc.int; Internet: http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php

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 smohan@ictsd.ch.

INVESTING IN ENVIRONMENTAL WEALTH FOR POVERTY REDUCTION. By David Pearce, Poverty Environment Partnership and UNEP, September 2005. This report, prepared for the September Millenium World Summit, concludes that targeted investments in the environment will generate substantial economic returns especially among the more than one billion people who live on less than a dollar a day. For example, every dollar invested in fighting land degradation and desertification may conservatively generate over three dollars in economic benefits helping to fight poverty among the millions living on fragile lands. Money could be spent on such traditional and soil conserving features like terracing. To access this report visit www.povertyenvironment.net/unep

U.S. VS. EC BIOTECH PRODUCTS CASE: WTO DISPUTE BACKGROUNDER. By Steve Suppan, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, September 2005. This briefing outlines the key issues in the dispute brought by the US, Canada and Argentina on the EC's biotechnology regulations. Will the EC and other WTO members be able to develop and maintain a regulatory system for GM crops that allows for the use of precautionary measures to protect consumer, animal and/or plant health when there is insufficient scientific evidence to assess the risks? Will the WTO agree that some of the EC's regulatory objectives for GM crops fall outside of the WTO and are instead covered by other international agreements such as the Cartagena Protocol to Biosafety, which allow for a more precautionary approach? Other questions and analyses probe into the case's implications for the use of precaution when

scientific uncertainties preclude national regulators from fully assessing risks. To access this report visit <http://www.tradeobservatory.org/library.cfm?refid=76644>

SEED INDUSTRY CONCENTRATION- 2005. By the ETC Group, September/October 2005. According to ETC Group, the top 10 multinational seed firms control half of the world's commercial seed sales (a total worldwide market of approximately US\$21,000 million per annum). Corporate control and ownership of seeds - the first link in the food chain - has far-reaching implications for global food security. With control of seeds and agricultural research held in fewer hands, the world's food supply is increasingly vulnerable to the whims of market maneuvers. ETC Group's report includes a table listing many of the world's top 20 seed companies and their acquisitions and/or subsidiaries. To access this report visit <http://www.etcgroup.org/article.asp?newsid=524>

WHERE IS THE WEALTH OF NATIONS? By Kirk Hamilton et al, World Bank, 13 September 2005. This book uses new measures of wealth that go beyond traditional measures such as gross domestic product and instead makes the social and environmental costs of development decisions visible, thereby allowing the improvement of actions and policies for sustainable development. Including the value of natural resources and our social capital in national accounting is a vital step to achieve economic growth that is equitable and sustainable. The report finds that accounting for the actual value of natural resources, including resource depletion and population growth, shows that net savings per person are negative in the world's most impoverished countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. To access this book visit <http://www.worldbank.org/>

UNDERSTANDING GLOBAL TRADE AND HUMAN RIGHTS. By the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), July 2005. In preparation for the upcoming Hong Kong Ministerial in December 2005, this report is intended for all who are striving to reconcile the gap between human rights and trade. This report identifies the WTO agreements that most affect human rights and institutional procedures through which human rights advocates can lobby for human rights-conscious trade policies. To access this report, visit <http://www.un-ngls.org/cso/cso9/understanding-global-trade-human-rights.pdf>

TREND ANALYSIS OF TOTAL OZONE DATA FOR TURNAROUND AND DYNAMICAL CONTRIBUTIONS. By Gregory C. Reinsel et al, Journal of Geophysical Research, Vol. 110, August 2005. This report, based on an analysis of satellite records and surface monitoring instruments, finds that the ozone layer has stopped shrinking and can now make steps toward recovery over the next several decades. Though ozone thickness is still far below normal in many areas, the researchers credited the 1987 Montreal Protocol in

helping to reduce ozone-depleting emissions. To access this report, visit <http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2005/2004JD004662.shtml>

GUIDELINES ON BIODIVERSITY-INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND INCLUSIVE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT. By the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and the Netherlands Commission for Impact Assessment, September 2005. These assessments are the result of proposals for further development and refinement of the guidelines on integrating biodiversity considerations in impact assessment, particularly to incorporate all stages of the environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment processes taking into account the ecosystem approach. To access these assessments, visit <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/impact/guidelines.shtml>

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The ANDEAN AMAZON INITIATIVE FOR THE PREVENTION OF BIOPIRACY is a national, regional and international effort undertaken by Peruvian NGO Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA) that aims to prevent the illegal use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge. It works with a view to address biopiracy from different angles and perspectives, including transformative research, formation of networks, campaigns and awareness raising activities,

organizations of meetings, contributing to sound policy making and promoting better patent search practices. The website includes publications, links, contacts and other information. To access this resource visit <http://www.biopirateria.org/en/index.php>

VACANCY

RESEARCHER FOR FOREST CONSERVATION PROJECT (FC). With the view to designing policy options for forest conservation as means to poverty alleviation, the Forest Conservation Project (FC) is working to develop pragmatic strategies for the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests. For the remainder of the Third Phase (July 2005 - March 2007), FC will focus its energies on forest certification, plantation forestry and illegal logging, under the theme 'From Destructive Forestry Practices to Sustainable Forest Management'. The Researcher will assist in refining and implementing on-going research of FC. The Researcher will contribute to two studies on Curbing Illegal Timber Imports into Japan and Involvement of Local People in Plantation Forestry. For further information visit <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/news/saiyo/>

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