



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

Issue: 20 October 2006

| | |
|--|----------|
| Sustainable Development..... | 1 |
| CITES, PIC Meetings Test Balance Between Trade and Environmental Protection..... | |
| Commodities | 3 |
| International Conference Focuses on Future of Rice | |
| In Brief..... | 4 |
| Events & Resources | 7 |

email to biores@ictsd.ch

included the illegal tiger trade and one-off sales of stockpiled ivory from approved sources.

Similar tensions came to the fore at the meeting of third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-3) to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade from 9-13 October. Chrysotile asbestos has been particularly controversial in this forum, where countries with significant trade interests at stake have resisted its inclusion within the PIC procedure. Critics claimed that the failure of the COP to move ahead on asbestos represented a weakening of the convention as a whole, especially coupled with the fact that the meeting failed to adopt a compliance system that would give it teeth.

How should CITES safeguard elephants?

CITES is one of the earlier multilateral environmental agreements, with a strong conservation base. During the Standing Committee (SC) meeting, as participants considered the way forward into the future, they were faced with tough questions about the fundamental role of CITES -- to primarily focus on conservation through the banning of trade in endangered species, or to focus on supporting sustainable trade and wider development objectives. While the debate continues and the question remains to be settled, it is timely. The "aid for trade" agenda has recently gained significant momentum at the WTO, and the positive potential of trade in development and poverty alleviation is often emphasised.

The potential of trade in bringing revenue back to conservation and supporting sustainable development was also highlighted at the meeting. The case of one-off ivory sale provided one example at the SC.

Sustainable Development

CITES, PIC MEETINGS TEST BALANCE BETWEEN TRADE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The inherent tension between economic and environmental interests became abundantly clear at recent meetings in Geneva on trade in endangered species and on chemicals trade.

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), meeting from 2-6 October, pondered the question of whether to focus on banning trade in species at risk or on promoting sustainable trade, which could bring significant benefits back to the communities playing a stewardship role for such species. These issues will be fundamental to the overarching strategic plan for 2008-2013, set to be further elaborated at the next Conference of the Parties. Concrete examples discussed at the meeting



International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development



Yet, many urged great caution, questioning whether trade might lead to incentives for illegal activities, and questioning whether any monitoring system is good enough to ensure the sustainability of the resource base.

The legal one-off sale of ivory is a recurring theme on the CITES agenda (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 21 October 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-10-21/story1.htm>). Since the ban of ivory sales was put in place in the late 1980s, certain countries have been able to sell ivory from stockpiles derived from sustainable populations from time to time. At this meeting of the SC, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa -- whose sales have been approved in principle by the COP -- had hoped to move on the issue. However, the Standing Committee decided that until these countries had a sufficient monitoring system and baseline data in place, they could not go ahead with the trade. The Standing Committee did take a decision allowing Japan to be an importer once the sales would take place. The fact that the sale itself was delayed was welcomed by conservation groups. Peter Puschel, programme manager for the International Fund for Animal Welfare, noted that "all those involved in elephant conservation around the world, who fight a constant battle to protect elephants from ivory poachers" supported the decision. IFAW also questioned the suitability of Japan as a buyer. "The previous one-off sale of ivory to Japan has spun the ivory markets in Asia out of control," according to Grace Ge Gabriel, Asia regional director for IFAW.

The issue of ivory sales will be revisited at the CITES COP-14, set to take place in the Netherlands in June 2007.

Asbestos crises at the PIC meeting

At COP-3 of the Rotterdam Convention, participants yet again failed to agree to include chrysotile asbestos in the list of chemicals requiring prior informed consent (PIC) by the importer -- this despite the fact that it fulfils all formal requirements to be put on the list (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 14 October 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-10-14/inbrief.htm#1>). Chrysotile asbestos, mainly exported from Quebec in Canada, represents 94 percent of asbestos and is known to be a carcinogen.

Chrysotile exports and trade would not be banned when added to the PIC list, but simply subjected to certain information requirements. Yet, this was enough to antagonise countries with export interest.

Some developing importing countries were also hesitant to subject chrysotile asbestos to the PIC procedure, as they feared this might add pressure to tighten local laws. Chrysotile asbestos will however be back on the agenda at the next COP.

After the meeting, UN Environment Programme chief Achim Steiner expressed his disappointment, stressing that "the lack of a decision at this time to list chrysotile asbestos raises concerns for many developing countries that need to protect their citizens from the well-known risks of this hazardous substance." Anita Normark, General Secretary of global building workers' union BWI, went further, questioning the efficacy and integrity of the Rotterdam Convention given the difficulties of moving on chemicals where large economic interests are at stake. She said "asbestos kills one person every five minutes, more than any other industrial toxin. If it can't be listed under the Rotterdam Treaty, then every peddler of hazardous substances will know how simple it is to protect their deadly industrial favourite. The whole process is discredited."

Some participants noted that the overall number of new chemicals proposed for PIC listing has decreased.

Meanwhile, discussions on the enforcement mechanism also were left unfinished at the meeting, despite an effort to bring Southern experts to Geneva. Issues dividing parties included whether to adopt more of a facilitative or punitive approach. The WTO dispute settlement mechanism is seen as particularly strong, with trade retaliation allowed in non-compliance cases. Under MEAs, facilitative mechanisms are more common, with technical assistance and support for implementation provided, rather than trade suspension. These measures can become expensive, and funding was discussed at length at the meeting. The next COP will continue the work on the enforcement mechanism.

Additional resources:

Documents of the CITES Standing Committee are available at <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/54/index.shtml>. For a full report of the CITES meeting see IISD Linkages at <http://www.iisd.ca/cites/sc54/>

Documents of the PIC COP are available at <http://www.pic.int/en/ViewPage.aspx?id=420>. For a full report of the PIC meeting see IISD Linkages at <http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/pic/cop3/>

To access the report entitled "Chrysotile asbestos: Hazardous to Humans, Deadly to the Rotterdam Convention" by the

Building & Woodworkers International and the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat see http://www.lkaz.demon.co.uk/chrys_hazard_rott_conv_06.pdf

"United Nations Delays Ivory Sale," ENS, 5 October 2006; "Asbestos Kept Off Global List of Toxic Substances," REUTERS, 16 October 2006; ENB Vol. 21 No.5, 9 October 2006; ENB Vol.15 No.147, 16 October 2006.

Commodities

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON FUTURE OF RICE

A mega-conference in New Delhi, India, recently debated a multitude of issues related to rice, including the role of biotechnology, trade, poverty alleviation and the growing impact of climate change on cultivation. At the meeting, ministers from nine Asian countries adopted a declaration on cooperation in the field of rice research and development, recognising the importance of rice in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Meanwhile, the international World Food Day was celebrated on 16 October, focusing on the theme of "investing in agriculture for food security."

Delhi conference stresses role of biotechnology

The Second International Rice Congress was held in New Delhi, India, from 9-13 October. It attracted over 1000 participants -- representing governments, scientists, traders and farmers -- under the theme of "Science, technology, and trade for peace and prosperity". Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh opened the conference, calling for solutions to hunger and malnutrition.

Rice is the main staple food for over half of the world's population and is of particular importance to those living in poverty. Many Asian countries face a continuing struggle to produce the rice they need to feed their growing populations.

During the many sessions of the conference -- which included a science segment where more than 900 research papers were presented -- participants considered the role of biotechnology as a solution to generating more resistant, nutritious rice breeds with better storage qualities. However, challenges related to biotechnology were also highlighted, and a workshop on biosafety called for rationalised regulation of GM technologies. Safety concerns over GM rice have made headlines in recent weeks following the discovery of biotech rice not approved for human consumption in US shipments to the EU and Japan (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 8

September 2006; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-09-08/story1.htm>). In terms of patenting, Director-General of the International Rice Research Institute Robert Zeigler said germplasm and research tools should not be patented, only the final product.

In terms of trade, participants noted the role of niche products, such as aromatic rice varieties. They said productivity increases had increased the trade in these products. They also supported the use of 'geographical indications' (GIs) to distinguish products such as basmati rice on the market. GIs are used to identify the country or region where the quality, reputation or other characteristic of a product is essentially attributable to the geographical region. Participants felt that GIs provided a "scientific" basis for defining the specific qualities of their products, making differentiation possible. They also noted that overall, government intervention is strong in the rice sector both in terms of subsidies for, among other, research and development, and in terms of keeping tariffs on rice. At the WTO agriculture negotiations, many developing countries --including India -- are lobbying to keep high tariffs on "special" products such as rice, which they feel need protection from international competition. The rationale is that these products are special because of their contribution to the livelihoods of small and vulnerable farmers. Japan, on the other hand, represents a developed country taking a hard stance in favour of safeguarding domestic rice production through high tariffs. Japan would like to carve out special conditions for rice by designating it a "sensitive" product at the WTO.

Environmental issues were also on the agenda. Specifically, climate change and climate variability were highlighted as a real threat to rice production, and participants called for adaptation strategies. For example, they highlighted the different needs for irrigation that rice cultivation faces in different geographic regions, and which (rain-fed) areas are most naturally suited for rice cultivation. As rain patterns change, countries may need to consider irrigation options.

On 10 October, agriculture ministers from China, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and India adopted a declaration on cooperation among Asian countries to safeguard environment, food and nutritional security, following discussions on issues such as trans-boundary migration of pests, adaptation to climate change, and the sharing of knowledge and germplasm. The ministers confirmed their

commitment to intellectual property rights as per the WTO Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), and the need to address the MDGs. Noting that farmers are pressured to produce more at lower costs, they agreed to establish a partnership on rice research and development.

World Food Day seeks solutions to hunger

FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf also highlighted actions to fulfil the MDGs on the international World Food Day on 16 October. He stressed the role of investment in agriculture to ensure food security: "Increasing the volume of public investment in agriculture but also making it more effective are of absolute necessity. One major mechanism is the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, a consortium of 26 development agencies, which seeks to improve donor aid effectiveness and focus action on achieving the Millennium Development Goals."

Also on World Food Day, Director-General Diouf signed an agreement on behalf of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) with research centres belonging to the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) around the world, which hold 600 000 samples of agricultural genetic material. This material will now be available to researchers under standard conditions. Currently, world food production is vulnerable to diseases and climate change, as only a few species of uniform genetic quality provide the majority of the world's food.

Additional resources:

For further information see <http://www.icar.org.in/irc2006/>.

To access the ministerial Delhi Declaration of the International Rice Conference 2006, see <http://www.icar.org.in/irc2006/ircmedia/DelhiDeclaration.pdf>.

"World Food Day 2006 targets public and private investment," FAO RELEASE, 16 October 2006; "Worlds most important gene banks now under international plant genetic resources treaty," FAO RELEASE, 16 October 2006; "Rice patents may hamper research," FINANCIAL EXPRESS, 15 October 2006; ICAR PRESS RELEASES, 7-13 October 2006.

In Brief

ICELAND BACK IN THE WHALE HUNT

On 17 October, Iceland announced its decision to resume commercial whale hunts for the first time in

twenty years, ignoring an international moratorium. The government gave a whaling company a licence to hunt 39 whales -- 30 minke and 9 fin whales -- before the end of August 2007. Fin whales are on the IUCN Red List of endangered species.

The International Whaling Commission's (IWC) moratorium on whaling came into force in 1985. Iceland left the IWC in 1992, but rejoined in 2002 with a reservation that allows the country to whale for scientific research. Its research permit allows it to hunt 200 minke whales from 2003 to 2007. 161 whales have already have been caught. The research aims to study the fish-whale relationship.

Greenpeace publicly denounced the decision and called the small quota a litmus test towards international reaction. "World opinion is rightly outraged by this flagrant disregard for international agreements," British Fisheries Minister Ben Bradshaw said. "There is no rationale for this decision, and Iceland cannot even find markets for the whale meat it gets from so-called scientific whaling." Norway and Japan, the two other major whaling countries, supported the move by Iceland to allow commercial whaling.

Iceland claims the proposed quota will not disrupt whale populations. It also asserts that whales contribute to the depletion of fish stocks, a major economic market for the country.

Set-up by the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) in 1946, the IWC is designed to promote and maintain whale fishery stocks. At its latest meeting, the IWC adopted a symbolic declaration saying that the whaling moratorium no longer is necessary (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 30 June 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-06-30/story2.htm>). However, to end the moratorium, 75 percent of the IWC would have to agree.

"Iceland to Resume Commercial Whale Hunts," REUTERS, 18 October 2006; "Japan backs Iceland's whaling decision," AP, 18 October 2006; "Norway hails Iceland's return to commercial whaling," AFP, 18 October 2006.

SHIP RECYCLING CONVENTION UNDER NEGOTIATION

At the meeting of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), held from 9-13 October, participants continued their work on a draft ship recycling treaty. A number of civil society

organisations representing labour, environment and human rights have come out strongly against the draft, however. According to the groups, "the convention will, as it stands now, come in violation of major international norms and standards protecting Human Rights and the environment."

The IMO adopted voluntary guidelines on ship recycling in 2003. Parties agreed in 2005 to begin negotiations on a legally-binding instrument, which would also provide regulations for ship-building, so as to facilitate recycling. The Joint International Labour Organisation (ILO)/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping also provides input to the process. The treaty is set to be completed and adopted in 2008-2009.

However, the NGO Platform on Shipbreaking, Greenpeace and the Basel Action Network, among others, stressed that the treaty is inadequate. According to these groups, it disrespects the polluter pays principle, with recipient (mainly developing) countries ending up carrying the entire financial burden of the ship-breaking activities. For example, there is no requirement that owners pre-clean ships of toxic material before they are sent away, or make them liable for past contamination. As it stands, the treaty would violate "in particular UN and ILO conventions protecting the right to a safe and healthy working environment and the Basel convention's control and even prohibition of certain toxic/ hazardous waste transfers."

"Currently about 95% of the world's asbestos and PCB laden ships are scrapped by the world's poorest, most unprotected, and desperate workforce," commented Jim Puckett of the Basel Action Network. Governments and companies send ships to developing countries such as India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and China to be dismantled because these countries have less stringent environmental regulations concerning the disposal of toxic substances. This often enables pollutants to escape into the environment and negatively affect both ship breaking workers and local communities. However, it also provides sorely needed local jobs. The French ship *Clemenceau*, sent to be dismantled in India and then recalled, provides a recent example of problems related to ship breaking and overlapping jurisdictions between the IMO, Basel Convention and International Labour Organisation in this regard (ILO; see Bridges Trade BioRes, 17 February 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-02-17/story3.htm>).

"Draft IMO Treaty on Ship Scrapping Called Immoral," NGO FORUM ON SHIPBREAKING PRESS RELEASE, 13 October 2006.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONCERNED ABOUT PRIVATE SECTOR STANDARDS

A number of developing countries raised concerns over the impacts on their exports of private sector standards, such as supermarket requirements. The issue was discussed at a meeting of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) on 11-12 October in Geneva.

St Vincent and the Grenadines -- supported by Argentina, Ecuador, Jamaica and Peru -- had raised the issue for the first time in the SPS Committee at its June 2005 meeting, citing requirements for exporting bananas and other products to European supermarkets as an example. These requirements have been developed by the Euro-Retail Produce Working Group (EurepGap), a private sector body that sets voluntary standards for the certification of agricultural products. St Vincent and the Grenadines complained that the EurepGap standards were stricter than governments' requirements.

In response, the EU had argued that it was not in a position to intervene with private sector standards which it said simply reflected consumer demands. The EU encouraged countries who felt that the requirements constituted EU standards to raise their concerns with Brussels. Otherwise, the countries should approach the non-governmental bodies directly.

At the October meeting, St Vincent and the Grenadines, joined by Argentina, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya and South Africa, reiterated these concerns and called for a more systematic discussion of these issues in the Committee. To support their case, some Members pointed to Article 13 of the SPS Agreement, which calls on countries to implement measures to ensure compliance of non-governmental standards with the Agreement's provisions.

Committee Chair Juan Antonio Dorantes Sanchez of Mexico suggested that Members provide concrete examples for discussion.

The issue of private standards has also come up in the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). While SPS measures related to food safety and animal health are often implemented by

government bodies, many voluntary schemes that would be covered by the TBT Agreement are imposed by private actors. In this context, the proliferation of eco-labels in developed country markets has attracted particular concern from developing country exporters.

ICTSD reporting; "Sri Lankan cinnamon's future brightens, SPS Committee told," WTO NEWS, 11-12 October 2006; "Private sector standards discussed as SPS Committee adopts two reports," WTO NEWS, 29-30 June 2005.

CAN NAFTA PROTECT THE CARIBOU AND SPOTTED OWL?

A number of civil society organisations are seeking to use the environmental side agreement under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to prompt protection of endangered species in Canada. On 10 October, the groups made a public submission to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) claiming that the Canadian government had failed to effectively enforce the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) with respect to 197 of 529 species. The spotted owl and the woodland caribou top the list of most vulnerable species; their populations are dwindling due to loss of habitat to logging.

The NGOs -- including the Sierra Club (US and Canada), Nature Canada, the David Suzuki Foundation, Conservation Northwest, Environmental Defence, ForestEthics -- charge Environment Canada and other government bodies with three faults: first, the failure to list species; second, the absence of a recovery plan and identification of critical habitats; and finally, a lack of enforcement through national "safety net" and emergency orders.

The CEC is an independent body established by Canada, Mexico and the US under the 1994 North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), a side agreement under NAFTA. The NAAEC seeks to foster conservation, protection and enhancement of the North American environment in the context of increasing trade and social links among the countries under NAFTA. Under Article 14 of the NAAEC, the CEC may consider a submission from any person or non-governmental organisation asserting that a Party to the NAAEC is failing to effectively enforce its environmental legislation. The CEC will now consider the submission in order to decide whether to launch an investigation, which would be followed by a public factual record of the findings.

"CEC receives a submission on Species at Risk," CEC RELEASE, 12 October 2006; "Ottawa failing at-risk species, groups warn," GLOBE AND MAIL, 11 October 2006.

ACT NOW: CLIMATE DAMAGE WILL COST TRILLIONS

According to a new study, annual economic damage resulting from unabated climate change will amount to trillions of US dollars by the end of the century, and social and environmental harms will be "incalculable".

Researcher at the Tuft University Global Development and Environment Institute released the study entitled "Climate Change - the Costs of Inaction" on 11 October. They predict that even an increase in temperature of two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels will have many harmful and costly impacts, outweighing the potential benefits to Northern countries, such as increased yields in temperate agriculture and decreased total temperature-related mortality. At levels beyond two degrees, the effects of global warming will be much more dangerous, as all potential benefits will vanish and all regions will suffer from extreme weather events, food and water shortages, raising sea levels following the complete melting of the Greenland ice sheet, desertification and widespread species extinctions. The report estimates that damages "could reach US\$ 20 trillion by 2100, equivalent to six to eight percent of global economic output at that time".

The report stresses the need for immediate action to stem the release of greenhouse gases to keep temperature increase below two degrees. The up-front costs would be much smaller than those of dealing with the damages caused by climate change later. Frank Ackerman, one of the co-authors, noted that "The climate system has enormous momentum, as does the economic system. We have to start turning off greenhouse gas emissions now in order to avoid catastrophe in decades to come."

The report, commissioned by Friends of the Earth, is available at <http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/rp/Climate-CostsofInaction.pdf>.

"Climate Change Could Cost Economy Trillions", EDIE NEWS, 17 October 2006; "Economists Warn Climate Change Will Cost Trillions if Governments Fail to Act", MEDIA ADVISORY, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL, 13 October 2006.

CONFERENCE PROMOTES SUSTAINABLE BIOENERGY AGENDA

Experts from governments, NGOs, business and science gathered from 12-13 October at an international conference on "Sustainable Bioenergy - Challenges and Opportunities" in Bonn -- hosted by the German NGO Forum Environment & Development and the United Nations Foundation - to discuss the opportunities for bioenergy, assess sustainability challenges and try to identify viable solutions for promoting bioenergy.

While generally recognising the potential of bioenergy in promoting sustainable development, participants acknowledged that bioenergy was only part of bigger picture, and had to be examined in relation to agriculture and food production, environment and ecosystems as well as the economics of energy.

On the positive side, bioenergy has the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and could generate important employment in rural areas both in the developed and developing countries.

However, the production of biofuels also present serious social and environmental risks that need to be addressed. In particular, the issue of competition between food and energy production -- especially with regard to biofuels generated from food crops - was raised. Global energy needs as such are also too great to be met by bioenergy, and there is a need to put in place policies and mechanisms to ensure that bioenergy production does not lead to further environmental degradation, such as deforestation and loss of biodiversity.

Several presentations highlighted the potential of developing countries for taking advantage of bioenergy both for domestic energy use and the export market. Participants felt, however, that domestic needs should be filled first. Participants also discussed a number of international trade issues that needed to be better understood in terms of their contribution to advancing a sustainable bioenergy agenda. These included market access, the issue of subsidies, the need for and merit of having social and environmental standards, as well as labelling schemes.

Participants agreed to put in place a web-based mechanism that would build on the momentum generated at the meeting and allow for further interactive dialogues to take place.

For further information on the meeting and to view the presentations, visit <http://www.forum-ue.de/bioenergy/e/conference.html>.

ICTSD reporting.

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

23-24 October, Mexico City, Mexico: GLOBAL FORUM ON TRADE. The OECD Trade Directorate is organising a Global Forum on Trade in partnership with the World Bank, and with the support of the Government of Mexico. This Forum would consider market access across various development dimensions including global (MFN) liberalisation, North-South trade and South-South trade, trade in services, and regional trade liberalisation - as a complement to multilateral liberalisation. For further information, contact Kaveri Bopiah, tel: (33 1) 45 24 17 90; e-mail: kaveri.bopiah@oecd.org.

24 October, Washington, D.C.: 2006 WORLD FOOD LAW SYMPOSIUM: CLIMATE CHANGE, FOOD SECURITY AND AFRICA. Co-sponsored by the World Food Law Institute at Howard University School of Law, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the American Society of International Law and others, this symposium will feature multidisciplinary discussions of climate change in Africa and possible positive responses linked to food security. For further information contact Professor Marsha Echols, tel: (1 202) 806 8039; email: mechols@law.howard.edu or worldfoodlaw@law.howard.edu.

25 October, Geneva, Switzerland: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND HEALTH-RELATED PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS - CLIMBING UP THE VALUE CHAIN. Organised by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the Stockholm Network. For further information contact Caroline Schwab; email: Caroline.Schwab@wipo.int; internet: <http://listbox.wipo.int/wilma/sme-en/200609/msg00001.html>.

25 & 27 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY. For further information, contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41 22) 739 5007; fax: (41 22) 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org.

25-27 October, Rome, Italy: **WORLD CONGRESS ON COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**. Jointly organised by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Bank and The Communication Initiative, the focus of the Congress is to effectively promote the mainstreaming of communication into development policies and programmes and to promote strategic partnerships and alliances in this field. Congress will be structured around four broad thematic areas: Health, Governance and Empowerment, Sustainable Development, and Emerging Sectors and New Frontiers. Each of these areas will be divided into subtopics that delve into various aspects or dimensions of these challenges. For further information see internet: http://www.fao.org/sd/dim_kn1/kn1_060601_en.htm.

25-27 October, Freiburg, Germany: **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT IN FORESTRY**. Organised by Forest Research Institute of Baden-Wuerttemberg and partners, the international conference addresses these issues at the interdisciplinary level, bringing together experts in knowledge management not only in forestry. It offers new theoretical approaches and aims to transfer practical experiences from other disciplines of knowledge management to forestry. Within these discussions, also integrated aspects of knowledge management where technological solutions (e.g. web-based knowledge exchange) meet "communities of knowledge" will be addressed. For further information, contact Dr. Marc Hanewinkel, e-mail: Marc.Hanewinkel@forst.bwl.de.

26 October, Geneva, Switzerland: **WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF VIET NAM**. For further information, contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41 22) 739 5007; fax: (41 22) 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org.

26-27 October, Bucharest, Romania: **PRIORITIES OF CHEMISTRY FOR A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PRIOCHEM)**. Organised by the Romanian National Research And Development Institute for Chemistry and Petrochemistry - Icechim. The topics of the Symposium are based on the research areas of the sixth framework programme of the European Union, focusing on national economic development and the integration of Romania into the European Union. Areas of focus include: life science, genomics and biotechnology for health; nanotechnologies and nano-science, knowledge-based multifunctional materials and new production processes and devices; sustainable development, global change and ecosystems. For further information, contact Dr. Ing. Emil Buzdugan, tel: (40 21) 3163071; fax: 3123493; e-mail: programe@icechim.ro

30 October to 3 November, New Delhi, India: **EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL**. For more information, contact the Ozone Secretariat, tel: (254 20) 762 3851; fax: (254 20) 762 4691; e-mail: ozoneinfo@unep.org;

internet:http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/18mop/index.asp.

30 October to 4 November, Rome, Italy: **COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY**. The Committee will consider the current world food security situation, including trends and prospects. In addition, the implications of avian influenza for global and regional food security will be covered as a special issue. For further information, see http://www.fao.org/UNFAO/Bodies/cfs/cfs32/index_en.htm.

Other Upcoming Events

6-8 November, Prague, Czech Republic: **SYMPOSIUM ON ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND WASTE**. The objective of the symposium is to share information and experience from different regions on the rise of illegal international trade of hazardous chemicals and wastes, the adverse effects of this on human health and the environment and to take stock of and evaluate existing measures to address illegal traffic. For further information, see <http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/default.html>

RESOURCES

WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT 2006. By the UN Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), October 2006. This year's report focuses on the rise of foreign direct investment (FDI) by transnational corporations (TNCs) from developing and transition economies. This phenomenon has been particularly marked in the past ten years, and a growing number of TNCs from these economies are emerging as major regional -- or sometimes even global -- players. For low-income countries, FDI from developing countries can be of great importance. In some of them, it accounts for a significant share of all FDI flows. The report discusses the development implications of the rise of these new sources of FDI, along with policy responses, for both home and host developing countries. It presents the latest data on FDI and traces the global and regional trends of FDI and international production by TNCs. Global FDI inflows rose substantially in 2005. A major contributing factor to this strong growth was the marked increase in the inflows to developed countries. Rising global demand for commodities was reflected in the steep increase in natural resource-related FDI, although the services sector continued to be the major recipient of FDI. Among developing regions, Asia remained the main magnet for FDI flows, followed by Latin America, where re-invested earnings have played a major role. Africa's share in world FDI inflows was still small, but its FDI growth rate has nonetheless surpassed those of other developing regions. To access this report, visit <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=7431&intItemID=2068&lang=1&mode=highlights>.

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, BIODIVERSITY AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE. By Tejaswini Apte (2006). The aim of this book is to demystify the subject of intellectual property rights (IPRs) for a wide audience. The handbook introduces the world of IPRs, biodiversity and biodiversity-related traditional knowledge in clear, simple language. Presented in a Question & Answer format, it begins with the most basic questions and progresses to more complex issues, making it easily accessible to laypersons as well as those who are already familiar with the subject. The Jargon Buster section breaks through the complicated language commonly used in IPR-related writing, and is designed to be a handy reference. The publication is part of the Biodiversity Information Pack, produced by Kalpavriksh Environmental Action Group (Pune/Delhi, India), GRAIN (Delhi, India) and the International Institute of Environment and Development (London, UK). For further information and to order the book contact Swati Arjunwadkar, tel: (91 20) 25654239; e-mail: kvbooks@vsnl.net; internet: <http://www.kalpavriksh.org>.

AGRICULTURAL POLICIES IN OECD COUNTRIES: AT A GLANCE. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, July 2006. This book provides up-to-date estimates of support to agriculture. It outlines and evaluates agricultural support developments in OECD member countries and provides a summary of agricultural policy developments in Brazil, China and South Africa. To access this document, see http://www.oecd.org/document/4/0,2340,en_2649_33727_36967364_1_1_1_1,00.html.

OECD-FAO AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK 2006-2015. June 2006. This is the second occasion that the Agricultural Outlook has been prepared jointly by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). This annual report analyses world commodity market trends and medium term prospects for the main agricultural products. It shows how these markets are influenced by economic developments and government policies and highlights some of the risks and uncertainties that may influence market outcomes. In addition to OECD countries, the market projections in the report cover a large number of other countries and regions including the agricultural giants of India, China, Brazil and Russia as well as Argentina, South Africa and several least developed countries. To access this document, visit http://www.oecd.org/document/62/0,2340,en_2649_33727_37032958_1_1_1_1,00.html.

"The Environmental Consequences of Trade: Evidence From Subnational Trade Flows" in the *JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT* 52 (1) 2006. By Pandej Chintrakarn and Daniel L. Millimet. The debate over the environmental consequences of free trade is not only quite heated, but also entails significant policy

ramifications. Recently, cross-sectional analysis at the country level has made use of exogenous determinants of trade to identify the causal effect of trade on the environment, finding moderate evidence of a beneficial impact of expanded trade on environmental quality. Given the stakes involved, the authors revisit this finding using subnational data on trade flows across US states and several measures of pollution. Not only does the analysis shed further light on the debate at the international level, but also addresses a heretofore unexamined question: does greater inter-regional commerce at the subnational level harm the environment? The findings provide further evidence against a negative environmental impact of trade for the majority of measures analysed.

"Managing the Environment for Development and to Sustain Pro-Poor Growth" in the *IDS BULLETIN* 37(3) 2006. By Stephen Bass and Paul Steele. Environmental resources have made a substantial contribution to economic growth and poverty reduction in Asia. Natural assets, such as fertile soils, rivers and forests, are often critical for the livelihoods of poor people. This article shows how resource-intensive development in Asia has been achieved at significant environmental cost. Environmental problems such as deforestation, pressure on water supplies, and pollution from industry place real limits on further economic growth and increase the region's already high vulnerability to natural disasters. The challenge for governments and policy makers is to use natural wealth to generate growth and enable poor people to benefit from this growth, while at the same time sustaining its capacity to produce these benefits in the future. The article argues that progress can be advanced through international partnerships which build on existing initiatives in a number of areas including climate change, sustainable forestry and fishing, disaster preparedness and pro-poor conservation.

"No-Take Marine Reserves and Reef Fisheries Management in the Philippines: A New People Power Revolution" in *AMBIO* 35(5) 2006. By Angel Alcala and Gerry R. Russ. The Sumilon and Apo islands have produced some of the best evidence available that no-take reserves, protected and managed by local communities, can play a key role in biodiversity conservation and fisheries management. Perhaps more importantly, they served as models for an extraordinary expansion of no-take reserves nationally in the Philippines in the past two decades. This expansion contributed substantially to a major shift in national policy of management of marine resources.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

GLOBAL CONSULTATION ON THE BIOTRADE STANDARD. The BioTrade Initiative is in the process of assisting the Ethical Certification and Labelling Authentication Project Secretariat in the global consultation on the "BioTrade verification framework for Natural Ingredients", the standard that will guide all

companies in this sector working towards compliance with the BioTrade Principles and Criteria. On behalf of the Union for Ethical BioTrade, The BioTrade Initiative would like to extend an invitation to those involved in biotrade activities to register and offer inputs into this document. It is very important that as many biotrade actors as possible participate in this process. This will help to shape the present document, as well as give

international legitimacy to the BioTrade Standard. The consultation period for the first draft will be open until 29 October 2006. For further information on how to participate, see <http://www.biotrade.org/Union/Consultation.htm>.

BRIDGES Trade BioRes© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), <http://www.ictsd.org>, in collaboration with IUCN - World Conservation Union, <http://www.iucn.org>. This edition of *BRIDGES Trade BioRes* was edited by Malena Sell, msell@ictsd.ch. The Managing Editor is Heike Baumüller, hbaumuller@ictsd.ch. Contributors to this issue were Heike Baumüller, Marie Chamay, Gueye Kamal and Caitlin Patrick.. The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, rmelendez@ictsd.ch. ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 7, ch. de Balexert, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (41-22) 917-8492; fax: 917-8093. Excerpts from *BRIDGES Trade BioRes* may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editors or the Director. ISSN 1682-0843

To subscribe to *BRIDGES Trade BioRes*, please send an email tobiores@ictsd.ch.