



# Bridges Trade BioRes

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

**Issue: 25 May 2007**

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## Forests

### TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL TACKLES ILLEGAL LOGGING, TRADE IN THREATENED SPECIES

Illegal logging and trade in threatened timber species featured prominently at a major international forest policy meeting in Papua New Guinea. With an eye to improving the conservation and management of the world's forests, delegates discussed ways to combat illegal timber practices and control trade in tree species that face potential extinction.

The 42nd session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC-42), the governing body of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), was held from 7-12 May in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG). Delegates discussed, among other, forest law enforcement and governance; recent and expected developments under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); and the possibility for collaboration with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The meeting brought together delegates from the ITTO's sixty member countries, as well as forestry experts and representatives from civil society and the timber industry. It culminated with the election of Emmanuel Ze Maka of Cameroon as the organisation's new Executive Director.

#### Forest law enforcement: spotlight on PNG

Giving special attention to the meeting's host country, delegates heard a report from a 2006 multi-stakeholder workshop that examined the status of forest law enforcement and governance in PNG, a densely forested nation that derives 8.6 percent of its GDP from the forestry sector.

One of the ITTO's central aims is to help timber-producing countries combat illegal logging by strengthening their capacity to develop and enforce forest legislation that promotes sustainable forest management. While the organisation has made progress toward this goal since it was originally laid out in 1990, the secretariat has conceded that much work remains to be done.

PNG has come under fire recently from several environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which claim that the country has failed to crack down on illegal logging within its borders.

Greenpeace, one of the most outspoken critics, has launched an international campaign to boycott timber from PNG, while organisations such as the Environmental Investigation Agency and Forest Trends have released damaging reports linking illegally harvested timber from PNG to leading retailers in the US and EU. Recent news stories allege that Chinese factories -- the primary destination for PNG log exports -- mass produce furniture, floorboards, and other finished products made from illegally harvested timber (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 27 April 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-04-27/story2.htm>).

PNG's timber export sales are beginning to suffer from such public criticism; markets in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the EU have been particularly affected. As a direct result of the Greenpeace campaign, the Timber Trade Federation, the UK's primary timber industry group, has advised its members against purchasing timber sourced from PNG.

In response to such negative publicity, the PNG government, using ITTO funds, held the multi-stakeholder workshop to determine the extent of illegal logging in PNG, identify the causes of such practices, and formulate recommendations on how the country should proceed.

As outlined in a summary report released at ITTC-42, workshop participants recommended that the PNG government clarify its definition of "illegal logging," increase funding for enforcement programmes, and impose tougher penalties on offenders. They further recommended that PNG launch a public awareness campaign and develop a PNG-specific chain-of-custody certification programme -- a type of tracking system that would follow a wood product through every step of the production process, from the forest floor all the way to the store shelf. The workshop also considered what roles the ITTO, NGOs, the PNG government and local landowners should play in the fight against illegal logging. Recommendations included enhancing regional networking and exchange of information; increasing NGO involvement in auditing processes; and providing training for all stakeholders on how to monitor illegal logging activities.

Though the workshop focused on the particular experiences of PNG, its findings highlighted measures that many timber-producing countries could implement to combat illegal logging.

## Call for increased collaboration with CITES

Continuing a theme from previous sessions, delegates considered the ITTO's growing collaboration with CITES on the regulation of trade in tropical timber products.

The two organisations have already made progress on this front: the ITTO and CITES recently launched a joint four-year project designed to help nations more effectively implement and enforce laws and regulations related to trade in CITES-listed timber species. The bulk of the funding for the project comes from a EUR3 million grant from the European Commission.

Acting independently, the ITTO recently held a workshop on mahogany and ramin in order to bring together those affected by CITES trade regulations of the two threatened timber species. Over 50 people participated in the workshop, including forestry experts, customs officials, and representatives from timber trade organisations, regulating agencies, civil society and international organisations.

Such projects come at a time when CITES is becoming increasingly involved in the regulation of the tropical timber trade.

Indeed, the upcoming 14th Conference of the Parties (COP-14) to CITES, scheduled to take place in the Netherlands in early June, will place a special focus on timber. Among other forest-related business, delegates will consider proposals for listing five new timber species in CITES' Appendix II, brazilwood (*Caesalpinia echinata*), Honduras rosewood (*Dalbergia stevensonii*), Spanish cedar (*Cedrela* spp), and two varieties of cocobolo (*Dalbergia retusa* and *Dalbergia granadillo*). Such a designation would indicate that, while the species are not necessarily currently threatened with extinction, they may become so unless their trade is tightly controlled.

Other COP-14 agenda items include a review of Peru's mahogany trade, a report from an ITTO-sponsored conference on mahogany trade policy, a proposal to develop a timber identification scheme, as well as a proposal to increase collaboration between CITES and the ITTO. Delegates will adopt a new, five-year strategic plan, which is likely to have a strong focus on international timber trade.

In what would be a symbolic step, convention delegates will also consider the possibility of

formalising collaboration between CITES and the ITTO through the adoption of either a COP resolution or an official memorandum of understanding.

### **Fighting deforestation to help the climate**

In a presentation to the full assembly of delegates, Carmenza Robleda of Switzerland outlined recent developments in discussions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD).

Robleda noted that deforestation accounts for approximately 20 percent of world greenhouse gas emissions and stressed that forests can play a critical role in climate change mitigation.

Robleda emphasised that, by working with the UNFCCC, the ITTO could help make sustainable forest management (SFM) an integral component of REDD policy. She also noted that the UNFCCC might be able to provide additional funds for the ITTO's SFM projects.

UNFCCC discussions concerning the integration of forest policy and climate change have been ongoing since the Montreal climate meeting in December 2005, when the convention included the development of a mechanism to compensate developing countries for reducing deforestation within their borders on the agenda (see related story, this issue.)

The next ITTC is scheduled for 5-10 November 2007 in Yokohama, Japan.

### **Additional resources**

For the report of the workshop on forest governance in PNG, see [http://www.itto.or.jp/live/Live\\_Server/3227/E-C42-6.doc](http://www.itto.or.jp/live/Live_Server/3227/E-C42-6.doc)

For daily reporting from the meeting, see IISD linkages <http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/itto/itc42/>

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

"Timber group joins debate on carbon credits to protect forests," THE CANBERRA TIMES, 14 May 2007; "Summary of the forty-second session of

the International Tropical Timber Council," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN, 14 May 2007; "ITTO releases 20 year report," ITTO NEWS RELEASE, 7 May 2007; "US\$5.3 million in new funds for tropical forests," ITTO NEWS RELEASE, 12 May 2007; "Slowing deforestation key to climate fight - experts," REUTERS, 15 May 2007; "CITES branches out," FOREST UPDATE, 2007 No. 1; "Climate Change Convention Parties discuss approaches to reduce emissions from deforestation in developing countries," IN FOCUS (UNFCCC), March 2007; "Corruption stains timber trade," THE WASHINGTON POST, 1 April 2007. The report finds that the patterns of regional climate warming and environmental changes are consistent with predictions of earlier climate models.

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### **Climate Change & Sustainable Energy**

#### **MULTILATERAL TALKS AT A CROSSROADS IN 2007?**

The head of the WTO, Pascal Lamy, has drawn parallels between the arduous negotiations on trade and those on climate change, stressing the importance of finding multilateral solutions. According to Lamy, "If there were to be a failure [of the Doha Round trade negotiations], it would be a serious blow to the multilateral...system and in coming years we will need that system more. I don't think it will be possible to deal on climate change issues, which are 10 times more complicated, if it is not through multilateral negotiation."

Speaking at a trade seminar in Paris, Lamy's comments came at a time of intense negotiations on climate change, gearing up for a key meeting in Bali in December. WTO negotiators are also seeking to clinch a global trade deal by the end of the year (see Bridges Weekly, 23 May 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-05-23/story1.htm>), although that deadline has been moved forward several times already.

#### **CSD closes without agreement**

The fifteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15) met in New York from 30 April to 11 May, without reaching agreement on a final document. The failure to come to a consensus, unprecedented in the history of the CSD, left many negotiators feeling gloomy, as those pushing for action on renewable energy and climate change met resistance from both developed

countries like the US and developing countries, namely the G-77 and China.

Dealing with the topics of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change, the CSD saw deep ruptures between participants. Most contentious was the issue of energy. Delegates failed to reach consensus on whether the international community needs to commit itself to specific targets in its effort to expand access to energy; delegates further disagreed over the role that different sources of energy -- including renewable energy -- were to play in that process.

The EU, together with Switzerland, decided to reject a last-minute 'take it or leave it' outcome document prepared by the chair, which would have identified policy decisions on practical measures and options with regard to implementing commitments made in these areas.

Following the meeting, an EU spokesperson commented that sustainable development "needs an integrated approach and the CSD is the right body to take this forward. It is regrettable that the CSD 15 did not succeed in playing that role." Because no decision was adopted, a chair's summary will provide the final outcome of the conference. Several delegations noted, however, that the success of the CSD should not be judged solely on the basis of whether a decision was adopted, since such an assessment would fail to consider the importance of the process itself and the development of various partnerships that lead to concrete actions on the ground, for which the CSD remains a valuable forum.

### **Climate change process inches forward**

The next steps in the official forum dedicated to climate change negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place from 7-18 May in Bonn, Germany. The low-key meetings focused on clearing technical hurdles and continued two dialogues on the future of the climate regime -- one focusing on the overall picture, and another concentrating specifically on the future of the Kyoto Protocol, which will need a follow-up instrument after 2012.

The meetings of the so called 'subsidiary bodies' under the UNFCCC, which deal with technical, scientific and implementation issues, also worked on, among other things, adaptation and technology

transfer and on the question of whether countries not required by the Kyoto Protocol to make emission reductions could take on 'voluntary commitments.' They also considered mitigating climate change through efforts to stem deforestation in developing countries.

Countries now bound to cut their carbon emissions under the Kyoto Protocol (Annex I countries) viewed progress to shape a future regime as a matter of urgency in order to prevent a vacuum after the first commitment period runs out in 2012. "There is a general awareness that we must 'mind the gap'," said Leon Charles, who heads talks on the way forward under the Kyoto Protocol. Businesses involved in carbon trading need certainty with regard to their future markets. The Kyoto countries generally agreed on the need to make cuts deeper than their current collective five percent as compared to 1990 emissions -- although this was not the time to agree on any of the specifics. According to Charles, "emissions will have to peak within 10 to 15 years and be reduced by upwards of 40 percent." Participants are hoping to merge these Kyoto talks with the broader talks on the future climate regime in Bali in December.

Overall, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer said "I get very encouraging signals of the desire of countries to move things forward." He stressed that "We really need to move quickly, and my sense is that that sense of urgency is increasingly shared by governments."

### **Prospects for Heiligendamm, prospects for Bali**

Preparations for the G-8 meeting of industrialised countries coming up in Germany are already well underway, with diplomats from the participating countries wrangling over the final statement to be released at the meeting. Reportedly, the German push for strong language on setting targets and timetables for tackling climate change, as well as strengthening carbon markets and making significant progress at the next UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Bali is meeting with strong resistance from the US. Canada and Japan are also rumoured to be seeking to water down the language. In fact, German Chancellor Angela Merkel recently commented that "It is important that the G8 develops a common understanding [of] how climate change can be tackled and what agreements can be made for the period beyond 2012. I don't know if we will succeed in that at Heiligendamm." The G-8 meeting, which also

involves the large emerging economies, will take place from 6-8 June.

Following the meeting in Heiligendamm, a number of other high-level talks are on the agenda. The dialogue process focusing on the future of the climate regime, as well as on follow-up to the Kyoto Protocol, will continue in Vienna in August.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is also making a major push to facilitate progress in the area of climate change, and has called a special meeting on the sidelines of the General Assembly on 24 September on the topic. He recently named three high-level Special Envoys on climate change: Norway's Gro Harlem Brundtland, Ricardo Lagos from Chile and Korea's Han Seung-soo. They are set to make the rounds in capitals and to use their personal persuasive power to forge consensus on a move forward, as well as to draft a possible compromise text. Gro Harlem Brundtland commented that "No one should doubt that the fight against climate change and the fight against poverty are the greatest challenges we face. It is our historic task to bring about the process of change that is needed." Brundtland headed the UN World Commission on Environment and Development in the 1980s.

### New study shows rapid CO2 growth

Meanwhile, a new study shows that the growth of global industrial carbon dioxide emissions have tripled since the year 2000 as compared to growth in the 1990s (3.1 percent growth annually as compared to 1.1 percent in the 1990s). Most of this growth comes from the rapidly industrialising developing countries, and the overall rate of improvement in energy efficiency has slacked off. "A major driver of the accelerating growth rate in emissions is that, globally, we're burning more carbon per dollar of wealth created," said Mike Raupach, lead author of the study. Prepared by a group of international climate scientists, the report incorporates the most recent data and places emissions growth at levels higher than those predicted in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) worst-case scenario. It was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and produced by Australia's premier scientific body, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

With global public awareness of climate change at an all-time high -- not least following the release of three major IPCC reports (see Bridges Trade

BioRes, 11 May 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-05-11/story5.htm>) -- and mounting evidence of the urgency to address climate change, the upcoming months will be key to finding a solution.

### Additional information

For daily reporting from CSD, see IISD linkages <http://www.iisd.ca/csd/csd15/>

For daily reporting from the Bonn climate meetings, see IISD linkages <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb26/>

ICTSD reporting; "Carbon-Dioxide Output Outstrips Expectations," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 21 May 2007; "Targets Still Out, Bali Back in G8 Climate Draft," REUTERS, 25 May 2007; "Kyoto Nations Seek Deeper Greenhouse Gas Cuts," REUTERS, 21 May 2007; "UN treaty official sees 'very encouraging signals' on climate change," UN NEWS CENTRE, 24 May 2007; "EU critical of UN progress on sustainable development," EURACTIV, 14 May 2007.

### Standards

#### CODEX: WORK ON LABELLING OF BIOTECH FOOD TO CONTINUE

Delegates at the 35th session of Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) held from 30 April to 4 May in Ottawa, Canada, agreed to establish a working group to continue work on Draft Guidelines for the labelling of biotech food and food ingredients. Discussions were based on a report prepared by a working group reviewing countries' experiences with mandatory and voluntary biotech labelling to help provide guidance for the development of the Draft Guidelines. Although major biotech producers continued to argue that negotiations should be discontinued -- partially owing to their concern over the issue of mandatory labelling in any potential WTO dispute - many countries continued to support the development of standards to provide guidance to governments in establishing regulations in this area. In their final decisions, delegates agreed to hold a working group meeting in January 2008 to examine the rationale for adopting, or not adopting, a particular labelling approach, and on the strategies used in communicating information on biotech food and food ingredients to the public.



## Different labelling approaches

At the last CCFL meeting in May 2006 (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 19 May 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-05-19/story3.htm>), delegates agreed to hold a working group meeting on the issue of the Draft Guidelines in Oslo, Norway in February 2007. Co-chaired by Argentina, Ghana and Norway, the working group identified seven approaches to the labelling of biotech foods in a report, and considered the rationale for members' application of each approach.

The first approach, adopted by the EU, requires the mandatory biotech labelling of all foods consisting of, containing, or produced from genetically modified organisms (GMOs). It includes highly processed goods and oils, and applies to both locally produced and imported foods. Issues of safety and nutrition, as well as consumers' right to make an informed choice, provide the main rationale behind this approach. It is the only approach that allows consumers to choose according to the method of production (i.e. between biotech and non-biotech foods).

The second approach, adopted by New Zealand and Australia, only requires labelling when biotech material is detected in the final food through analytical methods. The main rationale behind this approach is to allow consumers to purchase food based on its actual content, rather than the process by which it was produced. Therefore, highly processed foods and oils would no longer be labelled with regard to GMO content.

The US has adopted two approaches: regulations include a requirement of labelling to specify the significant difference in terms of composition, nutritional change and use of foods from its conventional counterparts, and GM products that are found to have undergone a change in composition, nutrition, toxicity or allergenicity. The former approach refers to the need to label nutritional changes or health hazards in foods. The latter approach does not inform about the method of production and does not require the words "genetically modified" on the label.

Another approach, adopted by Canada, involves voluntary labelling of foods that are, or are not, products of genetic modification. It gives the agri-food industry the flexibility to label products in response to potential market demand for biotech labelling information. The approach, adopted by Argentina, does not require special labelling for

bioengineered foods as a class of foods. Argentina argues that there is no evidence showing that bioengineered foods would present any different or greater safety concern than foods developed by traditional plant breeding.

Finally, the last approach covers members that currently have labelling requirements under development. These include most developing countries.

## "Friends of Mandatory Labelling" make their case

In the discussions at the CCFL meeting, several delegations recalled that foods derived through genetic modification have to undergo a pre-market safety assessment in order to protect consumers' health, and therefore argued that the request for mandatory biotech labelling was not a food safety issue, but an issue related to consumer information. Some delegations expressed the view that labelling also was related to food safety in view of potential risks to consumers' health. An observer from the 49th Parallel Biotechnology Consortium -- a multi-national NGO -- noted that a large proportion of biotech foods being sold have not been subject to any governmental safety assessments, and therefore labelling helped consumers make their own decisions about health and safety.

Many delegations, including the EU and African, Latin American and Asia countries such as Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Barbados, Brazil, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, supported further work on biotech food labelling in the CCFL, in view of its importance for consumers and in order to provide guidance to governments in establishing regulations in this area. Many delegations pointed out that it was especially important as many developing countries relied on Codex recommendations to develop their national policy or regulations. Some delegations recalled that the Committee had received a specific mandate from the Commission in this respect in 1991. Several delegations underlined that the consumer's right to know and to make informed choices was an essential element of biotech labelling. Some further pointed out that the work on biotech labelling was consistent with the mandate of Codex. Barbados, supported by Ireland, stated that Codex should not abdicate its responsibility to provide appropriate guidance on biotech labelling.

## Major biotech producers oppose mandatory labelling

Major biotech producers, including the US along with Canada, Australia and New Zealand, expressed the view that mandatory method of production labelling of GM foods was not justified on the grounds of food safety or fair trade practices, and that the consumer's right to know was not one of the objectives of Codex. These delegations pointed out that governments can request mandatory labelling in their national legislation if it fulfilled a legitimate objective, but that it should not be imposed on all countries at the international level. According to sources, problems in reaching consensus on mandatory labelling stem from producer country concerns over their implications in any potential WTO dispute. Countries such as the US expressed the view that they supported mandatory labelling of GM foods only to address a food safety or public health issue such as allergenicity, or where there was a substantial change in the composition or nutritional value of the food.

Civil society organisations Consumers Union (CU) and Consumers International (CI) stressed that by arguing against the consumer's right to know, producer countries argued against a fundamental and basic principle. In their view, the consumer's right to know is fundamental to Codex standards and to the promotion of fair practices in trade. The two consumer groups stressed that GM foods should be allowed to succeed or fail based on their merits in the marketplace.

The US, along with Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, the Philippines and New Zealand, argued that, due to members' fundamental differences over the labelling approaches, scant progress would be made in the near future. Therefore, they proposed to discontinue work. Several delegations had proposed that members develop overarching principles that would be consistent with all approaches to GM food. The US, however, felt there was no need to develop new guidelines, as current labelling texts contained a number of provisions that could be used by governments for the purpose of addressing the labelling of GM foods. The US did volunteer to prepare a background paper that would identify such provisions, especially in the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged foods and the General Guidelines on Claims. The text will contribute to the discussion by the next working group.

## Members agree to continue work

In their final decision, delegates agreed to establish a three-days working group to examine the rationale for adopting or not adopting a particular labelling approach, as well as the strategies to communicate information to the public on GM foods and food ingredients. The working group will also analyse whether current Codex labelling texts supply sufficient guidance on the labelling of foods derived from genetic modification. The report will be considered by Codex members in advance of the next session of the CCFL. The working group will meet in Ghana in January 2008.

The Committee agreed that the timeframe for the completion of Draft Guidelines for the labelling of biotech foods and food ingredients was four years.

## Background

While Codex standards are only voluntary, the Codex Alimentarius Commission is recognised by the SPS Agreement as the international organisation responsible for standard-setting related to food safety. WTO Members "shall base" their measures related to human and plant health on Codex's standards, guidelines or recommendations. Such measures "shall be deemed to be necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, and presumed to be consistent with the relevant provisions" of the SPS Agreement. The other two international standard-setting body recognised in the SPS Agreement are the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) for plant health and the Office International de Epizooties (OIE) for animal health.

## Additional information:

Report of the Thirty-Fifth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling available at <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/archives.jsp?lang=en>

Report of the CCFL Working Group on Labelling of Foods and Food Ingredients Obtained Through Certain Techniques of Genetic Modification/Genetic Engineering, [http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-05-25/report\\_working-group\\_CCFL\\_0207.pdf](http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-05-25/report_working-group_CCFL_0207.pdf)

ICTSD reporting.

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**Commentary**

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**THE GLOBAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE AGENDA -- STUCK IN PARALYSIS OR TIME TO RETHINK OLD DOGMAS?**

Currently hardly any issue is dividing the players in the international political arena more than climate and energy. Climate is the "make it or break it" issue for the G8 summit in June. The quest for energy resources is set to become -- or, in fact, may already be -- the primary driver of most international conflicts. The depth of these fissures became only too obvious at the UN Commission for Sustainable Development. When it ended its 15th session on 11 May, for the first time it did so without a result. The EU refused to sign onto a draft text issued by the Chair -- the Qatari energy minister -- that essentially tried to continue the fossil fuel agenda for many more decades.

The Climate Convention's Subsidiary Bodies meeting in Bonn (May 7-18) was a similar fruitless round of talks, though without a spectacular failure. It seems that the more alarming the IPCC reports become, the more slowly the negotiations move forward (if at all).

The energy and climate agenda defies most traditional political patterns of thinking, yet it is held hostage to the inability of most key players to adjust to this fact. The climate negotiations are held back by the powerful influence of a fossil fuel-addicted alliance of countries that, apart from that, may be outright hostile to each other. The US, Canada, Russia, Venezuela, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and a few others are all governed by political establishments dominated by oil interests. The G8 debate shows very clearly how the oil-addicted governments of the US and Russia hold the rest of the world hostage to these backward-minded policies. At the CSD, it became drastically obvious that the small group of OPEC countries holds the entire G77 group hostage to their petroleum-centred energy policy.

It is now time to rethink some of the mechanisms and dogmas at work in international energy and climate policies.

The first dogma that needs to be challenged is that progressive countries and groups like the EU or developing countries, which are pushing for a renewable energy agenda, need the rest of the world to go ahead. The EU already enjoys huge economic benefits from its advanced renewable energy

industry. Rather than wasting time in talkshops with OPEC and wasting money in Byzantine fossil bureaucracies like the World Bank, the EU should aggressively push for the massive expansion of renewables and energy efficiency, while building international coalitions around this agenda. If the EU withdrew its complete (large) share of World Bank money that goes into the expansion of fossil fuels and put it into its own big renewables and efficiency programmes, it would make all those countries that prefer to stick with oil imports look rather odd. It is a myth that you need multilateral consensus for most of the progressive energy proposals that are currently blocked in the UN. Most of them you can just go ahead and carry out.

The second dogma that needs to be challenged is that supporting a progressive energy agenda entails something like making a concession to EU greenies. The ideological perception that developing countries need to block any move that could be interpreted in the climate negotiations as an 'emissions reduction commitment' has poisoned the international energy talks. However, an ambitious renewable energy agenda in an oil-importing country is not a concession to the EU or a climate commitment. It is an economic programme that first of all benefits the local economy and it is certainly not a bad coincidence that it also benefits the climate. Only the largest and most prosperous developing countries such as India will be able to develop a thriving domestic renewables industry despite contradictory energy policies.

The third dogma that needs to be challenged is the role of governments. Last week, Brazil's energy minister had to resign because of massive corruption. The corruption potential of large-scale fossil fuel projects, power plants, dams, pipelines, etc. is vastly higher than that of policies for the decentralised expansion of wind, solar, and biomass. Governments like those in Nigeria, Angola, Gabon, and so on that control their people and wreck their nations' economies are possible when those in power have the ability to suck oil out of the ground, but not when energy comes from ten thousand windmills. A decentralised renewable energy agenda means power to the people in more ways than one.

Another dogma that is being discredited in energy talks is that a schism persists between the OECD and the G77. The fact that the G77 and China were unable to negotiate at all for most of the CSD talks because they spent so much time trying to sort out their internal differences underscores this as much as the fact that the industrial countries do not even



pretend to have a common energy agenda. But fossil fuel importers such as the EU, Singapore, the Philippines, and Kenya have a lot of common energy interests -- just as Venezuela, Iran, Russia, Canada, and Saudi Arabia have their common energy interests.

We need to put these issues in the table. In less than two years, the Bush administration will be gone. No matter who is the next US president, she or he will recognise that the US is now in the fossil fuel camp for purely ideological reasons, while the underlying economic facts should put it firmly in the opposing camp. Without their most powerful player, the fossil fuel-addicted countries will be seriously weakened. A new progressive energy coalition of industrial and developing countries can then shift the course significantly.

**By Jürgen Maier, Director, German NGO  
Forum Environment & Development**

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### **In Brief**

#### **A MARINE SCIENTISTS APPEAL TO WTO TO HALT OVERFISHING**

A group of international marine scientists have appealed to WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, asking him to push for a slashing of fisheries subsidies that they believe are the principle cause for declining fish stocks in the world's oceans. Signed by a group of 125 fisheries experts from 27 countries, the declaration was delivered to the WTO head on 24 May in Geneva.

The statement, which was sponsored by marine conservation professor Daniel Pauly of the University of British Columbia and marine biologist Boris Worm from Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, calls on Lamy to use his 'skill and leadership' to encourage a successful outcome to the fisheries subsidies negotiations. Under the Doha Round talks, the WTO is engaged in ongoing discussions on fisheries disciplines (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 11 May 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-05-11/story3.htm>). As part of these negotiations, proposals that call for sweeping prohibitions on fisheries subsidies have been introduced by the US and Brazil and backed by a strong coalition of support from member states, including New Zealand and Chile.

Supporters both within and outside of the WTO believe the recent proposals represent an historic

moment at which environmental concerns can be addressed through trade negotiations. "The WTO has a once in a lifetime chance to demonstrate that it can not only balance trade and the environment, but make one of the greatest contributions to protecting the world's oceans," said Andrew Sharpless, the CEO of the marine conservation group Oceana.

Not only is fish a heavily traded commodity, it also plays a vital role in sustaining the welfare and livelihoods of about one billion people worldwide, mainly in developing countries. Yet, scientists have reported that fish stocks are dramatically decreasing due to government-sponsored subsidies that provide incentives for overcapacity fishing. It is estimated that if overharvesting is not halted soon, the world's fish stocks face irrevocable collapse within 50 years.

Signatories to the letter addressed to Lamy assert that the WTO has the opportunity to reverse this cycle through implementing stronger fisheries disciplines globally. "The WTO needs to seize the opportunity presented by the fisheries subsidies negotiations to address global overfishing, because as the world's leading scientists have declared, if we wait it will be too late," said Sharpless.

Delegates to the WTO are to meet on 11 June to continue negotiations on fisheries subsidies under the Doha Round talks.

#### **Additional resources**

The letter to Lamy is available at [http://oceana.org/fileadmin/oceana/uploads/reports/Scientists\\_Letter\\_FINAL\\_5\\_24\\_07.pdf](http://oceana.org/fileadmin/oceana/uploads/reports/Scientists_Letter_FINAL_5_24_07.pdf)

ICTSD reporting; "Scientists urge WTO to act to slash fishing subsidies," REUTERS, 24 May 2007; "Leading Scientists Appeal to World Trade Organization to Stop Destructive Fishing Subsidies," OCEANA, 24 May 2007.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS STRENGTHENED UNDER WHITE HOUSE, DEMOCRAT TRADE DEAL**

The Bush administration and senior Democratic lawmakers announced an agreement on 10 May that imposes substantial new environmental standards on the US and its potential trading partners.

The pact, which followed six months of intense negotiations after Democrats took control of Congress, received the cautious support of several environmental groups, who said in a joint news release that the agreement on trade standards represented "important environmental progress."

The agreement has immediate implications for four pending trade deals, but those involved in the discussions say that the agreement is meant to serve as a template for all future US free trade agreements (FTAs). The pact may also affect US negotiating capacity in the ongoing Doha round of trade talks (see Bridges Weekly, 16 May 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-05-16/story2.htm>).

According to the newly negotiated guidelines, the US and its trade partners will be required to enforce seven multilateral environmental agreements regarding endangered species, wetlands, ocean resources, marine mammals, and the atmosphere. The pact further stipulates that, should a specific environmental obligation conflict with a country's obligations under a separate trade pact, the country cannot use the trade agreement as an excuse for shirking its environmental duties.

The pact requires that dispute settlement procedures for environmental obligations be identical to those regarding any other FTA obligation.

Moreover, a specific provision pertaining to the Peru FTA requires the country to crack down on illegal logging by strengthening forest sector laws, improving compliance with laws regulating trade in endangered species, and cooperating more fully with US customs authorities.

The agreement reflects several key aspects of the Democrats' "New Trade Policy for America," a call for strengthening trade-related environment and labour standards that received the support of several environmental NGOs when it was unveiled in March (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 13 April 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-04-13/inbrief.htm#1>).

Democratic leader and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the deal ensures that FTAs will directly incorporate environmental protection, without requiring additional side agreements. "Protecting our planet is a core Democratic value that must be reflected in the core of our free trade agreements," she said.

"White House trades on Democrats' terms," THE FINANCIAL TIMES, 13 May 2007; "S Korea official warns FTA with US could collapse," AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 16 May 2007; "Path Is Cleared For Trade Deals: Agreement Makes Labor Rights Part Of U.S. Policy," THE WASHINGTON POST, 11 May 2007; "Bush and Democrats in accord on trade deals," THE NEW YORK TIMES, 11 May 2007; "'Historic breakthrough' on trade deals for White House, Dems," GREENWIRE, 11 May 2007; "Labor, drugmakers not sold on new trade accord rules," BLOOMBERG, 11 May 2007; "Statement by Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, Friends of the Earth, Sierra Club regarding Trade and Environment Deal," SIERRA CLUB PRESS RELEASE, 14 May 2007.

## ASIAN NATIONS TOUGHEN STANCE ON WILDLIFE SMUGGLING

Wildlife officials from ten Southeast Asian nations have agreed on measures to crack down on illegal trade in wildlife, a multibillion dollar industry that has deep roots in the region.

The meeting of the Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN) -- established under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) -- was held in Bogor, Indonesia from 22-23 May and brought together government officials, conservation experts, customs officers, and representatives from civil society.

Participants agreed to work to raise public awareness of the issue, provide better training for law enforcement officers, and increase communication among countries in the region and with international enforcement bodies such as Interpol.

Participants also discussed ways to finance the network, which currently receives the bulk of its funding from the US Agency for International Development.

The Bogor gathering was the second meeting of the network, which was launched 18 months ago by the ASEAN in an effort to combat illegal trade in a wide variety of flora and fauna, ranging from orchids and medicinal herbs to elephants, tigers, songbirds, snakes, and marine animals.

Such species are threatened by a vast network of wildlife smuggling rings that deliver exotic pets to the Middle East, Japan, Europe, and the US, and that supply customers in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong with the ingredients for traditional meals and medicinal remedies.

Conservationists claim that trade in threatened wildlife has increased in recent years and that the growth in smuggling goes hand in hand with rampant illegal logging in the region.

"Asia: nations combat animal trafficking," AP, 24 May 2007; "Indonesia seeks deal on wildlife," BBC NEWS, 24 May 2007; "ASEAN launches the ASEAN wildlife law enforcement network," ASEAN PRESS RELEASE, 1 December 2005; "Indonesia to host 2nd ASEAN wildlife WEN conference," ANTARA NEWS, 16 May 2007.

## FUTURE FATE OF FOODSTUFFS

While agriculture trade negotiators worldwide are fixed on the end of 2007 for most of their pressing deadlines, those in the food and agricultural technology industry are looking further into the future. Some industry experts believe that by 2040 the world's food supply will no longer rely on conventional agriculture, but instead be produced on a molecular level through nanotechnology.

A 300-page study carried out by the science and technology firm Helmut Kaiser Consultancy, also known as 'hkc22.com', argues that food consumption will change dramatically over the next 20 years in conjunction with increasing water shortage problems, shifting energy use, climate change, population growth, and escalating food crises. The result, they claim, will be a move away from conventionally produced food to the "common use of nanoproduced food." This will involve manipulating molecular matter to create tailor-made structures that will have the same, if not improved, properties, characteristics, nutritional value, and tastes of their more natural counterparts. Manipulation will take place in all parts of the food chain, from the production of improved crop varieties, to field practices, to food industry applications, to consumption.

Hkc22.com argues that nanoproduced food will circumvent the problems that limited resources and changing weather will have on agricultural production. It will also have other spillover effects on agriculture, such as reduced need for pesticides

and improved plant and animal breeding. As stated in the firm's press release, "Nanotechnology will transform the entire food industry in the next 20 years."

On the opposite end of the spectrum, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO), recently held a conference on organic agriculture and food security, and released a report highlighting opportunities in this area. The report encourages governments to support initiatives that would "allocate resources for organic agriculture and integrate its objectives and actions within their national agricultural development and poverty reduction strategies."

The study lays out models for implementing organic production policies that the author believes would secure global food supplies, manage biodiversity, boost labour demands, increase cost-effectiveness, and intensify farmer outputs and revenues, all within a sustainable, environmentally-friendly framework. "The strongest feature of organic agriculture is its reliance on fossil-fuel independent and locally-available production assets; working with natural processes increases cost-effectiveness and resilience of agro-ecosystems to climatic stress," the paper says.

While both reports agree that policy, research, and paradigms must shift in relation to changing production circumstances and global food demands, their approach is quite evidently different. It remains to be seen whether nanotechnology or organic production will reign.

## Additional information

The report on nanotechnology is available at <http://www.hkc22.com/nanofood2040.html>

The background documents for the "International Conference on Organic Agriculture and Food Security" are available at [http://www.fao.org/organicag/ofs/docs\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/organicag/ofs/docs_en.htm)

ICTSD reporting; "Meeting the food security challenge through organic agriculture," FAO NEWSROOM, 3 May 2007; "Climate Change and Nanotechnology Drive Food Industry Transformation Worldwide," HELMUT KAISER CONSULTANCY, 2 May 2007.

## A FRESH LOOK AT THE COMMODITIES PROBLEM

A new multi-stakeholder process has recently been set up to address commodities problems from a poverty reduction and development perspective.

A conference on "The Global Initiative on Commodities," held from 7-11 May in Brasilia, Brazil, aimed to re-launch the commodities agenda from a poverty reduction and development perspective, raise the profile and understanding of commodity issues at the international level and identify an international strategy based on coherence, governance and solidarity at all levels to help commodity-dependent countries reduce poverty and hunger. Jointly organised by the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and hosted by the government of Brazil, the conference brought together participants mainly from developing countries, as well as representatives from NGOs, research institutes and farmers' organisations, international organisations and a few private companies.

The conference focused on four aspects of commodity markets that have a direct bearing on commodity producers' incomes and wellbeing, as well as on opportunities for economic growth and the sustainable development of commodity-dependent developing countries. These included: the supply capacity limitations under which commodity producers operate; effective participation in the value chain; lack of diversification of the production and export base; and an international enabling environment. The conference examined ways in which policies and initiatives could be addressed at national and international levels by commodity-producing developing countries, their developed country partners, the private sector, civil society and international organisations. The conference report and recommendations identified two sets of action: global governance, coherence and solidarity issues on the one hand; and issues having to do with the supply side, the value chain and finance for diversification and use of resource rents on the other.

The conference launched an initiative aimed at achieving a global consensus on addressing critical issues for commodity development in developing countries, which will be elaborated further at the

twelfth session of UNCTAD in Accra, Ghana, in April 2008, and at the review of the Monterey Conference on Finance for Development, also in 2008. The initiative will also be on the agenda of the UN General Assembly.

### Additional information

A summary of the meeting will be available shortly at <http://www.common-fund.org/?nid=42>

ICTSD reporting.

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## 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

28-30 May Anchorage, Alaska: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION. The fifty-ninth annual meeting of the IWC will be preceded by a meeting of the Scientific Committee from 7 to 18 May, and by a special symposium on infectious and non-infectious diseases of marine mammals and impacts on cetaceans, from 5-6 May. For further information visit <http://www.iwcoffice.org/meetings/meeting2007.htm>.

28 May to 1 June, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: EAST AFRICAN ORGANIC CONFERENCE. This conference will bring together public, private, and NGO sector stakeholders from East Africa and beyond, is being jointly organised by UNEP-UNCTAD, IFOAM, the Tanzanian Organic Agriculture Movement, the Export Promotion of Organic Products from Africa Programme, in cooperation with the Government of Tanzania, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO). The aim of the conference is to mobilise support for organic agriculture in East Africa by sensitising decision makers and other stakeholders about the potential of organic agriculture as a sustainable development and market access opportunity. The East African Organic Standards (EAOS) and an East African Organic Mark, developed by the East African Organic Team and supported by CBTF and IFOAM, will also be launched at the conference. For further information visit <http://www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf>.

29-31 May, Qingdao, China: GLOBAL TRADE CONFERENCE ON AQUACULTURE. Recognising the importance of aquaculture for developing countries and the impact it has on food security and employment,

the interaction with capture fisheries as well as the internationalisation of fish trade, FAO has taken the initiative to launch a global conference with the purpose to try to find answers to those questions that are crucial for a sustainable development in this sector. For more information visit

<http://www.infofish.org/Conferences/GlobalTradeConference/about.html>.

29-31 May, Lomé, Togo: ITTO WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT THROUGH ITTO SUPPORTED PROJECTS (AFRICA). This is one of three regional workshops organised by the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) in each ITTO tropical timber producing region to exchange experiences on the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) through ITTO supported projects, and activities such as the application of criteria and indicators at the national and forest management unit levels. Up to 50 individuals will participate in each workshop, including ITTO focal points and executing agencies implementing ITTO projects focusing on SFM. For more information visit <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=223&id=3240>.

1 June, Lausanne, Switzerland: WORKSHOP ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT: DECADES OF DEBATE AT THE WTO - DID THE SYSTEM FAIL? CAN IT BE REFORMED? This full-day workshop is organised by Project Team 2 of the NCCR on International Trade Regulation, at Institut Suisse de droit comparé, Dorigny / Lausanne. For further information visit

<http://www.isdc.ch/d2wfiles/document/4582/4017/0/Invitation%20WORKSHOP%201%20June%202007%20rev.pdf>.

3-15 June, The Hague, Netherlands. FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO CITES. Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) will consider 40 new proposals for rules changes regarding the protection of specific species. Participants will also discuss enforcement of CITES regulations, the control of illicit trafficking, and the effects of CITES rules on the rural poor. The meeting's agenda also includes the establishment of a new strategic vision for 2008 to 2013. For further information, visit

<http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/index.shtml>.

3-4 June, Berlin, Germany: GLOBE G8 ILLEGAL LOGGING DIALOGUE: BERLIN LEGISLATORS FORUM. This first legislator's forum of the G8 illegal logging dialogue will convene in the Bundestag in Berlin, and will include sessions on global carbon markets, legislation for import and trade controls, forestry sector transparency, and financing for sustainable forest management. For further information visit

[http://www.illegal-logging.info/item\\_single.php?item=event&item\\_id=111&approach\\_id=](http://www.illegal-logging.info/item_single.php?item=event&item_id=111&approach_id=).

3-8 June, Ponta Delgada, Portugal: TREE BIOTECHNOLOGY 2007. The programme aims to highlight current research on all aspects of molecular biology, genetics and biotechnology of forest trees, and includes biology, technology and value oriented sessions. For further information visit <http://www.itqb.unl.pt/iufro2007>.

4-6 June, Riyadh, Saudia Arabia. WORKSHOP ON WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES: SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES, TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE AND AGRICULTURE. This workshop, sponsored by the UN Conference on Trade and Development, offers a general and up-to-date review of WTO rules of on dispute settlement procedures related to the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The workshop is intended for government officials, academics, practicing lawyers, and industry advisers and will include a combination of lectures, exercises, and case studies. For more information, visit <http://r0.unctad.org/disputesettlement/index.htm>.

4-7 June, Bali, Indonesia: ITTO WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT THROUGH ITTO SUPPORTED PROJECTS (ASIA). This is one of three regional workshops organised by the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) in each ITTO tropical timber producing region to exchange experiences on the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) through ITTO supported projects, and activities such as the application of criteria and indicators at the national and forest management unit levels. Up to 50 individuals will participate in each workshop, including ITTO focal points and executing agencies implementing ITTO projects focusing on SFM. For more information visit <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=223&id=3240>.

4-7 June, Nairobi, Kenya: 27TH MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. The meeting will be preceded by the Dialogue on key future challenges to be face by the Montreal Protocol, and will be followed by the 38th Meeting of the Implementation Committee. For further information visit [http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting\\_Documents/oewg/27oewg/index.shtml](http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/oewg/27oewg/index.shtml).

5 June, International. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY. Organised by the UN Environment Programme, this day of international celebration of the environment will feature street rallies, bicycle parades, green concerts, tree planting, as well as recycling and clean-up campaigns. The theme for this year's World



Environment Day is "Melting Ice-A Hot Topic?" For information visit

<http://www.unep.org/wed/2007/english/>.

6-8 June, Heiligendamm, Germany: G8 SUMMIT 2007. Heads of state and government from the Group of 8 (G8) leading industrialized nations will meet in Germany, which holds the current G8 presidency. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has declared growth and responsibility, including transparency, freedom of investment, protection of intellectual property, and sustainable resource consumption, to be the central concerns of her G8 presidency. For further information visit <http://www.g8.de/Webs/G8/EN/Homepage/home.html>.

### Other upcoming events

11-14 June, Riksgården, Sweden: SWEDISH "MIDNIGHT SUN" DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE. Minister for the Environment Andreas Carlgren has invited some thirty environment ministers to an informal ministerial conference in Riksgården. The purpose of the meeting is to engage informally in discussions and dialogue on how a future climate regime should be designed. For further information visit [http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/8757;jsessionid=as3MuW\\_xOeI8](http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/8757;jsessionid=as3MuW_xOeI8).

10-13 July, Medellín, Colombia: ITTO WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (SFM) THROUGH ITTO SUPPORTED PROJECTS (LATIN AMERICA): This is one of three regional workshops organised by the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) in each ITTO tropical timber producing region to exchange experiences on the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) through ITTO supported projects, and activities such as the application of criteria and indicators at the national and forest management unit levels. Up to 50 individuals will participate in each workshop, including ITTO focal points and executing agencies implementing ITTO projects focusing on SFM. For more information visit <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=223&id=3240>.

27-31 August, Vienna, Austria: UNFCCC DIALOGUE AND KYOTO PROTOCOL AWG 4. This will be the fourth workshop of the 'Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention' and the fourth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG). For further information visit <http://www.unfccc.int>.

## 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](mailto:msell@ictsd.ch).

WHALES, SUSTAINABILITY AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE. By Duncan Currie (Review of European Community and International Environmental Law 16, 2007). The international governance structures in place with respect to whales are dominated by the International Whaling Commission (IWC). However, the IWC's constitutive document, the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, lacks many critical elements of good governance that have evolved in other venues since the conclusion of the convention. In light of such developments, the author argues that the IWC is in need of substantial reforms, and that the development of an entirely new convention is the best way to proceed. To purchase the article, visit <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/reel/16/1>.

PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES, THE GLOBAL TUNA INDUSTRY AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE REGIME -- A GUIDEBOOK. Forum Fisheries Agency (April 2007). Pacific Island nations that trade their fisheries products internationally must negotiate a complex network of trade rules and regulations. This guidebook, which outlines the major trade-related elements of the tuna fishing industry in the Western Central Pacific Ocean, is meant to help tuna industry operators and fisheries and trade officials better understand the requirements of international and regional trade agreements and how they relate to the fisheries sector. The report may be accessed at <http://www.ffa.int/node/891>.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2007. This report was launched at the 15th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, which is focusing on energy, climate change, air pollution and industrial development. The 432-page volume points to new challenges and opportunities facing industrialising countries as a result of globalisation, technological change and international trade rules. It also discusses social and environmental aspects of industrial development. To download a copy of the report, visit [http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/industrial\\_development/full\\_report.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/industrial_development/full_report.pdf).

A HEALTHY MIX: STRATEGIES FOR GM AND NON-GM CROP EXISTENCE. By Eliana Fontes (Science and Development Network, April 2007). The coexistence of conventional, organic, and genetically modified (GM) crop systems allows producers to exploit a variety of market opportunities, upholds different

cultural values, and helps protect biodiversity. But there is no easy solution, or widely accepted model, for putting such coexistence into practice. The author of this policy brief argues that, in order to create effective coexistence strategies - especially in the developing world - policymakers need to develop rules that are proportionate, efficient, cost-effective, and specific to particular crop and farming systems. The brief is available at <http://www.scidev.net/coexistence>.

DICTIONARY AND INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE. By Richard E. Saunier and Richard A. Meganck (Earthscan, June 2007). This book provides a compilation of over 5000 terms, organisations, and acronyms related to global environmental governance and thereby seeks to establish a common vocabulary for those who work on such matters. An introductory essay frames major issues in global environmental governance and outlines the pitfalls of talking past one another when discussing important environmental issues. To order a copy of the book, visit

<http://shop.earthscan.co.uk/ProductDetails/mcs/productID/777/>.

"The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Precautionary Priority in Biotech Crop Approvals and Containment of Commodities Shipments." By Thomas P. Redick in the COLORADO JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY 18 (1, 2007). The 2003 Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Protocol) represents the first international environmental agreement addressing genetic engineering of living organisms, including crops improved using modern biotechnology (biotech crops). However, the new rules issued by the Protocol may considerably complicate the process of feeding the world through bulk commodities exports from nations that use biotech crops. This article will review the past ten years of expansion in agricultural biotechnology and the industry's effort to fit the research pipeline of biotech crops into the export pipeline.

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