



# Bridges Trade BioRes

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

**Issue: 4 February 2005**

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## Climate Change

### CLIMATE CHANGE CREEPS UP AGENDA IN LEAD-UP TO G8 SUMMIT

With the Kyoto Protocol's entry into force around the corner, a recent UK conference brought the spotlight onto climate change issues. The conference, entitled "Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change", was held from 1-3 February at the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research in Exeter as the UK took over the G8 presidency. Just prior to the meeting, a high-level taskforce established by three think tanks in the US, UK and Australia released a report aimed at the presidency, urging concerted international action on climate change. In related news, the world's first multi-country, multi-sector greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme, the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), took effect at the beginning of the year.

## Blair conference examines climate science

UK Prime Minister Tony Blair has declared climate change as a top priority during his leadership of the G8, along with Africa. The international scientific symposium on climate change in Exeter in early February was tasked with tackling the difficult questions of what levels of greenhouse gases can be considered dangerous, what the impacts might be across regions and sectors, and what options exist for achieving the stabilisation of atmospheric greenhouse gases at different levels. Overall, participants sought to flag "optimum" solutions, which would help the world both avoid unacceptable levels of climate change and unacceptably high mitigation costs. The meeting did not, as such, identify a temperature increase considered "safe"; Participants did agree that the effects of climate change are being felt already.

On options for mitigating climate change, the meeting concluded that as there was no magic bullet. Instead, a portfolio of options is necessary, including emissions trading and strong technology development and diffusion. Commenting on the meeting, Margaret Beckett, UK Environment Secretary said she hoped the conference could serve as "a milestone in building international consensus on climate change".

The meeting results will feed into the 2005 G8 Summit, which is scheduled to take place from 6-8 July in Gleneagles, Scotland. The US, which pulled out of the Kyoto Protocol in 2001, will be participating at that G8 Summit. At the World Economic Forum in Davos (see related story, this issue), Blair put pressure on the US to get involved in international climate action, stressing that "interdependence is no longer disputed... If America wants the rest of the world to be part of the agenda it has set, it must be part of their agenda too". This request may come to fore again at the G8 Summit.

### High-level taskforce urges action on climate change

On a similar note, a report entitled "Meeting the Climate Challenge," released on 24 January, strongly urged world leaders to tackle climate change. The International Climate Change Taskforce joined the forces of the UK-based Institute for Public Policy Research, the US-based Centre for American Progress and the Australia Institute to produce a report targeting the G8 presidency. The Taskforce included members such as US senator Olympia Snow, Timothy Wirth, Martin Khor and Claude Martin, with Rajendra K Pachauri -- current chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change -- serving as scientific advisor. The report recommended the creation of a "G-8 plus" Climate Group including countries like India and China, which would take on major initiatives to take action to combat climate change. Such action should, according to the Taskforce, include a shifting of agricultural subsidies from food crops to dedicated energy crops used to produce biofuels. Other measures included the promotion of highly efficient cars and other low-carbon technological solutions.

Taskforce co-chair Rt Hon Stephen Byers, a UK Member of Parliament, commented that "Our planet is at risk. With climate change, there is an ecological time-bomb ticking away, and people are becoming increasingly concerned by the changes and extreme weather events they are already seeing... I appreciate that tackling climate change is politically difficult. Strong international action is vital. World leaders need to recognise that climate change is the single most important long term issue that the planet faces and to discharge their responsibilities to the people they represent by agreeing to concerted international action to tackle climate change".

### European ETS up and running

On 1 January, the European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) took off. Under the scheme, industrial plants and installations -- which have to comply with nationally allocated carbon dioxide emissions caps -- can trade in emissions permits. The idea behind the scheme is that emissions will be reduced where such measures cost the least, and overall mitigation costs will thus decrease in Europe. Reductions made through specific projects in developing countries will also be counted in. In the future, the programme will link to similar schemes in other countries under the Kyoto Protocol.

The Kyoto Protocol will enter into force on 16 February. Discussions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change are currently stalled regarding the time-period post-2012, when the Kyoto Protocol expires (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 20 December 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-12-20/story1.htm>).

### Additional Resources

For further information on the UK conference on Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change, including links to the presentations, visit <http://www.stabilisation2005.com/>

To access the report on "Meeting the Climate Challenge," visit [http://www.tai.org.au/Publications\\_Files/Papers&Sub\\_Files/Meeting%20the%20Climate%20Challenge%20FV.pdf](http://www.tai.org.au/Publications_Files/Papers&Sub_Files/Meeting%20the%20Climate%20Challenge%20FV.pdf)

ICTSD reporting; "How Much More Does The Climate Have To Change Before It Becomes 'Dangerous'?", MET OFFICE RELEASE, 3 February 2005; "EU Launches Pioneering Emissions Trading Scheme," REUTERS, 4 January 2005; "G8-Plus Group Needed To Tackle Climate Change," IPPR PRESS RELEASE, 24 January 2005.

### Globalisation and Trade

#### TWO 'WORLD FORUMS', TWO WORLD VIEWS

The World Economic Forum (WEF) convened in Davos, Switzerland, from 26-30 January to provide a "collaborative framework for the world's leaders to address global issues, engaging particularly its corporate members in global citizenship". On the other side of the globe, the World Social Forum (WSF), gathered in Porto Alegre, Brazil, from 23 to 28 January to provide an "open meeting place where groups and movements of civil society opposed to neo-liberalism and a world dominated by capital or by any form of imperialism, but engaged in building a planetary society centred on the human person, come together".

#### WEF: Lost momentum challenged in Davos

Among the WEF's original objectives was to bring together world leaders, from all walks of life, to pursue economic and social activity that will improve the state of the world. This year's meeting focused more on social, political and developmental issues in its final call for action on the tough issues of poverty, climate change, education, equitable globalisation and good global governance. Specifically, participants at the annual meeting called for the adoption of technology to reduce the

emission of greenhouse gases, the creation of a fund to accelerate financial aid to the poorest nations and the removal of trade barriers that prevent economic growth in developing countries.

However, the WEF was criticised by some observers for failing to get down to the trade-offs business and political leaders need to make, contrary to its theme of "taking responsibility for tough choices". Also at the meeting, civil society groups for the first time presented the "Public Eye on Davos Award" to a number of corporations, including Dow Chemicals, oil giant Shell, US-based retail chain Wal-Mart, and the consulting firm KPMG International. According to the organisers, these companies were chosen as "model cases for all the corporate groups that have excelled in socially and environmentally irresponsible behaviour. They reveal the negative impacts of economic globalisation."

The 2005 WEF, however, will most likely be remembered for the informal meeting of trade ministers that was held on 29 January. Gathering on the sidelines of the Davos meeting, the 'mini-ministerial' gave a "political kick-start" to the Doha Round of negotiations at the WTO, noted Indian Commerce Minister Kamal Nath. According to Joseph Deiss, Switzerland's Minister for Economic Affairs, the countries present agreed to direct particular attention to modalities for agriculture; a formula for reducing tariffs on industrial goods; market-opening offers in services trade talks; progress on trade facilitation and strengthening WTO rules; and a "proper reflection of the development dimension" of the negotiations. The ministers also agreed on the need for greater ministerial involvement throughout the year, and for the talks to "move from the clarification phase to real negotiations" on all issues.

### **WSF: Civil society struggles with recommendations**

The WSF is an alternative forum to the WEF that aims to provide an "open meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and interlinking for effective action". Thus, it tries to provide a non-hierarchical space for opponents of neoliberalism that are "committed to building a planetary society directed towards fruitful relationships among Humankind and between it and the Earth" to meet with one another.

However, eighteen high-profile WSF participants issued a manifesto at the meeting calling for the transformation of the WSF into "an instrument for action" based on concrete proposals and ideas with broad support. The group advocating the "Porto Alegre" manifesto included Nobel Peace Prize-winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Portuguese sociologist Boaventura de Souza Santos, Egyptian economist Samir Amin, U.S. sociologist Immanuel Wallerstein, Pakistani writer Tariq Ali, and Walden Bello, head of Focus on the Global South and did not claim to be leaders speaking for the meeting but rather interested participants.

The manifesto makes recommendations regarding putting an end to destruction of the environment, especially in the area of climate change; enhancing fair trade; food sovereignty and security through small-scale agriculture; and the prohibition of patents on knowledge and living organisms and the privatisation of water.

Participants from tsunami-struck countries voiced criticisms towards international funding agencies and corporations which they said had undervalued environmental factors that could have reduced the scope of the disaster such as the large mangrove forests that have been reduced in recent decades (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 21 January 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-01-21/story1.htm>).

"These multilateral funding institutions continue to promote environmentally degrading industries such as shrimp farming, industrial tourism, charcoal production and urban expansion," Alberto Quarto, Executive Director of the US-based Mangrove Action Project, said.

Trade-related concerns were raised by the Coordination/Platform Soy-Brazil, a coalition of several groups, which pointed to the impact of international trade on environmental protection and human development. They suggested that the increasing spread of soy monocropping had forced small farmers off their lands and threatened the Cerrado, a savannah ecosystem. "This unregulated crop generates contamination, blocks water sources, and attacks biodiversity and the micro-climate," they said. Soy cultivation as a major cause of deforestation in the Amazon was also one of the most controversial issues discussed at the fourth Pan-Amazonian Social Forum, taking place Jan. 18-22 in Manaus, Brazil.

In 2006, the WSF will be held in different places of the world, while the Forum will move to Africa for its 2007 gathering.

## Additional Resources

WEF: <http://www.weforum.org/>

WSF: <http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/>

ICTSD Reporting; "World Economic Forum: Starring Role For The Doha Round," IPS, 31 January 2005; "Davos: world leaders not delivering on big promises," EURACTIV, 26 January 2005; "World Economic Forum: A Siren Song For Doha Negotiations," IPS, 28 January 2005; "Globalization Activists Debate IMF, World Bank," REUTERS, 31 January 2005; "World Social Forum: The Risks Posed by Success," IPS, 31 January 2005; "A Tale Of Two Forums In Worlds Apart," IPS, 28 January 2005; "Focus On The Environment, Too!" IPS, 31 January 2005; "Pan-Amazonian Meet Highlights Diversity," IPS, 19 January 2005; "Soy Invades The Amazon," IPS, 27 January 2005; "Unique Awards Highlight Corporate Irresponsibility," IPS, 28 January 2005.

## Biotechnology

### GMO UPDATE: ANGOLA, GM RICE IN CHINA

#### Angola implements ban on GM seeds

The Angolan Cabinet Council published a decree on 21 January banning imports of genetically modified (GM) seeds or grains except for food aid. The decree implements a decision announced in early 2004 (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 4 April 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-04-02/inbrief.htm#3>), specifying the rules to for the control of importation, entry, use and eventual production of GM organisms in the country. In particular, the decree states that all imports of food aid in the form of GM grains or seeds must be milled right after they arrive in the country and before they are distributed to beneficiaries. Similar conditions on imports were set by Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique and Lesotho in 2002.

The milling requirement has raised fears that the approximately 900,000 Angolans that still rely on UN World Food Program handouts will see a reduction in their rations. "Some donors have already expressed their intention to reduce

donations (since the ban) because of the extra costs the milling would imply," World Food Programme spokesperson Cristovao Simao said. He noted that the US had planned to donate 19,000 tonnes of US maize to Angola when the intention to introduce the ban was announced in early 2004, but had then reduced this to just 14,000 tonnes of sorghum.

## GM rice debate continues

Field testing of pest-resistant Bt rice has begun in China amidst debate between scientists, environmentalists and government officials on whether to commercialise GM rice. "The output of the new rice strain is similar to those of traditional varieties, but for each mu (0.065 hectares) of new GM rice, I can save up to 80 yuan (US\$9.66) in pesticide and labour costs, which are about 30 percent of my total costs," according to Xia Guoyuan, a farmer who is testing the crop. Huang Jikun, Director of the Agricultural Research Centre under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), has estimated that Bt rice could reduce pesticide use by farmers by 70 to 80 percent and thereby reduce the health and environmental risks posed by dangerous pesticides.

Environmental groups, however, have suggested that the risk of gene transfer between GM rice and common rice would be very high if GM rice were commercialised, raising the risk of contaminating traditional rice varieties, in particular given that China is a centre of origin for rice. Pang Cheung Sze, an official with Greenpeace China, warned that the commercialisation of GM rice could even lead to the disappearance of traditional rice strains in China.

Estimates on the timeline for Chinese commercialisation of GM rice vary from one year to several, with different sources suggesting that the Chinese government is at different stages in the experimentation process for biosafety certification (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 20 December 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-12-20/story4.htm>).

"Field trials complete--GM rice may soon be commercialised," CHINA DAILY, 27 January 2005; "Iran produce first-ever modified rice," PERSIAN JOURNAL, 27 January 2005; "Angola GMO ban to hurt food aid imports," BUSINESS REPORT AND INDEPENDENT ONLINE, 25 January 2005; "Government rules import of GM organisms," ANGOLA PRESS, 23 January 2005.

## In Brief

### PARIS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS POVERTY-BIODIVERSITY LINK

Scientists, government officials and civil society groups from around the world meeting in Paris on 24-28 January warned that any effort to alleviate poverty would be undermined unless the alarming

rate of biodiversity loss was reduced. While noting that sufficient information was already available to justify immediate action, they also stressed the need to fill current knowledge gaps. In the conference statement, participants called for the launch of an international multi-stakeholder consultative process to assess the need for an international mechanism that would evaluate scientific information and policy options required for decision-making. This call came in response to a proposal by the French President Jacques Chirac, first raised at the 2003 G8 summit, to establish an independent scientific panel on biodiversity, similar to the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change. While his proposal was also backed by the scientists in the Paris Declaration adopted at the meeting, participants were divided over the need for such a panel, with several participants instead suggesting to step up effort to link existing processes and knowledge to create an 'open source' community. The proposal is likely to again be raised at the upcoming G8 summit after Britain, current G8 President, agreed to include the issue on the agenda, according to French Research Minister Francois d'Aubert.

The conference statement and the Paris Declaration on Biodiversity can be accessed at <http://www.recherche.gouv.fr/biodiv2005paris/en/>.

For daily coverage, see <http://www.iisd.ca/sd/icb/>.

"Environment: Human Development at the Service of Wildlife," IPS, 3 February 2005, ENB, Vol. 100 No. 5, 31 January 2005; "Species loss: Biodiversity conference calls for top global panel," AFP, 28 January 2005.

## EU BANANA PROPOSAL MEETS LATIN AMERICAN RESISTANCE

Banana exporting nations in Latin America issued a joint statement on 3 February criticising the EU's plan to impose a duty of 230 euros (US \$290) per tonne of bananas starting 1 January 2006. The plan is part of an effort to move from the trading block's contentious first come - first served import system of bananas towards a new tariff-only system by 2006 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 18 April 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/18-04-01/story1.htm>). In a scenario echoing the so-called "banana wars" of the 1990s when the WTO ruled against the EU's preferential banana import system, Latin American countries reacted angrily to the EU's proposed scheme, raising the possibility of launching a WTO challenge to tariff rates they see as too high. Latin American exporters, including several major US companies, fear that the substantial tariff will price them out of the EU markets given that imports from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries have a duty-free quota

of 750,000 tonnes. Currently, Latin American imports of bananas into the EU are subject to a 75 euro/tonne levy for the first 2.7 tonnes of imports per annum and a 680 euro/tonne levy above that limit. Meanwhile ACP officials suggested the proposed tariff was too low and would threaten their domestic industries. Nonetheless, Caribbean leaders are considering to convene a special meeting between Caribbean banana producers and their Latin American counterparts to discuss a tariff rate that would be acceptable to both parties.

"Trade-EU: Banana War Looms Once Again," TERRAVIVA, 2 February 2005; "Latin American Countries Ready to Bring Bananas Back to WTO," AFP, 1 February 2005; "Caribbean: Plan for Conference With Latin American to Oppose EU Banana Regime," CMC, 1 February 2005; "EU Announces Banana Duty, Sparking New Fight With Latin America," BLOOMBERG, 31 January 2005; "Latin Countries to Pan EU Tariff Plan For Banana Imports; Lawsuits Threatened," WTO REPORTER, 3 February 2005.

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROPOSES MERCURY BAN

The European Commission proposed a comprehensive strategy on 31 January to prevent mercury pollution that includes instituting a ban on mercury exports by 2011. The proposal, which needs to be approved by the European Parliament and Council before going into effect, also seeks to limit emissions, curb marketing of mercury thermometers, ensure safe storage of mercury from industrial plants and aims to reduce global supply and protect EU citizens from mercury's effects. Mercury can be fatal in large amounts and even relatively low amounts threaten the environment and human health. The EU is the largest mercury exporter in the world and will be using the strategy as the basis of the EU position in international discussions on the chemical at the 21-25 February 2005 meeting of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi. In February 2003, the Governing Council had called for national, regional and global actions to reduce the risks to humans and wildlife from the release of mercury to the environment.

For further information on UNEP's mercury programme, see <http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/default.htm>.

ICTSD Reporting: "Commission proposes strategy to deal with mercury pollution including a ban on exports," EU PRESS RELEASE IP/05/114, 31 January 2005.

## MEGADIVERSE COUNTRIES CALL FOR LEGALLY BINDING ABS REGIME

From 17-21 January, seventeen of the world's most biodiverse countries met in New Delhi to develop a common position on how to ensure fair and equitable access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 11 December 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-12-11/inbrief.htm#4>). The five-day meeting of the so-called Group of Like-minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC) resulted in the "New Delhi Ministerial Declaration", calling for a legally binding regime that regulates access to genetic resources, fair benefit-sharing and the protection of rights of communities holding traditional knowledge related to the use of genetic resources. Among the key elements, the regime is to include requirements for ensuring that access to genetic resources is based on prior informed consent and on mutually agreed terms; and for mandatory disclosure of origin of biological material and associated traditional knowledge in intellectual property applications. The LMMCs will use the Declaration as their common position for the negotiations on an international access and benefit-sharing regime at the upcoming meeting of the Ad-hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 14-18 February. Several of the LMMCs, -- albeit not as the same group -- have submitted similar proposals at the WTO Council for Trade -related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS; see Bridges Trade BioRes, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-12-03/story4.htm>).

The LMMCs include: Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa and Venezuela.

"Group of 17 countries' to resist exploitation of bio resources," DECCAN HERALD, 21 January 2005; "Developing nations want treaty on use of biodiversity," TV PADMA, 24 January 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

7-8 February, London, England: GLOBAL TOURISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY: MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND BUSINESS RISKS. This conference is organised by the Royal Institute of International Affairs in association with the World Travel & Tourism Council. The major challenges and opportunities of doing business in tourism will be discussed by leaders from the international tourism industry, various governments, and experts in international relations. Sessions will include topics such as the sustainability of tourism growth, tourism and the environment, and developing tourism economies. For further information contact Georgina Wright; tel: (+44 20) 7957 5729; fax: 7321 2045; email: [conferences@chathamhouse.org.uk](mailto:conferences@chathamhouse.org.uk); Internet: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/index.php?id=5>

7-11 February, Bangkok, Thailand: TENTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (SBSTTA-10). Organised by the Convention on Biological Diversity. For further information contact the CBD Secretariat, tel: (+1 514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org); Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=SBSTTA-10>

10-12 February, Hyderabad, India: BIOASIA GLOBAL BIO BUSINESS FORUM. This annual conference, hosted by Genome Valley, which pulls together representatives of research organizations involved in health and agricultural biotechnology, research process outsourcing, bioinformatics, and equipment manufacture, as well as government officials, educators, institutional investors, and venture capitalists. The conference will a focus on Asia as a global destination and address opportunities in clinical trials, contract research & manufacturing, diagnostics, health care, IPR, Bio-IT, and among other topics. For further information contact BioAsia, tel: (+91 40) 5528 1583; fax: 5568 5300; email: [conference@bioasia2005.org](mailto:conference@bioasia2005.org); Internet: <http://www.bioasia2005.org/conference.htm>

11-18 February, Geneva, Switzerland: ROTTERDAM CONVENTION CHEMICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE. The first session of 2005 of the Chemical Review Committee is organised by the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat. For further information contact the Secretariat, tel: +(41 22) 917-8296; fax: 797 3460; email: [pic@unep.ch](mailto:pic@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.pic.int>

14-18 February, Bangkok, Thailand: THIRD MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING. Organised by the Convention on Biological Diversity. This conference includes discussing the Strategic Plan: future evaluation of progress - the need and possible options for indicators for access to genetic resources and

in particular for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and the international regime on access and benefit-sharing: nature, scope and elements. For further information, contact the CBD Secretariat, tel: (+1 514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org); Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=ABSWG-03&tab=0>;

14-18 February, Geneva, Switzerland: SECOND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF A SUCCESSOR AGREEMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER AGREEMENT, 1994. This conference is organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The agenda includes the establishment of the main committee and of other committees as required; preparation of a successor agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994; and consideration and adoption of final resolutions. For further information, contact the UNCTAD Secretariat, fax: (+41 22) 917 0056; email: [correspondence@unctad.org](mailto:correspondence@unctad.org); Internet: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?intItemID=1942&lang=1&m=9941&year=2005&month=2>

14-18 February, Kingston, Jamaica: 6TH ISTA/FAO WORKSHOP ON ELECTROPHORETIC METHODS AND PCR-TECHNIQUES FOR VARIETY VERIFICATION AND GMO DETECTION. This workshop is organised by the Seeds and Plant Genetic Resources Service of FAO and the International Seed Testing Association, is for seed testing analysts from the Caribbean region. The aim is to train seed technicians in advanced methods for the verification of species, cultivars and hybrids as well as for qualitative and quantitative GMO detection. For further information contact Kakoli Ghosh, email: [Kakoli.Ghosh@fao.org](mailto:Kakoli.Ghosh@fao.org).

15-20 February, Rio de Janeiro and Fortaleza, Brazil: RIO-05 CONGRESS --WORLD CLIMATE AND ENERGY EVENT. This event is organised by a number of different organisations and aims to bring together experts from the scientific community, industry and the public sector to discuss research, policies and products relating to sustainable energies. The Latin America Renewable Energy Fair will be held concurrently and will give companies and institutions the opportunity to present the latest in energy technologies and services to a growing Latin American and World market. For further information contact Vanessa Espi, tel: (+55 21) 2233 5184; fax: 2518 2220; email: [info@rio5.com](mailto:info@rio5.com); Internet: <http://www.rio5.com/programme/index.html>.

#### Other Upcoming Events

14-15 April, Aalborg, Denmark: 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS AND SUSTAINABLE PERFORMANCE. The EURO Sustainability 2005 conference, organised by a broad

range of representatives from international business, government and NGOs, is focused on partnerships between business and all its stakeholders, as a valid strategy for responsible behaviour, and as means for sustainable solutions and concrete results. For further information, contact the EURO Sustainability secretariat, tel: (+45 9935) 5555; fax: 5533; email: [ehc@akkc.dk](mailto:ehc@akkc.dk); Internet: <http://www.euro-environment.dk>.

1-5 May, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada: CONFERENCE ON THE GOVERNANCE OF HIGH SEAS FISHERIES AND THE UN FISH AGREEMENT - MOVING FROM WORDS TO ACTION. "Moving From Words to Action" is the theme of this conference which is hosted by the government of Canada. This conference provides the opportunity for the international community to join Canada in determining how management of high seas fisheries can be improved and identifying what steps need to be taken to ensure the immediate protection and the rebuilding of fish stocks in the years to come. For further information contact the organisers at email: [fgccgp@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:fgccgp@dfo-mpo.gc.ca); Internet: [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fgc-cgp/program\\_e.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fgc-cgp/program_e.htm).

16-17 June, London, UK: EMERGING CARBON MARKETS: CAN THEY DELIVER? This conference is sponsored by Canada's CDM & JI Office, Foreign Affairs Canada in association with The International Emissions Trading Association. Chatham House's eighth event in its climate change series will provide a forum for policy debate on what is working and what is not; how the EU and other emerging emissions markets may develop in future; the politics and policies that will shape their evolution; and the roles of the public and private sectors. This event aims to explore how the emerging carbon market can deliver the emissions cuts required of it; examine the role of the EU ETS on the international climate agenda; tackle the business practicalities and investment opportunities; and address concerns over both the political uncertainty surrounding the EU ETS and its impact on commercial competitiveness. For further information, contact Chatham House, tel: (+44 20) 7957 5700; fax: 7957 5710; email: [contact@chathamhouse.org.uk](mailto:contact@chathamhouse.org.uk); Internet: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/index.php?id=5&cid=72>.

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

THE LIMITS TO GROWTH: THE 30 YEAR UPDATE. By Donella H. Meadows, Jorgen Randers and Dennis L. Meadows, November 2004. In 1972, This substantially revised, expanded and updated edition follows on from The Limits to Growth and its sequel Beyond the Limits. Based on new data, computer modeling and incorporating the latest thinking on

sustainability, ecological footprinting and limits, this new book presents future overshoot scenarios and makes an even more urgent case for a rapid readjustment of the global economy toward a sustainable path. For more information, visit <http://www.earthscan.co.uk>

**THE GMO DISPUTE BEFORE THE WTO: LEGAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT DEBATE.** By Francesco Sindico, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, January 2005. In the context of the US-Canada-Argentina challenge before the WTO of the EU de facto moratorium of GM product approvals, the paper looks at which WTO provisions would have been violated by the EU. It also highlights the dispute's most important legal issues in order to see to what extent the dispute might influence the ongoing trade and environment debate. The paper concludes that the role of the precautionary principle in the application of the EU legislation is one of the dispute's main issues and the panel findings on the legal stature of the principle in the WTO will be influential on the trade and environment debate.

**FARMING AND THE FATE OF WILD NATURE.** By R.E. Green et al, in *Science*, (307, 2005): 550-555. This article evaluates two competing solutions that have been proposed for reducing the negative impact of agriculture on wildlife. One possible solution is "wildlife-friendly" farming, which increases densities of wild populations on farmland but may decrease agricultural yields, and the other is "land sparing" farming, which minimizes demand for farmland by increasing yields. The article uses a model to show that the best type of farming for species persistence depends on the demand for agricultural products and on how the population densities of different species on farmland change with agricultural yield.

**TRAVELS IN THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED ZONE.** By Mark L. Winston, Harvard University Press, 2005. For two years the author travelled at home and abroad, listening to farmers, industry spokespeople, regulators, and researchers, canvassing high-security laboratories, environmentalist enclaves, and cyberspace, making a thorough survey of the facts, opinions, and

practices deployed by opponents and proponents of transgenic crops. For further information, see <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog/WINTRA.html>.

**LES ACCORDS SUR L'INVESTISSEMENT ET LES SERVICES ET LA GESTION DE L'EAU DANS LES PAYS EN DEVELOPPEMENT.** De Marc Paquin et al, Centre international Unisfera, Decembre 2004. Cette étude traite de l'incidence des accords bilatéraux sur les investissements et des chapitres équivalents contenus dans les accords de libre-échange, ainsi que de l'impact du régime de l'AGCS (services) de l'OMC sur l'atteinte de la Cible 10 des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement adoptés par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. La Cible 10 vise la réduction de moitié, d'ici à 2015, du pourcentage de la population qui n'a pas accès de façon durable à de l'eau potable et à des services d'assainissement des eaux de base. Disponible à [http://www.unisfera.org/?ln=1&id\\_secteur=&id\\_rubrique=&id\\_article=197](http://www.unisfera.org/?ln=1&id_secteur=&id_rubrique=&id_article=197)

## VACANCY

**ASSOCIATE INTERNATIONAL COUNSEL/WILDLIFE TRADE CAMPAIGNER** at Defenders of Wildlife. This position requires substantial experience with all aspects of the law and policy of international wildlife trade, including familiarity with the negotiation, implementation and enforcement of relevant laws and international agreements and experience with the array of advocacy techniques necessary to achieve conservation goals. Responsibilities include: developing and implementing campaigns relating to international wildlife trade and illegal logging; educating and mobilizing the public and decisionmakers in support of conservation objectives; representing Defenders in international fora, courts, and administrative agencies; possible litigation or litigation support on assigned cases; and undertaking other work as assigned. This position is based in Washington, D.C. For a more detailed job description, contact Defenders of Wildlife, fax: +1-202-682-1331; email: [hr@defenders.org](mailto:hr@defenders.org).

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