



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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Climate & Atmosphere

MANDELSON CALLS FOR WORK ON CLIMATE, TRADE LINKS

Speaking in Beijing, China on 10 November, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson called for analytical work on trade policy and climate change. Noting that economic growth and trade can act as drivers of climate change, he said they can - and should - also be part of the solution to global warming.

Mandelson's trip to China took place as delegates at a global meeting on climate change gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss future commitments under the climate regime. They also discussed funding for adaptation activities in developing countries (see *Bridges Trade BioRes*, 3 November 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-11-03/story1.htm>). This meeting is set to close on 17 November.

Mandelson at his "first ever" discussion on trade and climate

Speaking at a seminar on trade and climate change at the China Institute for International Studies, Mandelson stressed the need for China to balance continued economic growth with environmental concerns. While acknowledging the need for industrialised countries to take the lead in combating climate change, he said rapidly growing developing countries like China will also be central to any solutions.

On trade and climate change, he posed key questions, including: "Are the rules of WTO up to date? Do we need to change them, for example by allowing lower tariffs for products produced in a climate friendly way. Or on products which are very energy efficient? Are our regimes for agricultural subsidies in tune with the potential role that alternative biofuels can play in reducing emissions and absorbing green house gases?"

Mandelson went on to announce that a new Chinese-European task force on sustainable trade would be set up to deal with these issues.

De Villepin calls for carbon tax on goods from polluters

Also during the Nairobi meeting on climate change, French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin made a controversial proposal on placing a carbon tax on imports from countries that do not sign onto emissions reduction targets during the post-Kyoto commitment period after 2012. Speaking at a separate meeting on sustainable development, he said "We have decided to reinforce the principle that the polluter pays." Mr. de Villepin added that he would work out further details for this proposal over the coming months and present it at the European level. Mr. de Villepin added that he

would work out further details for this proposal over the coming months and present it at the European level. Members of the European Parliament have previously issued similar calls for border-tax adjustments (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 18 March 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-03-18/inbrief.htm#3>).

De Villepin's ideas were rejected by major countries that could be the targets of such taxes, including the US and Canada.

The two-week meeting of the twelfth conference of the parties (COP-12) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the second meeting of the parties (MOP-2) to its Kyoto Protocol has attracted close to 6000 people. In addition to the negotiations themselves, participants attended numerous side events showcasing ongoing work and ideas for combating climate change from around the world.

The next issue of Bridges Trade BioRes will provide reporting and analysis on the UN Climate Change Conference in Nairobi.

For a full report of the COP-12 and MOP-2, including daily updates, see IISD Linkages at <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop12/>

ICTSD reporting; "Democrats to Bush: Greenhouse Gas Limits Needed," REUTERS, 16 November 2006; "Technical gains but no political breakthrough at climate talks," AFP, 14 November 2006; "Call for post-Kyoto climate deal," BBC, 14 November 2006; "Kenya: Delegates Differ Over Review of Kyoto Protocol," EAST AFRICAN STANDARD, 13 November 2006; "Climate change: Talks on post-2012 Kyoto format hit political snag," AFP, 16 November 2006; "French PM wants to hit Canada with carbon tax," GLOBE AND MAIL, 15 November 2005; "French PM calls for European carbon levy," FINANCIAL TIMES, 13 November 2006;

OZONE MEETING CONSIDERS ILLEGAL TRADE, CLIMATE CHANGE LINKAGES

Effective monitoring of trade in ozone-depleting substances (ODS) featured among the many issues on the agenda at the latest meeting on the protection of the Earth's ozone layer. Illegal trade in chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) is a problem threatening the integrity of the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Convening in New Delhi, India, from 30 October to 3 November, the eighteenth Meeting of the Parties (MOP-18) to the Montreal Protocol also considered issues such as essential use and other exceptions to the ban on certain ozone-depleting substances, linkages with climate change, as well as

future issues for the global ozone regime, with the twentieth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol coming up next year.

Study proposes tightened controls on ODS trade

At the Delhi meeting, participants considered a feasibility study on developing a system for monitoring the transboundary movement of ozone depleting substances in order to stem illegal trade. Illegal trade has been growing since the early 1990s, and is estimated to be worth up to 20 percent of the volume of legal trade.

Based on lessons from other international schemes to combat illegal trade, the study highlighted possible import and export licensing systems (national or international), information exchange systems, labelling and marking regulations as well as customs codes as ways to monitor international trade in ODS.

In terms of options for the ozone regime, the study proposed: immediate actions, including full implementation of reporting requirements and new systems for cross-checking import and export data; mid-term options, including customs investigations of illegal trade hotspots and supply chains, and sharing of industry trade data with the secretariat or other responsible bodies (while protecting commercially sensitive information); and long-term options, including the creation of a new centralised trade data collection and analysis system, and the adoption of a formal prior informed consent (PIC) system.

The participants showcased their own experiences with monitoring, and adopted a decision that calls for parties to share information on their use of international trade databases and to fully implement the rules of the Protocol on controlling trade in ODS.

Links to the climate regime

MOP-18 took place against the backdrop of new information indicating that the recovery of the depleted atmospheric ozone layer will probably take longer than previously expected. According to the "Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2006," released earlier this year, (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 8 September 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-09-08/inbrief.htm#4>), the ozone layer over Antarctica will not be fully restored until between 2060 and

2075 - as much as 10 to 25 years later than earlier research had suggested. In part, this is due to increased production of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC)-22, a CFC substitute used for air conditioning and refrigeration systems that still causes some ozone depletion.

While developed country parties have phased out CFCs and other key ozone-depleting substances and developing country parties will do so by 2010, HCFCs are allowed for use until 2030 and 2040 in developed and developing countries respectively.

In addition to HCFC-22, refrigerant plants currently produce HFC-23, a strong greenhouse gas. This production becomes more climate-friendly if the HFC-23 is destroyed rather than let into the atmosphere. Developed countries financially support this destruction process through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). However, this has the effect of indirectly supporting the ongoing production of HCFCs as well, with major projects ongoing in China. These perverse incentives for the continued production of HCFCs in developing countries were raised as a concern for the ozone layer (as well as the climate; HCFCs are powerful greenhouse gases as well).

In the final decision on this topic at MOP-18, parties highlighted the specific problem of HCFCs, and called for more information on the influence of the CDM on HCFC-22 production, and on the availability of alternatives.

Multi-year methyl bromide exemptions?

Among issues left for future meetings was whether to approve multi-year exemptions to the ban on methyl bromide in developed countries, as proposed by the US (developing countries have yet to phase out this substance). Exemptions have previously been granted on an annual basis, as was the case at COP-18.

Methyl bromide exemptions have generated significant acrimony at ozone meetings, even leading governments to call two Extraordinary MOPs after failing to reach agreement on the issue at regular MOP meetings (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 3 December 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-12-03/inbrief.htm#2>). Methyl bromide is a fumigant that kills soil and food pests, and developed countries have cited "critical use" needs in order to continue using set quantities of the product.

Future work

Already prior to MOP-18, Canada had proposed work on a review process on the future of the Montreal Protocol and its institutions. Participants agreed at the meeting to hold a dialogue on "key future challenges to be faced by the Montreal Protocol," which would cover the following ground: "key achievements of the Protocol; scientific assessment, analysis and monitoring of the ozone layer; phasing out HCFCs; management, control and/or phase-out of ODS other than HCFCs; compliance, enforcement and illegal trade beyond 2010; cooperation and coordination with other MEAs and processes; and future of the Multilateral Fund beyond 2010."

MOP-19, which will coincide with the twentieth anniversary of the Protocol, will take place in Montreal, Canada, next year.

For a full report of MOP-18, see IISD Linkages at <http://www.iisd.ca/ozone/mop18/>

ICTSD reporting; "Earth Negotiations Bulletin Vol. 19 No. 54," 6 November 2006; "Chemicals Trapped Between Treaties Undermine Progress on Climate," EIA RELEASE, 11 November 2006; "Kyoto Deal on HFC Funding Delayed to 2007 - UN," REUTERS, 15 November 2006.

Forests

INTERNATIONAL TIMBER ORGANISATION CITES FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

The forty-first session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC-41) was held from 6-11 November in Yokohama, Japan. Issues discussed included the transition to a new treaty to govern trade in tropical timber and the current financing challenges. Participants also discussed linkages with work to combat climate change.

While deforestation remains a real threat to tropical forests, a new study shows that forest cover is expanding in countries with higher GDP.

Urgent funding needs

Opening the meeting, Manoel Sobral Filho, Executive Director of ITTO, said that insufficient funding was the single biggest obstacle to achieving the organisation's objectives. Project funding supports a substantial share of the work of the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), the ITTO's signature legal instrument regulating trade in sustainably harvested timber. However,

voluntary contributions by donor countries for ITTO project work have been falling steadily since the early 1990s. In order to reverse the decline, both the European Commission and the Netherlands announced new contributions to projects.

Project proposals must be submitted by member governments, but can be implemented by any government or non-government organisation. Many ITTO projects are aimed directly at helping to achieve ITTO Objective 2000, which refers to members' commitment to move as rapidly as possible towards ensuring that tropical timber exports are sourced from sustainably managed forests. Examples of projects considered at the ITTC-41 include some focusing on: promoting and creating market demand for certified tropical wood and verified legal tropical wood in Japan; sustainable management and utilisation of tropical bamboo in China; and enhancement of the timber marketing information system in Papua New Guinea.

Entry into force of ITTA, 2006

Members talked about preparations for entry into force of the 2006 ITTA which was finalised in January, following intensive negotiations under the auspices of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 3 February 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-02-03/story3.htm>). The new commodities agreement, which is the successor pact to the 1994 ITTA, aims to promote the expansion and diversification of international trade in legally harvested tropical timber from sustainably managed forests, as well as to encourage the sustainable management of such forests.

A document circulated by the ITTO Secretariat during the meeting identified actions that member countries, the Council and the Secretariat itself would have to do to ensure a successful transition from the old agreement to the new one.

Member countries, for example, need to sign, ratify, accept and approve the new agreement. The Council is to propose a plan for the functioning and scope of the various operational committees under the treaty. The ITTO's governing body will also need to establish a schedule and procedure for submitting, appraising, approving and prioritising projects seeking funding from the organisation, as well as for their implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The establishment of criteria for approving projects will have to take into account

"their relevance to the objectives of [ITTA, 2006] and to priority areas for work or thematic programmes, their environmental and social effects, their relationship to national forest programmes and strategies, their cost effectiveness, technical and regional needs, the need to avoid duplication of efforts, and the need to incorporate lessons learned," according to the document.

The actions to be taken by the Secretariat relate to rules of procedures, finance and projects.

China now the largest importer of tropical timber

The 2006 annual review of global timber trade shows that China is becoming the world's top importer of tropical timber. This increase in China's demand for raw materials is caused by the country's tremendous economic growth. According to environmental organisation WWF, China's demand for imported industrial wood (timber, paper and pulp) will grow by at least 33 percent within the next five years, from the current 94 million cubic meters to 125 million cubic meters.

No new CITES listings for tropical timber species

At the meeting, the Secretariat reported that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) did not propose new listings for tropical timber species, and had decided not to subject mahogany to either a review or an import ban. In July, the Plants Committee members of CITES specifically discussed how to protect bigleaf mahogany, one of the most valuable species in the international timber trade due to its hard wood (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 14 July 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-07-14/inbrief.htm#2>). The ITTO works to enhance cooperation among governments on CITES matters related to tropical timber and improve the capacity of members to implement CITES listings of timber species.

Climate change - a new area of work?

At the meeting, member countries discussed expanding the ITTO's work on climate change. The potential new area of work would focus on the implications of climate change and related policy developments for tropical forests, and the contribution of tropical forests to mitigating the effects of climate change.

Some delegations opposed the development of such activities, reportedly citing concerns that donor countries might decrease ITTO project funding because of their interest in preserving forests as carbon sinks (as an alternative to investing money in measures to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions at home). Other country members, however, said that developing a programme of work on climate change could attract increased funding, and cooperation in the area of climate change could allow countries to influence the climate change policy process in order to ensure that the interests of tropical timber producers were heard.

A new study on forest coverage

While ITTC-41 Chair Koichi Ito (Japan) opened the Council session by saying that global deforestation is continuing at a rate of 13 million hectares per year, a new study published in the US journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on 13 November reported that many of the world's forests are recovering, and some are more thickly forested now than they were nearly 200 years ago. Co-author Roger Sedji said that forest coverage increases with economic growth. The study found that almost every country with a per capita gross domestic product over US\$4,600 has moved to reforestation, by putting in place policies that protect forested land.

The next ITTC will be held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 7-12 May 2007.

Additional resources

For daily reporting, see IISD linkages (<http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/itto/ittc41/>)

For previous news coverage of ITTA and other forestry developments, visit <http://www.trade-environment.org/page/ictsd/news/forestwater.htm>

For relevant resources, visit http://www.trade-environment.org/page/theme/nat_res/forest.htm

For relevant links, visit <http://www.trade-environment.org/page/links/forests.htm>

ICTSD reporting: ENB Vol. 24 No. 76, 13 November 2006; "China's Timber Imports Surge in 2006", MONGABAY.COM, 21 May 2006; "World's Forests' are Making a Comeback - Study", REUTERS, 14 November 2006.

In Brief

WORLD ENERGY OUTLOOK CALLS FOR INCREASED INVESTMENT IN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

The World Energy Outlook 2006 - the flagship publication of the International Energy Agency (IEA) - was released to International Press in London on 7 November.

The Outlook presents two alternative scenarios for the state of world energy markets through 2030. A Reference Scenario predicts how energy markets are likely to evolve given current government energy policies, while an Alternative Policy Scenario explores the rosier energy future which is possible if governments implement all of the energy initiatives they are currently considering.

Under the Reference Scenario, the WEO predicts that China and India will lead a surge in global energy demand, which will increase by 53 percent by 2030. The Outlook also predicts that world oil demand will reach 116 million barrels/day over the next 25 years (up from 84mb/d in 2005). OECD countries and developing Asia will turn increasingly to oil and gas imports to keep up with their rising energy demands, which will be met primarily by a small number of major OPEC producers. Global carbon dioxide emissions will increase by 55 percent. All of these trends will exacerbate energy importers' vulnerability to potential supply disruption and price shocks, as well as negatively affecting global climate change, the report says.

If governments around the world implement the energy policies they are currently considering, however, the future looks considerably brighter. The Alternative Policy Scenario included in the Outlook predicts that over the next 25 years global energy demand can be decreased by 10 percent and global carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced by 16 percent. The Outlook suggests that these changes could be achieved by improved efficiency of energy use along with an increased use of nuclear and renewable power sources.

The Outlook calls for a major push in investment in new energy supplies, especially in developing countries, and identifies under-investment in this area as one of the biggest future risks.

Claude Mandil, Executive Director of the IEA, expressed optimism over the needed changes. "These policies are very cost-effective," Mr. Mandil explained at the WEO launch on 7 November. "There are additional upfront costs involved, but

they are quickly outweighed by savings in fuel and expenditures."

"Government Reactions to WEO," WEO PRESS ROOM, November 2006; "The World Energy Outlook 2006 Maps Out a Cleaner, Cleverer and More Competitive Energy Future," WEO PRESS RELEASE, 7 November 2006.

NORTHERN NATIONS BLOCK SOUTH PACIFIC FISH CONSERVATION

Northern hemisphere fishing nations have blocked efforts to regulate deep sea fishing and bottom trawling in the South Pacific.

At a recent meeting intended to establish a South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation in Hobart, Australia, the EU, Russia and South Korea halted a plan on bottom trawling protection, a proposal supported by Australia, New Zealand, Chile, the Pacific Island States and the US. The meeting aimed at developing a regional fisheries agreement to manage non-highly migratory fish stocks within set boundaries from the Indian Ocean to South America and from the Antarctic to an undecided northern boundary. The meeting also planned to set up interim measures to manage the effects of bottom trawling.

"I'm particularly disappointed that the European community refused to limit their current fishing effort in the region. This went against the precautionary, ecosystem-based approach that South Pacific and South American states were asking for," Jim Anderton, New Zealand Minister of Agriculture and Fishers said.

Out of concern for the sustainability of its own deep ocean mackerel stocks, the Chilean government said it is limiting its own national fishing effort. Mackerel stocks are of great economic significance to the coastal communities of Latin America.

The European Community wants the freedom to expand catch levels.

"These Northern Hemisphere countries have a poor track record of managing their own fisheries, and seem set on continuing this in South Pacific waters," said Anderton. "It is clear that some governments seem bent on delaying any decision to cap levels of fishing so that they have the opportunity to rapidly expand their fishery

exploitation, to the point that by the time we get any precautionary management measures in place, commercial fish stocks will have collapsed," added Alistair Graham from WWF International.

A third negotiating session on the proposed South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation will be held in Chile early next year.

"New Zealand condemns Europe over Pacific fishing," GERMAN PRESS AGENCY, 13 November 2006; "Northern Nations Block South Pacific Fish Conservation," ENS, 13 November 2006; "Europe refuses to negotiate South Pacific fishing cap," ABC, 11 November 2006.

CHINA PLEDGES COMMITMENT TO AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT, BUT IS IT ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY?

Political and business leaders from China and 48 of the 53 African countries attended a summit in Beijing on 4-5 November during which they vowed to greatly expand trade and investment flows, as well as other forms of bilateral cooperation. They adopted a declaration proclaiming the establishment of a "new type of strategic partnership" between China and Africa, calling for enhanced "South-South cooperation and North-South dialogue to promote balanced, coordinated and sustainable development of the global economy." The document urged rich countries to boost foreign aid spending, honour commitments to open markets and expand debt relief in order to help African countries reduce poverty, control desertification, and achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Many analysts say that China's primary motive in cultivating this partnership is to secure supplies of oil, iron ore, copper, and other natural resources for its booming economy. Currently one third of China's oil imports come from Africa. The summit also saw USD 1.9 billion in business deals struck between China and Africa primarily in the minerals, infrastructure and telecommunications sectors.

China has faced criticism that its commercial involvement and its loans have not been tied to human rights, governance, or environmental principles. World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz recently criticised China for not basing loans on the Equator Principles, a voluntary set of social and environmental standards followed by nearly 80 percent of the world's commercial banks. He said

that Chinese lenders risked repeating Western banks' history of making loans to support damaging behaviour by corrupt regimes.

Chinese officials reject these claims, insisting that they simply do not wish to impose values on their trading partners. In the action plan adopted at the summit, they further said that China will work to help African countries "turn their advantages in energy and resources into development strengths" while giving "high priority" to environmental protection and sustainable development in the continent.

For a full report, see BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, 8 November 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-11-08/story1.htm>.

To access the Action Plan, visit <http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/China-Africa/81869.htm>.

ICTSD reporting; "China to Double Aid to Africa," UN INTEGRATED REGIONAL INFORMATION NETWORKS, 4 November 2006; "President Hu: wide-ranging consensus reached during Beijing summit," XINHUA, 5 November 2006; "Win-Win' Deals at China-Africa Summit," INTER PRESS SERVICE, 6 November 2006; "Wolfowitz slams China banks on Africa lending," FINANCIAL TIMES, 24 October 2006; "China in Africa: Strictly Business," COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, 6 November 2006; "We have read Africa's future, and it is written in Chinese..." THE EAST AFRICAN, 6 November 2006.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON NEW BIOFUELS INITIATIVE IN SENEGAL

Brazil and India are supporting a new programme in Senegal to produce biofuels. Launched on 27 October, the programme aims to decrease Senegal's dependence on imported oil and to spearhead the production of an alternative, environmentally-friendly energy.

While Senegal will supply the land and labour, Brazil will provide scientific and technical knowledge and Indian entrepreneurs will contribute the necessary capital.

"Senegal has considerable advantages to develop the biofuels sector, because the country presents good climatic and geological conditions necessary for the increase in plants used as raw materials for ethanol or diethyl ether production," José Neiva Santos, head of the Brazilian delegation, said.

The programme is set on 50,000 hectares of land, which will be used to grow different crops, including castor oil plants, sunflowers and jatropha in Kolda and Tambacounda. The different crops, the methods to produce biofuels and costs will be compared and evaluated.

The extracted oil will be transformed into biofuels in Khelcom, 100 km from Dakar. Biofuels, such as bioethanol, biodiesel and biogas, are renewable fuels produced mainly from agricultural crops or organic matter. Global production is on the increase, although pros and cons are hotly debated (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 6 October 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-10-06/story2.htm>).

"Brazil and India join Senegal for biofuel production," SCIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK, 1 November 2006.

UN PANEL CALLS FOR REFORMS TO ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT POLICY

A high-level panel on UN reform has published a report saying that streamlining UN country operations on development, environment, and humanitarian assistance could save as much as a fifth of expenditures for more productive use.

Presented last week, the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel's report, "Delivering as One," recommends consolidating UN operations under the control of a single programme in each country, alongside the creation of new oversight groups. The panel plans to begin with five to-be-determined pilot countries, and expand to all nations by 2012.

Co-chaired by the prime ministers of Mozambique, Norway, and Pakistan along with Gordon Brown, the British finance minister, the panel's report acknowledges that the expansion of multilateral institutions and bureaucracies since the UN's founding 60 years ago has resulted in overlapping or contradictory mandates, and insufficient coordination in pursuing common goals. In unusually harsh language, it said "The UN's status as a central actor in the multilateral system is undermined by lack of focus on results, thereby failing... the poorest and most vulnerable. [Its] work on development and environment is often fragmented and weak. Inefficient and ineffective governance and unpredictable funding have

contributed to policy incoherence, duplication and operational ineffectiveness."

The report concluded that the two main groups responsible for supervising and coordinating action for sustainable development -- the Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) and the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) -- were falling short of their goals. Moreover, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), which should be the foremost body in developing countries, not only lacked the power to regulate other agencies but often competed with them.

The panel thus called for a new oversight body for UN operations, proposing a UN Sustainable Development Board elected from governments and answerable to Ecosoc.

It also urged a stronger focus on gender equality, recommending that the three existing UN women's groups be merged into a more powerful agency under a new under-secretary general.

WWF hailed the report as a "step in the right direction" towards placing environmental concerns "at the centre of development decision making."

Incoming UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said that implementing the report will be one of his top three priorities. His term begins in January 2007.

To access the report visit:
<http://www.un.org/events/panel/resources/pdfs/HLP-SWC-FinalReport.pdf>.

"Some way but not all way on UN reform," BBC NEWS, 11 November 2006; "Inefficient UN 'punching well below its weight,'" MAIL & GUARDIAN ONLINE, 10 November 2006; "UN seeks to unify efforts," UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, 10 November 2006. 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

17-18 November, Berlin, Germany: BERLIN CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE. This conference

is the sixth event in the series of annual European Conferences. Discussions will address the theme 'Resource Policies: Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Equity'. Scientists, practitioners, and politicians from more than 30 countries will be meeting for this two day event at the Freie Universitaet Berlin to discuss the most recent trends and future guidelines for resource policies. For further information, see <http://web.fu-berlin.de/ffu/akumwelt/bc2006>.

19-24 November, Geneva Switzerland: SECOND MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON BEST AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGIES AND BEST ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES (BAT/BEP). The meeting takes place under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. For more information, contact the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention; tel: +41 22 917 8191; fax: +41 22 797 3460; e-mail: ssc@pops.int; internet: http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/bat_bep/EGBATBEP2/announcement.htm.

20 November, Seoul, Korea: FAO/WHO REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR ASIA ON FOOD SAFETY RISK COMMUNICATION. The purpose of this workshop is to provide information on the food safety risk communication within the framework of risk analysis, including information on definitions, food safety risk communication in the development of Codex standards, and application of risk analysis principles and guidelines. International and local case studies will be used to demonstrate their application in a national and regional context. For further information contact Masami Takeuchi, email: Masami.Takeuchi@fao.org.

20 & 22 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - COLOMBIA. 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.

20-22 November, Groningen, the Netherlands: CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICY INTERACTIONS. This workshop, held during the second edition of Energy Convention Groningen, is intended to provide a synthesis of different approaches and methodologies of analysing interactions of energy and climate policy instruments. It will address research questions including how to combine different energy and climate policy instruments, define a proper design of combined policy instruments, and determine ex-ante the effects of combined policy instruments on

the energy market as well as integrating top down and bottom up approaches of analyzing policy interactions. Discussion will be among policymakers, academics, researchers, companies and other stakeholders. For further information, contact Vlasios Oikonomou; tel: +31 20 6625340; e-mail: v.oikonomou@rug.nl; internet: <http://www.energyconvention.nl>.

20-22 November, Bonn, Germany: **FOURTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE WATER CONVENTION**. This meeting will mark a milestone in the history of the Water Convention: the tenth anniversary of its entry into force. A poster session will be organised during the meeting to highlight success stories and lessons-learned from different aspects of the Convention's implementation. For more information, tel: +49 30 18 3050; fax: +49 30 18 305 2397; e-mail: Joachim.Misera@bmu.bund.de; internet: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/mop4/info.htm>.

21-23 November, Geneva, Switzerland: **SECOND MEETING OF THE DDT EXPERT GROUP**. This is the Second Meeting of the DDT Expert Group under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. For more information, contact the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention; tel: +41 22 917 8191; fax: +41 22 797 3460; e-mail: ssc@pops.int; internet: <http://www.pops.int>.

23-25 November, Wuppertal, Germany: **SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**. This meeting will officially launch SCORE! (Sustainable Consumption Research Exchanges), an EU-funded network project that supports the development of the UN's 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). The conference will also provide an opportunity for input of case studies on mobility, food, and housing for the next, practical phase of SCORE; and build a broad platform for presenting work of science and scientists that may be of direct relevance for the activities of the 10 Year Framework Task Forces. For more information, contact Arnold Tukker, Project Director; tel: +31 15 269 5450; fax: +31 15 276 3024; e-mail: arnold.tukker@tno.nl; internet: <http://www.score-network.org>.

27 November to 1 December, Nairobi, Kenya: **EIGHTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP-8) TO THE BASEL CONVENTION**. The eighth meeting of the

Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, COP-8, will be hosted by the Government of Kenya and will take place in the United Nations Office at Nairobi. The theme of the meeting will be, "Creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of electronic wastes." For more information, contact the Secretariat of the Basel Convention; tel: +41 22 917 8218; fax: +41 22 797 3454; e-mail: BaselCOP8@unep.ch; internet: <http://cop8.basel.int/>.

28 November, Geneva, Switzerland: **WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**. 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.

27 November to 1 December, Chiba, Japan: **SIXTH SESSION OF THE CODEX TASK FORCE ON FOODS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY**. This meeting will address: a proposed draft guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of foods derived from GM animals; a proposed draft annex to the guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of foods derived from GM plants, regarding plants modified for nutritional or health benefits; and a discussion paper on sanitary surveillance of foods derived from biotechnology after being placed on the market. For more information, contact the Codex Secretariat; tel: +39 06 5705 1; fax: +39 06 5705 4593; e-mail: codex@fao.org; internet: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/report/675/bt06_01e.pdf.

30 November, Geneva, Switzerland: **WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**. 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.

30 November to 1 December, Bangkok, Thailand: **INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WATER RESOURCES AND RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA**. This event will bring together international experts concerned with the development of dams for all purposes and renewable energy schemes in Asia. For more information, contact Margaret Bourke, Aqua-Media International; tel: +44 208 643 4727; fax: +44 208 643 8200; e-mail: mb@hydropower-dams.com; internet: <http://www.hydropower-dams.com>.

Other Upcoming Events

4-9 February, 2007, Khartoum, Sudan:
PRINCIPLES OF BIOSAFETY RESEARCH
FOR THE RELEASE OF GENETICALLY
ENGINEERED CROPS. This workshop is being
organised by Sudan's Ministry of Science and
Technology and the International Food Policy
Research Institute (IFPRI), in collaboration with the
International Center for Genetic Engineering and
Biotechnology (ICGEB). For more information, e-
mail: elgaali@hotmail.com or i.eujayl@cgiar.org.

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 Malena Sell at msell@ictsd.ch.

THE WTO GMO DISPUTE: IMPLICATIONS
FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE
NEED FOR AN APPEAL. By Alice Palmer,
November 2006. This report, written for
GeneWatch UK, the RSPB, Forum for
Biotechnology and Food Security and the GM
Freeze, is a legal analysis of the WTO Dispute
Panel's report deciding upon a case brought by the
USA, Canada and Argentina against Europe's
moratorium on GM crops. It notes that serious
errors have been made in the interpretation of trade
law. The report further challenges the decision that
only narrow technical and scientific matters were
relevant to the assessment of the risks of GM crops
and foods as one at odds with other WTO decisions
and international law. The report concludes that if
unchallenged, the Panel's errors could mean that the
precautionary principle will not be allowed to be
used in laws designed to protect the environment,
human health or other consumer concerns. To
access this report, internet:
[http://www.genewatch.org/uploads/f03c6d66a9b3
54535738483c1c3d49e4/WTO_Biotech_case_dcsu
mmmaryfinal_1.pdf](http://www.genewatch.org/uploads/f03c6d66a9b354535738483c1c3d49e4/WTO_Biotech_case_dcsu
mmmaryfinal_1.pdf).

WHO BENEFITS FROM GM CROPS? -
MONSANTO AND THE CORPORATE-
DRIVEN GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROP
REVOLUTION. By Friends of the Earth, 2006.
This report analyses the way in which GM crops
have been introduced into the environment
between 1996 and 2005. It describes how the rapid
penetration of GM crops in a limited number of
countries has largely been the result of the
aggressive strategies of the biotech industry,

particularly pushed by top GM crop leader
Monsanto, rather than the consequence of the
benefits derived from the use of this technology. To
access this report, visit
[http://www.foei.org/publications/pdfs/gmcrops20
06execsummary.pdf](http://www.foei.org/publications/pdfs/gmcrops2006execsummary.pdf).

"FAIR MILES"? THE CONCEPT OF "FOOD
MILES" THROUGH A SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT LENS. By James MacGregor
and Bill Vorley, October 2006. This IIED report on
the long-distance transport of food finds that this
commercial practice is associated with additional
emissions due to increased transportation coupled
with greater packaging, as well as negative impacts
on local rural communities, and a disconnection
between the public and local farming. Furthermore,
"food miles" encapsulates (and is at the vanguard
of) the climate change debate in the UK. To access
this report, visit
[http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdf/full/11064IIED.pd
f](http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdf/full/11064IIED.pdf).

SUPERMARKETS, INTERNATIONAL TRADE
AND FARMERS IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES: EVIDENCE FROM
MADAGASCAR. By B. Minten, L. Randrianarison,
and J.F.M Swinnen, 2006. Published by the Cornell
University Food and Nutrition Policy Program, this
report refutes the notion that global retail
companies (supermarkets) have an increasing
influence on developing countries, through foreign
investments and/or through the imposition of their
private standards and are negatively impacting
developing countries and poverty. The opposite is
proposed, based on an analysis of primary data
collected to measure the impact of supermarkets on
small contract farmers in Madagascar. Significant
effects on improved technology adoption, better
resource management and spillovers on the
productivity of the staple crop rice are also
discussed. To access this report, visit
<http://www.cfnpp.cornell.edu/images/wp191.pdf>.

ECOLABELS AND FISH TRADE: MARINE
STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CERTIFICATION
AND THE SA HAKE INDUSTRY. By Stefano
Ponte, Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa. This
case study of Marine Stewardship Council
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. 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 report, visit http://www.tralac.org/pdf/20060829_PonteMSCcertification.pdf.

FUELLING CONTROVERSY: CAN BIOFUELS SLOW THE SPEED OF CLIMATE CHANGE?
By Panos, October 2006. The challenges posed by climate change have given rise to an industry developing alternative forms of energy, such as biofuels produced from crops. This new media brief for journalists shows that the extent to which biofuels can actually play a beneficial role in replacing fossil fuels is hotly debated. To access the brief visit <http://www.panos.org.uk/PDF/reports/climatetoolkit1.pdf>.

BEYOND SCARCITY: POWER, POVERTY AND GLOBAL WATER CRISIS - UNDP HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2006.

UNDP, November 2006. This annual report documents the systematic violation of the right to water, identifies the underlying causes of the crisis and sets out an agenda for change. It investigates the underlying causes and consequences of a crisis that leaves 1.2 billion people without access to safe water and 2.6 billion without access to sanitation and examines the social and economic forces that are driving water shortages and marginalising the poor in agriculture. To access this report, visit <http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/pdfs/report/HDR06-complete.pdf>.

CALL FOR COMMODITY CASE STUDIES

TRADE KNOWLEDGE NETWORK CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR COUNTRY CASE STUDIES ON COMMODITY REVENUE MANAGEMENT. The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is conducting a study of the tools available to governments and producers in the developing world to manage their often volatile commodity revenues. For further information, contact Oli Brown, e-mail: obrown@iisd.ca.