



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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Climate Change	1
Civil Society Groups Criticise World Bank Clean Energy Strategy	
Commodities	2
International Cotton Body Discusses Sustainability, Calls For Doha Revival	
In Brief.....	3
Events & Resources.....	5

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Climate Change

CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS CRITICISE WORLD BANK CLEAN ENERGY STRATEGY

Future energy options featured on the agenda of global finance ministers attending the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) annual meetings in Singapore from 13-20 September. The joint IMF-World Bank Development Committee considered progress with regard to the elaboration of an investment framework for clean energy and development, welcomed progress to date and called for additional donor funding. However, a number of environment and development NGOs joined forces to criticise the clean energy plan for "selling the climate and poor people short". They recommended a much stronger focus on renewable energy, including the creation of a new Renewable Energy for Development Agency.

Progress report on clean energy investment

One of the major background reports for this year's meetings was "An Investment Framework For Clean Energy And Development: A Progress Report", which had been commissioned in response to a mandate from the G-8 summit in Gleneagles in 2005 (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 8 July 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-07-08/story3.htm>). The report focuses on steps to achieve environmentally sustainable electricity development, particularly in Africa, to transition to a lower-carbon economy and to adapt to climate change. It concludes that the financing gap for the energy for development and energy access agendas should be met through energy sector policy reform and to attract the private sector, as well as through public sector funding. It calls for a global regulatory framework that would support the transition to a low-carbon economy. It also stresses the need for enhanced adaptation strategies in order to achieve progress in fighting poverty.

Meeting on 18 September, the joint IMF-World Bank Development Committee in its communiqué welcomed progress made under the clean energy investment framework and asked the Bank to work with other international organisations to explore financing options to support investment in clean energy for development and to maximise the use of existing instruments.

NGOs critical of Bank's energy efforts

A number of environment and development NGOs, including Friends of the Earth International, the Institute for Policy Studies and Oil Change International, said, however, that the Investment Framework on Clean Energy and Development will neither be effective at combating climate change nor for expanding energy access for the poor. The organisations criticised the framework for raising US\$10 billion for conventional energy that have lower greenhouse gas emissions.



International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development



The World Conservation Union

"In continuing to lend for fossil fuel and dam projects, the World Bank has consistently missed the social and environmental double dividend that renewable energy technologies could bring," said Peter Bosshard of International Rivers Network. Graham Saul of Oil Change International stressed that "if the World Bank wants to be a positive force in the fight against climate change then the first step is to stop subsidising the expansion of the oil industry."

The NGOs instead recommended an approach based on ending subsidies for fossil fuel projects, increasing efforts to meet the basic energy needs of the poor, and redirecting existing energy financing to renewable technologies and energy efficiency projects via a new Renewable Energy for Development Agency.

Branson joins effort to combat climate change

Richard Branson – the British entrepreneur best known for his Virgin brand – threw his weight behind global efforts to combat climate change with a pledge to invest US\$3 billion over the next ten years to help launch a green energy revolution. Elaborating on his decision, Branson noted that climate change was nearing a "tipping point" after which it would irreversibly run out of control. "We just have to hope that it has not come already," Branson added. The investments will be made within his company, as well as for new biofuels R&D, production, distribution and other projects to reduce emissions related to global warming.

Additional Resources

To access the World Bank report see [http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMINT/Documentation/21046509/DC2006-0012\(E\)-CleanEnergy.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMINT/Documentation/21046509/DC2006-0012(E)-CleanEnergy.pdf).

To access the civil society report visit <http://www.foe.org/camps/intl/EnergyReportDraft091406.pdf>.

ICTSD reporting; "World Bank's Clean Energy Plan Sells Climate and Poor People Short," FOE, 17 September 2006; "Richard Branson: The jolly green giant," INDEPENDENT, 25 September 2006.

Commodities

INTERNATIONAL COTTON BODY DISCUSSES SUSTAINABILITY, CALLS FOR DOHA REVIVAL

In a communiqué issued at its annual meeting, the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)

called for a revival of the suspended WTO Doha negotiations. The ICAC's member governments also called for the establishment of a panel to assess the environmental, social and economic impacts of cotton production around the world. The ICAC sixty-fifth Plenary, held from 11-15 September in Goiânia, Brazil, focused on the theme of "The Social and Environmental Impacts of Cotton Production and Use", with sessions featuring discussions on environment, social implications, outlook for cotton supply and use, standardisation of instrument testing of cotton, cotton and the Doha round, and the future of the South American textile industry. Participants also discussed biotechnology, organic cotton and the development aspects of the Doha round in break-out sessions.

Cotton demand on the increase, pricing remains distorted

The ICAC secretariat issues regular forecasts with regard to cotton supply, demand and pricing. World cotton consumption is estimated to increase by three percent over the next season. Consumption growth has now been on the rise since 1998. However, production remains unchanged, and prices are likely to be on the rise. Participants called for better modelling of prices, in particular to account for the substantial subsidies some countries are paying their farmers in this sector. Developing countries reported that their cotton sectors are being severely affected by distortive subsidies.

In the statement issued by the meeting, the ICAC member governments "reaffirmed that production and export subsidies affect cotton prices and trade, and lead to negative impacts on cotton farmers, especially in the developing and least developed countries." They called for the urgent resuscitation of the suspended Doha round (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 28 July 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-07-28/story1.htm>), and supported the work under the Doha development mandate as well as the WTO cotton initiative. The cotton initiative was originally launched by four West African countries in 2003 in the build-up to the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun. It called for the phase-out of subsidies to developed country cotton producers and for a compensation mechanism to offset the income loss experienced by producers in least developed countries until the completion of the phase-out. Cotton is now discussed in a separate sub-committee under the WTO Committee on Agriculture (see Bridges Weekly, 24 November 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-11-24/story2.htm>).

New social, environmental and economic expert panel

Participants to the meeting also considered environmental and social issues related to cotton production. One presentation highlighted commodities roundtables as a vehicle for improving sustainability. These multi-stakeholder roundtables for commodity crops involve representatives of all phases of the supply-chain that come together to identify key impacts and develop criteria and best practices for sustainable production. The meeting heard a report on the WWF and International Finance Corporation (ICF)-run Better Cotton Initiative, which seeks to "promote measurable improvements in the key environmental and social impacts of cotton cultivation worldwide" by involving all key stakeholders.

The final statement asked the ICAC secretariat to establish an expert panel on the social, environmental and economic performance of the world cotton industry to "provide objective, science-based information to the Committee on the negative and positive aspects of global cotton production and make recommendations for further action." Problems identified included improper use of pesticides and fertiliser, and hardship of labour, especially for women and children. The statement recognised efforts to encourage the adoption of Better Management Practices (BMPs) and integrated pest management (IPM). It noted that biotech cotton also can be "a valuable component in an integrated approach to improve the long-term sustainability of cotton production", for instance by reducing the use of pesticides.

In addition, the meeting discussed the importance of improving the standardisation of instrument testing of cotton quality. The aim is for all cotton test centres to meet international standards of accuracy. In particular, efforts must be made to support developing countries in this regard.

ICAC serves as the international commodity body for cotton, including in forums such as the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC). The CFC is currently sponsoring 18 projects in the cotton sector.

Additional Resources

For further information, visit <http://www.icac.org>

ICTSD reporting; "World cotton crop seen 50 pct transgenic by 2008," REUTERS, 12 September 2006; "Cotton sector forecasts expansion of the global market," ANBA NEWS AGENCY, 15 September 2006.

In Brief

TYRES DISPUTE CONTINUES; BRAZIL FILES SECOND WRITTEN SUBMISSION

Brazil recently released its second written submission to the WTO in its dispute with the EU over trade in retreaded tyres. The EU is challenging a number of measures – in particular the implementation of an import ban on retreaded tyres – claiming that they are incompatible with Brazil's WTO obligations. Brazil defends the measures arguing that they are necessary to protect human health and the environment.

In the submission, which was filed on 11 August, Brazil reiterated that the questioned measures are justified under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Article XX. Under the heading 'General Exceptions', this provision grants Members the right to implement measures that are incompatible with their WTO obligations if they are not a disguised restriction on trade or applied in an arbitrary or discriminatory fashion, and if they are necessary (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 14 July 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-07-14/story2.htm>).

Questioning the actual contribution of the import ban to achieving Brazil's aim of protecting public health and the environment, the EU has claimed that Brazilian national court rulings allowing for imports of used tyres detracts from the ban's effectiveness (used tyres can be retreaded and used once again in vehicles, and Brazil has a retreaded tyres industry). Brazil refuted this a second time around, arguing that it had demonstrated clearly the vigorous work by the government to safeguard the integrity of the ban and that the High Court (so far) has upheld the legality of the ban. It noted that the view on the ban among higher and lower instance courts was now 'nearly-unanimous' before an expected ruling from the Supreme Court, which would also ban the import of used tyres.

Brazil further restated that no economically or environmentally sound alternatives to the ban exist and brushed off the EU's claim of the contrary. It highlighted that the EU itself has not been able to identify any alternative that would allow Brazil to achieve its chosen level of protection in the sector.

Although the dispute is conducted behind closed doors – as are the vast majority of WTO cases – Brazil has distributed their submissions to the public, allowing for some degree of transparency in the proceedings. The report of the panel is expected early next year.

For further information see <http://www.trade-environment.org/page/theme/tewto/tyrescase.htm>.

To access the Brazilian submissions, in Portuguese and English, visit http://www.mre.gov.br/portugues/ministerio/sitios_secretaria/cgc/pneus.asp.

ICTSD reporting.

LAMY: ISO-WTO RELATIONSHIP CRITICAL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

In a video addressed to the 29th General Assembly of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), held in Ottawa, Canada, on 10-16 September, Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the WTO, underlined the importance of international standard-setting bodies for international trade. International standards, he noted, have facilitated trade and brought cost-savings for exporters. However, he warned that poorly designed international standards can "end up hurting trade", potentially discriminating against certain products and eroding confidence in international standardisation. Lamy stressed the need for transparent and inclusive standard-setting processes involving all stakeholders to ensure effective standard-setting. In this context, he urged the ISO to continue pursuing steps "to facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world of standardisation," in particular for products that are of key economic interest to them.

Established in 1947, the ISO is an international non-governmental standard-setting body. ISO members include national standards institutes most representative of standardisation in their country (one member in each country). New standards are developed by technical committees at the request of an industry or business sector, which communicates the request through one of ISO's national members. The organisation is funded through subscription fees that are determined by the countries' Gross National Income and trade figures. The WTO agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) urge WTO Members to base their measures on international norms and encourage them to participate in the work of international standard-setting bodies.

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

ICTSD reporting; "Lamy underlines the importance of developing country participating in standard-setting," WTO, 13 September 2006.

G8 ILLEGAL LOGGING DIALOGUE LAUNCHED

A new illegal logging dialogue – bringing together stakeholders from the G8 group of advanced industrial countries and China, India and other major timber producing nations – was launched by GLOBE International and the Com+ in conjunction with the 13-20 September 2006 annual IMF-World Bank meetings in Singapore. The new initiative aims to provide a forum outside formal international negotiating structures for government officials and other stakeholders to develop a plan of action to address illegal logging. The Dialogue plans to present recommendations to the G8 in 2008.

"Illegal logging cannot be tackled unilaterally and that is why it is so important to address this problem from both ends of the supply chain - from timber producing countries to timber consuming countries. Together we can build agreement and make a real difference," stated the co-chairs of the Dialogue, Barry Gardiner and Egbe Achuo Hillman.

In related news, a World Bank report released at the Singapore meetings concluded that illegal logging of timber on public lands in developing countries generates losses in assets and revenue of more than US\$10 billion each year. This amounts to more than six times the total official development assistance for sustainable management of forests. Entitled "Strengthening Forest Law Enforcement and Governance: Addressing a Systemic Constraint to Sustainable Development", the report says illegal logging often threatens the livelihoods and security of poor, forest-dependent people and distorts the marketplace, subjecting legitimate forest enterprises to unfair competition through price undercutting. It further argues that illegal operations discourage companies from making socially and environmentally responsible investments into the sector. To combat this situation, countries need to strengthen their law enforcement capacity, technical expertise and the rule of law, including laws aimed at curbing timber theft, wildlife poaching and money-laundering.

"With more than 90 percent of the 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty dependent on forests for some part of their livelihoods, good forest sector governance is integral to the bank's mission of poverty reduction, and a key component of the Bank's fight against corruption," stated Katherine Sierra, World Bank Vice President for sustainable development.

For more information on the G8 Illegal Logging Dialogue, see <http://www.globeinternational.org/Logging.html>

The report, Strengthening Forest Law Enforcement and Governance, is available at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/intforests/Resources/WB_Rpt_36638_Forest_Law.pdf

ICTSD reporting: "World Bank says illegal logging costs US\$10 billion-a-year," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 16 September 2006; "Illegal logging costing nations billions: World Bank," REUTERS, 16 September 2006.

Events & Resources

EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at <http://www.ictsd.org/cal/2006calendar.htm>.

ICTSD Events

26 September, Geneva, Switzerland: MEASURING DIFFERENT FUTURES FOR THE GLOBAL TRADING SYSTEM: IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This session, at the WTO Public Forum, will focus on the potential futures for global trade. The Doha Round negotiations have been deemed dead, forsaken, sick and more recently, curable, by the media and pundits alike. What's been missing, however, is a hard-headed assessment of each of these scenarios and discussion about their potential repercussions for sustainable development. ICTSD will bring together top modellers to critique current projections of welfare gains arising from the Doha Round trade negotiations and look at how realistically to measure the likely effects of different future scenarios. For more information, contact Cécile de Gardelle, tel: (41-22) 917 87 55; email: cdegardelle@ictsd.ch; Internet: http://www.ictsd.org/public_forum/index.htm

27 September, Geneva, Switzerland: EXPLORING SYNERGIES BETWEEN ENERGY STANDARDS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE. Organised by ICTSD, this meeting will bring together government officials, private sector representatives, non-governmental, and inter-governmental experts and other stakeholders to discuss the geopolitics of energy in relation to the international trade regime. It will provide an analysis of the WTO rules and agreements and their relevance to the energy sector; and examine how climate-friendly measures could be infused into international trade and investment regimes. For further information, contact Kamal Gueye, tel: (41 22) 917 87 54, email: gkamal@ictsd.ch, Internet: <http://www.ictsd.org/dlogue/2006-09-27/2006-09-27-desc.htm>.

Coming up in the next two weeks

25-26 Geneva, Switzerland: WTO PUBLIC FORUM. The theme of this year's WTO annual forum for civil society representatives is "What WTO for the 21st

century?" For further information, Internet: http://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/public_forum_e/forum06_e.htm.

25 September to 3 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY: THIRTY-THIRD (16TH EXTRAORDINARY) SESSION. Member States will review WIPO's activities and agree on the agenda for the coming year. For further information, Internet: http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=11023 25-26 September, Almaty, Kazakhstan: FIRST MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE MOU CONCERNING CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE SAIGA ANTELOPE (SAIGA TATARICA TATARICA). This meeting is a cooperative initiative between the Convention on Migratory Species and CITES. For further information, tel: +49 228 815 2401; fax: +49 228 815 2449; email: secretariat@cms.int; Internet: http://www.cms.int/species/saiga/1st_saiga_range_state_s_meeting.htm.

26 September, Rotterdam, The Netherlands: CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) IN PRODUCTION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE. The Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs, Directorate-General for Foreign Economic Relations is organising this seminar, which follows-up on the work that the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) started this year to study the relationship between trade, corporate social responsibility and consumers concerns. To register for this event please visit: <https://www.atp.nl/congresses/csrseminar/>. For further information contact Lex Kouwenberg, tel: +31 (0)70.3766.733; fax: +31 (0)70.4272.770; email: WorkshopCSR@atp.nl; Martin Riemslag Baas, M.F.T.RiemslagBaas@minez.nl; or Irina van der Sluijs, I.T.T.J.vanderSluijs@minez.nl.

26 September, Washington DC: NATURAL GAS AS A CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION: BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS TO METHANE'S EXPANDING ROLE. Sponsored by the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA). This one-day workshop will focus on the barriers to bringing methane to market, with attention to both increasing supply and decreasing fugitive methane emissions, on the current strategies for breaching these barriers and on case studies that highlight successful implementation of these strategies. Co-sponsored by the Methane-to-Markets Partnership, US EPA and IPIECA this day will serve as an in-depth look at the factors influencing the pace of methane development and delivery and will touch on a number of the themes addressed in the Pace of Technology workshop. For further information, contact Luke Warren, tel: +44 020 7633 2388; email: luke.warren@ipieca.org.

26 September, Geneva, Switzerland: THE CONSERVATION COMMONS. The Conservation

Common, a growing international cooperative effort of over 65 conservation organisations, research agencies, scientific institutions, and corporations, is hosting this discussion led by Tom Hammond to improve access to information about biodiversity. Its aims are to connect practitioners to data and information assets by removing legal and institutional barriers to open access; improving data compatibility and data integration standards; building on recent innovations in Global Information Systems (GIS) for biodiversity data "discoverability" and "fusion"; and building the architecture for open access publishing and electronic archiving. For further information, tel: +41 22 917-8326; fax: +41 22 797-3464; Internet: <http://www.environmenthouse.ch>.

26-27 September, Kew, UK: SMALL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AND FORESTS. This meeting, hosted by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), will set the scene for what can be done to improve the impacts of small enterprises-looking broadly at a range of options within internal systems, external policies and market frameworks. The meeting will be followed by a one-day workshop on fairer trade in the timber industry. The aim is to strengthen an emerging alliance that wants to enhance local returns from socially and environmentally responsible forestry. The meeting will look at options for practical schemes that will enable socially responsible SMFEs to be more sustainable and competitive, to trade more, distinguish their products in the market place, and reap greater rewards for their socially and environmentally responsible practice. It will focus specifically on the potential within existing fair trade and forest certification schemes. For further information, Internet: <http://www.iied.org/NR/forestry/index.html>.

26-28 September, Bergen, Norway: IMPLEMENTING THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES. This international conference, organised by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the governments of Iceland and Norway, will review experiences made and constraints encountered so far in order to identify strategies and best practices that will facilitate further implementation in practical fisheries management. For more information, contact Per Sandberg; email: per.sandberg@fiskeridir.no

27-28 September, Washington DC: INCREASING THE PACE OF TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND APPLICATION: ENABLING CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS. Organised by the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), this workshop will bring together experts from academia, business, governments, policy makers and international and non governmental organisations to improve understanding of how to increase the pace of technology innovation and application. It will focus on: energy outlooks and the pace of technological progress; technology portfolio strategies to increase the pace of innovation and application; opportunities and barriers to technology innovation and diffusion; Innovation and technology options for efficiency, transport, methane, CO2 capture and geologic storage and energy supply. For

more information, contact Luke Warren, tel: +44 0 20 7633 2388; email: luke.warren@ipieca.org.

28-29 September, Bonn, Germany: 31ST MEETING OF THE CMS STANDING COMMITTEE. This meeting is organised by the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species. For further information, CMS Secretariat; tel: +49 228 815 2401/02; fax: +49 228 815 2449; email: secretariat@cms.int; Internet: http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/31st_stc_meeting/31st_stc_documents.htm.

1-4 October, Busua, Ghana: INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR FOREST MITIGATION PROJECTS IN SUB-SAHARAN TROPICAL AFRICA. ITTO, in collaboration with the Ghana Forestry Commission (GFC), will host an international workshop on climate change and forest mitigation projects in Sub-Saharan tropical Africa. The workshop will cover a wide range of issues related to investment opportunities in natural forest ecosystems and renewable energy in Sub-Saharan Africa. For more information, contact Emmanuel Ze Meka, ITTO; tel: +81 45 223 1110; fax: +81 45 223 1111; email: zemeka@itto.or.jp; Internet: <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=223&id=1136>.

1-12 October, Varna, Bulgaria: NATO ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTE COURSE ON OVEREXPLOITATION AND CONTAMINATION OF SHARED GROUNDWATER RESOURCES: MANAGEMENT, (BIO) TECHNOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL APPROACHES TO AVOID CONFLICTS. This course is organised by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Advanced Study Institute and aims at acquainting participants with an integrated approach for the monitoring and management of shared groundwater resources. Via a combination of lectures and problem-based learning exercises it will also provide the various stakeholders with the means to harmoniously reach decisions about groundwater use which are economically and socially sustainable. For more information, contact Christophe Darnault; email: darnault@uic.edu; Internet: http://www.nato.int/science/calendar_of_workshops/asi-2006.htm.

2-3 October, Cape Town, South Africa: BIOFUELS MARKETS AFRICA. This meeting will provide a comprehensive update on the biofuels industry in the region. Attendees will learn from experts on the process, methodologies, regulation and financing requirements for successful implementation of biofuels projects. For further information, Internet: <http://www.greenpowerconferences.com/events/biofuelmarkets.htm>.

2-6 October, Geneva, Switzerland: 54TH MEETING OF THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE. The meeting is being organised by the CITES Secretariat. For further information, CITES Secretariat; tel: +41 22 917 8139; fax:

+41 22 797 3417; email: cites@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/calendar.shtml>.

2-6 October, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MANAGING FORESTS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION: CAPTURING OPPORTUNITIES IN FOREST HARVESTING AND WOOD PROCESS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE POOR. Organised by a consortium of partners including ITTO, ACPFC and WWF, this event will bring together diverse stakeholders and international experts to share experiences related to small-scale forest operations, labor-intensive forest management practices and wood processing. For more information, contact Thomas Enters, FAO; email: Thomas.Enters@fao.org; Internet: http://www.apfweb.org/events/events_workshops.html.

3 October, London, UK: THE 2006 HINTON LECTURE: THE ROLE OF THE ENGINEERING SCIENCES IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - REDESIGNING AFRICAN ECONOMIES. The 2006 Hinton Lecture is being delivered by Calestous Juma, and will focus on engineering sciences in the context of Africa. For more information, Royal Academy of Engineering; email: amy.abbott@raeng.org.uk; Internet: http://www.raeng.org.uk/events/pdf/hinton_lecture_2006.pdf.

3-5 October, Bratislava, Slovakia: WORKSHOP ON ILLEGAL TRAFFIC OF HAZARDOUS AND OTHER WASTES. For more information, Basel Convention Regional Centre in Bratislava and TAIEEX, the Technical Assistance Informa; tel: +41 22 917 8218; fax: +41 22 797-3454; email: sbc@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.basel.int>.

3-6 October, Geneva, Switzerland: UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE TIMBER COMMITTEE, 63RD SESSION, 64TH SESSION. For further information, contact UNECE, tel: +41 0 22 917 12 34; fax: +41 0 22 917 05 05; email: info.ece@unece.org

3-7 October, Bilbao, Spain: ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES FROM PLANTED FORESTS CONFERENCE. CIFOR is co-hosting a conference on the implications of increased plantations on the future of ecosystem goods and services. For further information, Internet: http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/docs/_ref/events/ecosystem.htm.

3-12 October, Rome, Italy: JOINT FAO/WHO MEETING ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES (JMPR). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are organising the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) to be held in Rome, Italy on 3-12 October, 2006. For more information, contact WHO (IPCS) – (WHO – International programme on Chemical Safety); tel: +41 22 791 4348; fax: +41 22 791 4848; email:

mereditht@who.int; Internet: <http://www2.oecd.org/iomc/reports/EventReport.aspx?reports=true>.

5 October, Geneva, Switzerland: PUBLIC PROCUREMENT POLICIES FOR WOOD AND PAPER PRODUCTS AND THEIR IMPACTS ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND TIMBER MARKETS. The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the FAO will organise this policy forum as a one-day in-session event during the 64th Timber Committee. The objective is to offer a fruitful and interesting discussion that provides participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and explore possible future developments with other specialists in the field of public procurement policies. For more information, contact Florian Steierer, UNECE/FAO; email: florian.steierer@unece.org; tel: +41 22 917 1834; fax: +41 22 917 0041; Internet: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>.

5-6 October, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia: FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This meeting is organised by the Organisation of American States (OAS). Participants will identify and advance concrete partnerships at the regional and hemispheric level to integrate environmental considerations into development, poverty alleviation, social and economic policies. The meeting will take into account progress in implementing sustainable development and identify specific opportunities for cooperation among OAS member states. For more information, contact Joaquin Tamayo, OAS; tel: +202 458 3506; fax: +202 458 3560; email: JTamayo@oas.org; Internet: http://www.oas.org/dsd/MinisterialMeeting/ReunionInterAm_eng_v1.htm

Other Upcoming Events

16-17 November, Terrassa, Spain: FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABILITY MEASUREMENT AND MODELING. The conference, hosted by the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Chair in Sustainability, will launch a forum for organisations, institutions, and experts interested in sustainability measurement, modelling and evaluating issues to further integrate their knowledge and ideas. Dialogue will focus on the creation of measurements, models and evaluations for sustainable development. The conference topics are organised in order to gather together works, studies, projects, and experiences related to sustainability measurement and modeling. For more information, tel: +34 934 017 441; email: icsmm@cimne.upc.edu.

19-24 November, Cape Town, South Africa: FIRST ABS CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR AFRICA. The workshop launches the three year programme of the Dutch-German ABS Capacity-Building Initiative for Africa and is designed provide guidance for this initiative. The aims of the workshop are: (1) To explore the

experiences with bioprospecting cases in the region for the implementation of ABS regulations at the national and local level, (2) to develop a strong vision for ABS in Africa based on trust and mutual understanding that enhances close cooperation and provides a profound basis for networking, and (3) to come up with recommendations for international law and policy making on one specific issue area based on participants preference: either gap analysis, practical solutions for regional cooperation or national requirements for certificates of origin. For further information, contact Andreas Drews; tel.: +49 (6196) 79-1363; fax.: 79-801363; email: andreas.drews@gtz.de; Internet <http://www.abs-africa.info>.

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 msell@ictsd.ch.

ECOLABELS AND FISH TRADE: MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CERTIFICATION AND THE SA HAKE INDUSTRY. By Stefano Ponte. Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa (tralac), 2006. Yet, the case study of Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of the hake industry in South Africa illustrates that ecolabelling is sought in the context of competitive pressures, political economies, and specific interpretations of conservation, not simply on the basis of value-free science or systemic management alone. Developing country fisheries, and small-scale ones in particular, have been marginalised in the MSC system. The paper concludes that independent auditing, transparency of standard-setting, accountability, and the need for standards to be based on 'good science', are not enough to facilitate certification in small-scale developing country fisheries. What is needed are special systems of compliance and verification that cater to their needs. Until this happens, and until premiums are not paid at the producer level, MSC and similar initiatives will keep putting 'sustainability' at the service of commercial interests. To access this paper, <http://www.tralac.org/scripts/content.php?id=5212>.

MAURITANIA EU FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT: WHAT IMPACTS ON FISHERIES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN MAURITANIA? Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements, August 2006. This paper analyses the issues arising from the agreement on fisheries between Mauritania and the EU. It shows that, for some of Mauritania's overexploited resources, like the octopus,

the EU fleets' proposed access runs contrary to the principles of sustainable development, as enshrined in the EU Fisheries Council conclusions on fisheries partnership agreements (FPAs). Moreover, a large number of the EU fishing vessels operating under the agreement will use destructive and unselective fishing methods, such as trawls, which are, in the Mauritanian coastal zone, a long term threat to the eco-system. To access the report go to http://www.cape-cffa.org/pub_WAFR/commentary%20Mauritania%20EU%20FPA.doc.

EVOLUTION OF THE EU FISHERIES SUBSIDY REGIME: DRIVERS AND APPROACHES. By James Brown, Institute for European Environmental Policy, June 2006. This paper considers the drivers behind the evolution of the subsidy regime in the build-up of overcapacity and thus overfishing. Firstly the history of the subsidy regime is briefly discussed. The following three sections then examine the role of integrated assessments, whole of government decision making and stakeholder involvement; all areas of interest to the work of the OECD. Wider economic and political factors are then discussed before final conclusions are drawn. To access the report, go to <http://www.ieep.org.uk/publications/pdfs/2006/Evolution%20of%20EU%20Fisheries%20Subsidy%20Regime.pdf>.

DEVELOPMENT FROM DIVERSITY: GUYANA'S FOREST-BASED ASSOCIATIONS SMALL AND MEDIUM FORESTRY ENTERPRISE. By Sharon Ousman, Grace Roberts and Duncan Macqueen, IIED, 2006. This study looks at the many forest-based associations in Guayana that are attempting to use forest-based products and services, and are concerned about sustainability. Opportunities to support such associations exist, but they are specific in nature. In most cases, details of these opportunities are known only by association members or a few trusted intermediaries. Lesson about what types of association work and why, lead on to conclusions about how to give appropriate support. To access this study, see <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=13527IIED>.

MAKING OR MISSING THE LINKS? THE POLITICS OF TRADE REFORM AND POVERTY REDUCTION. By the Panos Institute, August 2006. This briefing explores the polarised debate on the links between trade liberalisation, economic growth and poverty reduction, looking at the possible effects of trade reforms on the agricultural, manufacturing and service sectors. It explores the costs and benefits of trade reforms for different people in developing countries and asks what the options are for making trade work in favour of the poor. To access this brief, <http://www.panos.org.uk/PDF/reports/prsptoolkit3.pdf>.

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