



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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Businesses, NGOs call for binding certification to prevent illegal timber imports

Seventy-three companies including Homebase, IKEA and Castorama issued a statement on 29 March calling on the EU to make it "illegal to import all illegally-sourced timber" into the EU. The statement was promoted and publicised by WWF, Greenpeace and the European Union Resource Network (FERN) who signed a similar statement. The businesses say they want to eliminate unfair competition caused by firms who ignore social and environmental standards by importing cheap illegal timber into the EU. "This unfair competition based on widespread illegal practice harms those European companies, particularly small and medium sized businesses, who do behave responsibly and attempt to play by the rules," they noted.

Forestry

TIMBER CERTIFICATION ON BUSINESS, NGO, INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

European businesses in a recent statement echoed civil society calls for the EU to introduce legislation to make it illegal to import illegally sourced timber and wood products into the European market. How to use certification schemes to ensure legal imports also continues to feature high on the agenda of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) which brought together experts to debate the benefits of introducing a 'phased' approach to timber certification. While some participants stressed the need to focus on verifying the legality of timber, others fear that an undue emphasis on this aspect will not adequately encourage producers to adopt SFM practices.

In March 2003, the EU Commission had responded to the growth in imports of illegal timber by adopting an Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), but are still debating the details of a voluntary certification scheme (see BRIDGES Trade Biores, 21 January 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-01-21/inbrief.htm>). Although the business statement notes industry's "broad support" for this initiative, it claims that FLEGT's reliance on voluntary partnership agreements with producer countries will be insufficient to tackle the problem. André de Boer, Director of the Dutch Timber Trade Federation stressed that "without a clear European legal framework, companies that behave responsibly and want to invest in sustainable practices will always be disadvantaged". Instead, both the businesses and civil society are asking the EU to establish a requirement that all timber imported into the area be certified as legally harvested.

G-8 environment and development ministers similarly decided at a March 2005 meeting to support non-binding, voluntary measures to discourage the trade in illegal timber (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 1 April 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-04-01/story1.htm>).

ITTO workshop debates 'phased' certification

Participants at the ITTO workshop on phased approaches to certification, held from 19-21 April in Bern, Switzerland, were divided over the relative importance of ensuring the legality of certified timber. In order to encourage producers to move towards more comprehensive and effective forestry management, they considered a so-called 'phased approach' in which full certification would remain the goal but companies and other forest owners would be able to achieve market recognition and benefits as they improve their forest management practices and move towards full certification. For example, the first stage could include a baseline requirement for basic certification, and successive stages could involve increased implementation of SFM practices that would in turn be verified and recognised by the certifier.

Although all participants agreed that the verification of legal origin could constitute part of the first stage of a phased approach, some participants emphasised the need for a more extensive verification of legal compliance. This would require that certified producers be subject to an extensive in-depth audit of their adherence to domestic laws relating to forestry and sustainable development. Other participants said that this approach might, in fact, hinder efforts to ensure SFM because it would increase the costs and procedural burden on producers wanting to get certification. According to ITTO's Amha bin Buang, such a specific criterion of compliance risks shifting the certification focus away from a "holistic" conception of SFM and towards assurances of legality. "What tropical timber-producers need most of all is certainty", he noted. "Many have made significant strides in improving their forest management and to make new demands on them now could force some out of the market."

Forest certification is a means of verifying whether a particular forest area is well managed and, through labelling, of assuring consumers that in purchasing labelled timber products they are supporting

sustainable forest management. Although the idea has been around for over ten years, only five percent of currently certified forest area is currently in the tropical areas from which most developing countries export timber as a result of a lack of emphasis, priority and capacity to certify in these areas.

Background

The ITTO is an intergovernmental organisation promoting the conservation and sustainable management, use and trade of tropical forest resources. Its 59 members represent about 80 percent of the world's tropical forests and 90 percent of the global tropical timber trade. The ITTO was established by the International Tropical Timber Agreement, which was adopted in 1983 and entered into force in 1985. The ITTA is a commodity agreement set up in response to growing concerns over the future of tropical forests, explicitly recognises the need to balance conservation and sustainable use of tropical forests. The ITTA was revised in 1994 to include broader provisions for information sharing, including non-tropical timber trade data, and greater consideration of non-tropical timber issues as they relate to tropical timber and is currently being renegotiated (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 4 March 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-03-04/inbrief.htm>).

Additional Resources

An ITTO document prepared for the meeting entitled "Report On The Procedures For The Implementation Of Phased Approaches To Certification In Tropical Timber Producing Countries" can be accessed at http://www.itto.or.jp/live/Live_Server/852/E-C37-12.doc

The EU timber industry statement can be accessed at <http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/FLEGTIndustry.pdf>

ICTSD Reporting; "Legality Shapes As New Certification Flash-Point," ITTO PRESS RELEASE, 25 April 2005; "Common European Rules For Fair Competition And Sustainable Markets", FLEGT INDUSTRY STATEMENT, March 2005; "Industry And NGOs Urge EU To Ban Illegal Timber", WWF/GREENPEACE PRESS RELEASE, 7 April 2005

Water

INVESTMENT AND SMARTER AG TRADE REQUIRED FOR ACCESS TO WATER, EXPERTS SAY

Participants at the 13th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13) meeting from 11-22 April in New York, US said that better management and increased investment in water and sanitation must become a political priority to reach international targets. A number of participants, however, expressed disappointment with the meeting's failure to make the decisions on the policy and practical measures required to address the problems identified in last year's CSD-12 review session (see BRIDGES Trade Biores, 14 May 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-05-14/story1.htm>). In addition, a new report presented by several of the world's leading international water organizations on 20 April at the meeting offered a new water management approach to ensure future food supply.

Political commitment needed

The 13th session of CSD is the first policy setting session since the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and many of the participants expressed disappointment about what they considered a lack of political commitment and the vague terms used in the final decisions adopted. "Most of the people who negotiate these agreements in New York are not those who manage the environment or natural resources. They do not realize the economic cost of not taking decisions," said Costa Rica's Minister of Environment and Energy Carlos Rodriguez. This concern was echoed by IUCN-World Conservation Union Director-General Achim Steiner who said the CSD "failed to make significant progress on the targets and policy options for water and sanitation as agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development."

The need for political will also featured highly in Mikhail Gorbachav's keynote address to the CSD. The former President of the Soviet Union denounced the lack of political commitment to the 1.1 billion impoverished people deprived of access to drinking water. Emphasising the importance of government policy in the provision of water and sanitation, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and founder of Green Cross International urged politicians to establish water as a human right. Reflecting the view of several civil society groups, Gorbachev called for the creation of an international water treaty that recognises the right to water and commits governments to ensure access to water and sanitation for all.

In the second week of the CSD-13 a high-level panel including experts and several finance and development ministers examined the problem of underinvestment in infrastructure which is particularly acute in developing countries. Participants agreed that donor countries must reach the target donation of 0.7 percent of gross national product to official development assistance in order for developing countries to have the funding necessary to provide adequate water infrastructure. Addressing the panel, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan drew attention to the fact that national policies must be backed by a supportive multilateral regime. In this context he underlined the importance of a breakthrough in the Doha round of trade negotiations in order for developing countries to fight poverty and for the Millennium Development Goals to be met.

While the first week of the CSD gave room for interactive discussions between government officials and representatives from Inter and Non-Governmental Organisations, the second week included meetings with ministers and negotiations on the final document of the meeting. In the final decision document that will be submitted to the UN Economic and Social Council for review at its annual session in July, the Commission recognised governments' responsibility for the WSSD goals but underlined the importance of a supportive international policy environment with a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system. CSD-13 also called for increased transfer of technology and financial resources from all sources and recognised the need for both public-public and public-private partnerships in water provision and sanitation.

Aiming to provide policy recommendations to enhance the achievement of international targets relating to water, sanitation and human settlement, the final document proved tedious to negotiate. The question of how to finance water provision arose as a particularly controversial issue. Although China and G-77, a group of developing countries, emphasised the need for more Official Development Assistance, the EC stressed the need for cost recovery and the US wanted more focus on public-private partnership. The final text adopted calls for "increased resources from all sources."

Background

Established as a result of Agenda 21, the work programme adopted during the United Nations

Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the CSD works to monitor and report on the implementation of this work programme. The CSD also uses the Millennium Development Goals, such as the aim of halving by 2015 the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, as benchmarks for assessing its progress.

CSD-13 was the second session under the Commission's new multi-year programme, adopted at CSD-11 in spring 2003, and the first policy session since the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Commission's programme is organised on the basis of seven two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on selected thematic clusters. For the first two-year cycle (2004-2005), the CSD is focusing on water, sanitation and human settlements, to be followed by energy, climate change, atmosphere and industrial development issues in 2006-2007. The 2008-2009 cycle will include agriculture, land and desertification. A number of cross cutting issues are addressed during each cycle, including poverty eradication, sustainable development in a globalising world, protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development, means of implementation and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

CSD-14 will be held at UN headquarters in New York on 1-12 May 2006 under the themes of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, climate change and cross-cutting issues.

A thirsty world: Trade in food is trade in water

On the side-lines of CSD-13, leading water scientists from the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), IUCN-The World Conservation Union and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) launched the report "Let It Reign: The New Water Paradigm For Global Food Security". Linking water shortages, food supply and population growth, the report calls for a new water management approach to ensure future food supply. Food production is a highly water consuming activity, they say, and agriculture accounts for 70 to 90 percent of available water supply in developing countries. The amount of water used to produce a commodity has been called "virtual water" that can be said to be a "virtual" part of the final product. International trade, the report

shows, involves significant amounts of trade in such virtual water (See Bridges Monthly November 2004 <http://www.ictsd.org/monthly/bridges/BRIDGES-8-10.pdf>). At the global level, the report states, if exporters of products that are water-intensive are using water more efficiently and have larger stocks of water than importers, such virtual water trade can contribute to the conservation of water resources by minimising global water use. The report calls for improved water management and the elimination of most agricultural subsidies and market access distortions in order to ensure that agricultural policies and international trade take into account relative water levels in different parts of the world.

The report "Let It Reign: The New Water Paradigm For Global Food Security" is available at <http://www.siwi.org/downloads/Reports/2005%20CSD%20Report%20Food.pdf>

"Scientists Unite in Call for Action as Global Food Demands Threaten to Outstrip World Water Supply," IWMI PRESS RELEASE, 20 April 2005; "U.N. Treaty to protect the basic human right to water?" IPD UN JOURNAL, Vol.13, No. 73, 23 April 2005; "UN forum ends with agreement on measures to provide clean water, basic sanitation and housing" UN NEWS RELEASE 25 April 2005; "Water, sanitation, housing goals worth the investment, Annan says" UN NEWS RELEASE 18 April 2005; "Ministers call for more aid, debt relief, domestic funds to meet goals on water, sanitation, slums, as UN Commission concludes" UN PRESS RELEASE 25 April 2005; "Is Water a Human Right, or Just Another Widge" IPS PRESS; ENB, Vol. 5 No. 227, 25 April 2005. "Sustainable Development Commission Fails to Sustain Enthusiasm" ENS 26 April 2005.

In Brief

EU DROPS SALMON SAFEGUARDS BUT IMPOSES NEW DUTIES ON NORWAY

The EU on 22 April revoked the safeguard measures they imposed in February this year against imports of farmed salmon from Chile, Norway and the Faroe Islands (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 18 February 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-02-18/story2.htm>). The decision came four days after Chile had asked the WTO to establish an arbitration panel, following a failure of the two parties to resolve the issue during the two-month consultation period. However, on 22 April the EU also announced that it was imposing temporary anti-dumping duties of 16 percent on average on imports of salmon from Norway. The duties range from 6.8 to 24.5 percent and will go into effect on 27 April for last six months. During that time EU

officials will fully investigate the anti-dumping allegations which, if they prove the salmon has been dumped on the EU market, could lead to an extension of the duties for as long as five years. Norwegian authorities have rejected accusations that its fish industry competes unfairly and has said that they would take up the issue at the WTO. It remains unclear whether Chile and Norway will continue to pursue their pre-existing cases at the WTO.

The EU on 4 February had put in place safeguard measures allowing only 10 percent of imports to enter the trading block at unrestricted prices and imposing a minimum price on all other salmon imports from the three countries. Chile and Norway both launched WTO challenges to the measures, submitting official requests for WTO consultations on 14 February and 3 March respectively. On 6 April, Norway notified the WTO that pursuant to Article 8.2 of the Agreement on Safeguards -- which allows for the suspension of concessions in reaction to safeguard measures -- it was increasing tariffs to as much as 100 percent on a number of fish and food products imported from the EU into Norway in retribution for the EU safeguard measures

The EU regulations can be accessed at http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/doc_et_publ/factsheets/legal_texts/regl_en.htm

"Chile: EU Will Lift Salmon Restrictions," REUTERS, 23 April 2005; "EU to apply duty on Norway's salmon," FINANCIAL TIMES, 25 April 2005; "EU innfører midlertidige antidumpingtiltak," NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE, 22 April 2005.

EU GM CORN TEST IN PLACE, IMPORTS FROM US RESUME

The approval of a new test for GM corn strain Bt10 has led to an end of a week-long de facto ban on exports of US corn feed. A 15 April EU decision required all imports of corn feed and brewers' grains from the US to be accompanied by an analytical report issued by an accredited laboratory certifying that the import is free of Bt10, an unapproved strain of GM corn that has been unintentionally shipped into the EU from the US since 2001 (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 15 April 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-04-15/story4.htm>). However, the absence of a test to distinguish between Bt10 and Bt11 made certification impossible and resulted in a de facto ban on all corn feed imports from the US into the EU. On 25 April the EU's Joint Research Centre approved the biotech firm Syngenta's testing

method for Bt10 as an accredited testing procedure and the test is now in place in US ports where trade in GM corn and brewers' grains has resumed. Japan has also expressed concern about Bt10 and asked the US Food and Drug Administration earlier this week to provide assurances that Bt10 is safe. The Japanese government is currently considering whether to begin testing for Bt10 in US corn shipments.

"EU lab OKs testing method for biotech corn," FORBES, 25 April 2005; "Syngenta EU Corn Imports Prove Free of GMO Strain," REUTERS, 27 April 2005; "US corn grower official cites Japan biotech qualms," REUTERS, 27 April 2005.

NAMA NEGOTIATIONS THREATEN ENVIRONMENT, NGO SAYS

WTO Members have presented 72 notifications that challenge environmental and health standards, according to environmental group Friends of the Earth International (FOEI). According to a briefing released by the non-governmental organisation on 18 April, more than thirteen WTO Members have presented notifications as part of Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) negotiations describing other countries' social, environmental or health regulations as non-tariff barriers (NTBs) that affect their exporters. The regulations referred to concern mineral products, automobiles, chemicals, electronics, environmental goods, fertilisers, fish and fish products, food, footwear, forest/wood products, mineral products and petroleum oils, textiles and leather goods.

Under paragraph 16 of the Doha mandate, the NAMA negotiations aim to reduce both tariffs and 'non-tariff barriers' (NTBs) facing non-agricultural goods. The notification of NTBs by Members is the first part of the "identification, examination, categorization, and ultimately negotiation" process on NTBs mandated by the WTO's July Package (WT/L/579, accessible at <http://docsonline.wto.org/>). FOEI fears that Members might come under pressure to eliminate some of these regulations "during or as a result of WTO negotiations." FOEI described the "challenges" to the laws as "a breath-taking and shameful attack on social and environmental standards worldwide," noting that some of the legislation identified pertained to national standards, measures to promote local economic development, labelling and certification requirements, and restrictions on foreign investment. To date there has been little discussion in the Negotiating Group on NAMA on whether these regulations constitute

NTBs since the talks have been focusing on the overall tariff-reduction formula (see BRIDGES Weekly, 27 April 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-04-27/story1.htm>).

FOEI's Analysis of Notifications of NTBs can be accessed at http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/media_briefing/ntbsanalysis.pdf

Information on NAMA negotiations can be accessed at http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/markacc_e/markacc_negoti_e.htm

"Environmental laws lined up for removal by new trade talks," FOEI PRESS RELEASE, 18 April 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

Ongoing Electronic Forum: EU EXPORTS AND SPS MEASURES: Debate 2005: twenty-five stars or one circle? This online debate, organised by the External Trade division of the European Commission, asks whether it is time that Europe spoke with one voice to promote EU exports in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards sector. Includes an online discussion where you can air your opinion or gain new insights on trade in agricultural products between the EU and other Countries and on the division of responsibilities between the Commission and the Member States. Visit <http://www.sps-exportdebate.org/>

2-4 May, Paris, France: OECD FORUM 2005: FUELLING THE FUTURE: SECURITY, STABILITY, DEVELOPMENT AND OECD MINISTERIAL SUMMIT: This forum will consider policy issues in the areas of international trade and investment, economic development, the Millennium Declaration, and energy. This multistakeholder summit will feed into the OECD Ministerial Summit, which will take place after the Forum from 3-4 May. For further information contact: John West; tel: (+33-1) 45-248-025; fax: 44-306-346; email: john.west@oecd.org; Internet: http://www.oecd.org/site/0,2865,en_21571361_342252_93_1_1_1_1,00.html

2-6 May, Punta de Este, Uruguay: FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION (COP-1). The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from persistent

organic pollutants (POPs). POPs are chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms and are toxic to humans and wildlife. Guidelines for reducing dioxins and furans will be discussed. For further information contact the Secretariat of the Convention, tel: (+41-22) 917-8191; fax: 797-3460; email: esobakina@unep.ch; Internet: www.pops.int.

2-3 May, Entebbe, Uganda: THE FUTURE OF SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE IN EASTERN AFRICA: THE ROLES OF STATES, MARKETS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY. Organised by the Eastern Africa Food Policy Network of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), this conference will share the results of seven years of the network's existence with food and agricultural policy makers and stakeholders in the region. It will also launch a new partnership program between the Eastern and Central Africa Program for Agricultural Policy Analysis (ECAPAPA) and IFPRI. For further information contact Steven Were Omamo, tel: (+256 41) 23-46-13; fax: 23-46-14; email: IFPRI-EastAfrica@ifpri.bushnet.net; Internet: <http://www.ifpri.org/>

2-11 May, Bonn, Germany: 3RD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION. For further information contact Mr Hama-Arba Diallo; tel: (49) 228 815 28 00; fax: (49) 228 815 28 99; e-mail: secretariat@unccd.int; Internet: <http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/menu.php>

Other Upcoming Events

16-20 May, Auckland, New Zealand: AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON GAPS AND INCONSISTENCIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES. This meeting is organised by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. For further information contact the CBD Secretariat, tel: 1-514-288-2220; fax: 1-514-288-6588; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=AISTE_GGI-01

17-18 May, Amsterdam, the Netherlands: GREEN SHIPPING WORLD: SUSTAINABLE SHIPPING FORUM. Green Shipping World has been designed to create a unique executive learning and networking platform for major international shipowners, operators and suppliers of 'clean shipping' technologies. The Agenda includes looking at how the industry will grow with increased international trade, emissions regulations and reduction methods, how the industry can both sustain future profits and effectively manage the environment, waste management technologies, and an examination of best practice environmental case studies.

For further information contact Matthew Probyn, tel: (+44-870) 758-7808; email: matthew.probyn@greenshippingworld.com; Internet: <http://www.greenshippingworld.com/>

17-25 May, Geneva, Switzerland: 15TH MEETING OF THE CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE AND 21ST MEETING OF THE CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE. The AC and PC will address the numerous resolutions and decisions that were directed to their Committees at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CITES COP-13) held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 2-14 October 2004. In addition, they will continue to undertake periodic reviews of species, in order to ensure appropriate categorization in the CITES Appendices; advise when certain species are subject to unsustainable trade and recommending remedial action; and draft new resolutions on animal and plant matters. For further information contact the CITES Secretariat, tel: (+41-22) 917-8139; fax: 797-3417; email: cites@unep.ch; Internet: www.cites.org

25-27 May, Almaty, Kazakhstan: SECOND MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE AARHUS CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS. The meeting is organized by the UN Economic Commission for Europe. The meeting is expected to adopt a decision aimed at further developing the application of the Convention with respect to genetically modified organisms. For further information contact the Aarhus Secretariat, tel: (41-22) 917-4226; fax: 907-0107; email: public.participation@unece.org; Internet: <http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2005/pp/wg.1/ece.mp.pp.wg.1.2005.3.e.pdf>

30 May - 26 June, Internet: FAO E-MAIL CONFERENCE - BIOTECHNOLOGY AND CHARACTERISATION/CONSERVATION OF GENETIC RESOURCES. The FAO Biotechnology Forum is devoting its next e-mail conference to the role that biotechnology can play in the characterisation and conservation of crop, animal, forestry and fishery genetic resources in developing countries. The conference is free and open to everyone, and will be used to discuss and exchange experiences on this theme. For further information contact John Ruane; email: john.ruane@fao.org.

ICTSD Resources

AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE WTO: THE JULY PACKAGE AND BEYOND. By ICTSD, April 2005. This comprehensive report examines and analyses negotiations in the WTO Committee on Agriculture Special (Negotiating) Session in the last six months. Issues covered include the negotiating process, domestic support, export competition, market access, cotton, other negotiating issues, the cotton and sugar

cases and the way ahead. To access the report visit <http://www.agtradepolicy.org/output/resource/agriculturenegotiations12.pdf>

RESOURCE BOOK ON TRIPS AND DEVELOPMENT. By ICTSD and UNCTAD, April 2005. This book is conceived as a guide to provide background and technical information on the main issues under discussion at the WTO and elsewhere regarding intellectual property rights from a development perspective. It is a practical tool for negotiators, policymakers, and others to enhance their informed participation in negotiations and decision-making processes. To access the book visit http://www.iprsonline.org/unctadictsd/ResourceBookIndex_update.htm.

OTHER 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.

TAXES VS. PERMITS: OPTIONS FOR PRICE-BASED CLIMATE CHANGE REGULATION. By Suzi Kerr, Isabelle Sin and Joanna Hendy, New Zealand Treasury, March 2005. This paper provides an overview of key issues involved in the choice among market-based instruments for climate change policy. Specifically, it examines the potential net benefits from shifting to a permit system for emission reduction, and the preconditions necessary for this change. It also draws out the implications of New Zealand's specific circumstances and current climate policies for future policy development. To access the report visit <http://www.treasury.govt.nz/workingpapers/2005/wp05-02.asp>

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED WTO NEGOTIATIONS. By Colin Kirkpatrick and Clive George, Impact Assessment Research Centre, Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester, April 2005. This report is an independent assessment of the impacts that trade negotiations may have on sustainable development commissioned by the European Commission. It describes the principal findings of three studies assessing the sustainability impacts of liberalisation in agriculture, forestry and distribution services and provides recommendations for negotiators and policy-makers. To access this report visit <http://www.tradeobservatory.org/library.cfm?refID=72771>.

NEW ELEMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL REGIME ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING OF GENETIC RESOURCES - THE ROLE OF CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN. By Miriam Dross and Franziska Wolff, 2005. Debate on an international regime for access and benefit-sharing (ABS) is gaining

momentum, but provider and user countries as well as stakeholders have diverging expectations regarding the benefits of bioprospecting and differing views on sharing them. A common goal of those involved in ABS should be to contribute to a regime that provides an effective means of promoting access and benefit-sharing in a fair and equitable way, offers legal clarity and certainty, and thereby protects both users and providers, the authors argue. This study focuses on the design of an international ABS regime and specifically with the question of which role certificates of origin, source or legal provenance could play in such a regime. To access the report visit <http://www.oeko.de/oekodoc/233/2005-001en.pdf?PHPSESSID=13e74d99a816c94a86f83d45836cd613>

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BIOSAFETY CONSENSUS DOCUMENTS OF OECD'S WORKING GROUP FOR HARMONISATION IN BIOTECHNOLOGY. By the OECD Environment Directorate, Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology, February 2005. This document describes the origin of OECD's Working Group for Harmonisation in Biotechnology and explains why biosafety consensus documents were included as part of its core work. It also addresses the purpose of these documents and their intended use as a practical contribution to the risk/safety assessment of transgenic organisms. To access the report visit [http://appli1.oecd.org/olis/2005doc.nsf/43bb6130e5e86e5fc12569fa005d004c/c3f7f7bdd1480b40c1256fb00050c343/\\$FILE/JT00179087.PDF](http://appli1.oecd.org/olis/2005doc.nsf/43bb6130e5e86e5fc12569fa005d004c/c3f7f7bdd1480b40c1256fb00050c343/$FILE/JT00179087.PDF)

MAKING THE WORLD HUNGRY FOR GM CROPS. By Grain, April 2005. This briefing examines how the US government uses USAID to actively promote GM agriculture. The focus is on USAID's major programmes for agricultural biotechnology and the regions where these programmes are most active in parts of Africa and Asia. Increasingly the US government uses multilateral and bilateral free trade agreements and high-level diplomatic pressure to push countries towards the adoption of corporate-friendly regulations related to GM crops. And this external pressure has been effectively complimented, the briefing argues, by lobbying and

funding from national and regional USAID biotech networks. To access the briefing visit <http://www.grain.org/briefings/?id=191>

GMO STATUTORY LIABILITY REGIMES: AN INTERNATIONAL REVIEW. By Michael Migus, Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy, December 2004. This paper surveys statutory liability regimes related to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). Several nations have recognized the uniqueness of GMOs and the potential inability of traditional civil liability regimes to deal with this unique technology. Consequently, multiple national statutory instruments have been created to address GMO-related liability and redress. The paper presents eight recommendations to meet the new and complex legal challenges related to GMOs. To access the report visit <http://www.cielap.org/GMOLiability.pdf>

THE HIERARCHY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. By Kristin Dawkins, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, March 2005. While trade agreements and human rights treaties coexist in the multilateral system, the WTO has made trade and investment the de facto priority in practice. This article explores current conflicts between the rights of people and the economic interests of traders and investors. To access the article visit <http://www.tradeobservatory.org/library.cfm?refid=70110>

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

INTERNATIONAL POPS ELIMINATION PROJECT WEBSITE. The International Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Elimination Project (IPEP) has launched a new website. IPEP is a global NGO project to facilitate implementation of the Stockholm Convention from the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), in partnership with the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP). IPEP's goals include to encourage and enable NGOs in 40 developing and transitional countries to engage in Stockholm Convention activities. Visit <http://www.oztoxics.org/ipepweb/>

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