



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

Issue: 6 July 2007

Biotechnology1

WTO BIOTECH RULING: DEADLINE
SET FOR COMPLIANCE

Natural Resources and Intellectual Property .3

ETHIOPIA AND STARBUCKS REACH
COFFEE AGREEMENT.....

Regional Agreements and Environment.....4

US-PERU BILATERAL TO ADDRESS
ILLEGAL LOGGING, BOOST MEA
IMPLEMENTATION

Standards6

DEBATE ON PRIVATE SECTOR
STANDARDS CONTINUES IN SPS
COMMITTEE

In Brief.....7

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING FOCUSES ON
BIOFUEL SUSTAINABILITY,
STANDARDS

NORTH AMERICAN OFFICIALS
LAUNCH ONLINE AIR POLLUTION
TRACKER

Events & Resources.....8

EVENTS.....

RESOURCES

To subscribe to *Bridges Trade BioRes*, send an
email to biores@ictsd.ch

Biotechnology

WTO BIOTECH RULING: DEADLINE SET FOR COMPLIANCE

The EU has agreed with the US, Argentina and Canada on a 21 November deadline for compliance with the WTO dispute ruling in the high-profile case on the EU's approval process for genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Under the ruling, made public on 29 September 2006, the application of EU-wide and national moratoria on the approval of new biotech products at the time the case was filed were doomed illegal under WTO law (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 6 October 2006 <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-10-06/story1.htm>).

The compliance deadline, announced by the four parties on 26 June, is fixed twelve months after the panel ruling was formally adopted by WTO members. The panel requested the EU to bring the moratoria in line with the provisions of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS) Agreement "if, and to the extent that" these measures have "not already ceased to exist." It did not question the right of countries to introduce strict biosafety laws, nor the right of an EU member state to ban a biotech product. The EC decided not to appeal the ruling (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 1 December 2006 <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-12-01/story4.htm>).

Documents obtained by Friends of the Earth suggest that the US is putting pressure on the EU to lift national bans on the marketing and import of specific biotech products that have already been approved at the EU-wide level, accelerate the approval process of new biotech products by the

European Food Safety Authority, and speed up approval of GMOs of commercial interest to the US.

According to a trade official, the interest of the four parties is to find practical solutions for biotech products with economic potential. Meanwhile, EU national governments continue to be deadlocked over biotech product imports.

Product by product solutions

According to the documents obtained by Friends of the Earth, the products under “negotiation” are of particular economic interest to the US. They include maize, cotton, sugar beet, and maize seeds. The documents also reveal that the European Commission agreed to draw the attention of the European Food Safety Authority to “economically important” biotech products, and “is determined to lifting national bans.”

In a speech in Brussels on 14 June, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson warned that as the global market for GM products grows, EU application of its risk-management systems will come under greater international scrutiny. He warned that “if we fail to implement our own rules, or implement them inconsistently, we can - and probably will - be challenged,” referring to EU member states that are refusing to lift their GMO bans. He also said that Europe should modify its defensive attitude towards trade in biotech foods and seeds. Mandelson argued that genetically modified foods have played an important role in agricultural productivity in the past and will be essential to provide sufficient food and feed stocks for a growing population in the developing world and for adapting agriculture to climate change.

Mandelson also argued that it was an economic risk for Europe to fall behind the global economy in approving safe biotechnology. He declared that “isolation from international trade in agricultural biotech products that have passed credible safety standards simply may not be a viable option for the EU, and we have to understand this reality.”

The objective of the four parties is not to escalate the conflict, official sources said. However, if Brussels does not comply with the WTO ruling by November 21, it is up to the US, Canada and Argentina to decide what to do. Options include the establishment of a compliance panel or the extension of the time for compliance.

EU deadlock over biotech products

In related news, the EU’s national governments failed on 25 June to agree to allow imports of a genetically modified strain of corn. While the European Food Safety Authority declared in April that this corn, known as Herculex RV and developed by Dow Chemicals Co. and E.I. DuPont De Nemours & Co, is safe for the EU market, some governments and environmental groups said that the strain could be hazardous for human and animal health. Friends of the Earth Europe said that “this is a clear signal that member states have put safety and the environment before US trade interests and that the concerns of EU citizens can prevail over formidable lobbying from biotech companies.”

The fact that the national government did not agree will delay the import of the GM corn. However, it will eventually be allowed into the EU market. If EU national agricultural ministers cannot make a decision within the next few months, the European Commission has the right to approve the strain for import for a period of 10 years.

In further news, the Greek government announced on June 26 that it was extending its national ban on a genetically modified corn seed known as MON810 for two years. Produced by leading US biotech company Monsanto, MON810 corn was designed to resist a European pest that attacks corn stalks and thrives in warmer climate, and has been approved for sale in the EU market since 1998. However, some EU countries are concerned that the protein contained in its seed could be harmful to human and animal health.

Austria and Hungary also maintain national bans on the use and import of MON810 corn. This national ban was cited by the US, Canada and Argentina in the WTO dispute targeting the EU’s national moratoria on the approval of new biotech products. In December 2006 EU member states rejected a European Commission proposal requiring Austria to lift its ban (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 19 January 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-01-19/inbrief.htm#4>).

ICTSD Reporting; “US Still Bullying EU to Market GMOs”, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, Press Release, 30 May 2007; “New Documents Reveal US Pressure for More GMOs in Europe”, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH EUROPE, Media Briefing, 30 May 2007; “More EU States Wary on GMO Maize, Debate Hots Up”, PLANET ARK, 6 June 2007; “EU Stands Up to US Pressure - Unfazed by

Genetically Modified ‘Herculex’”, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH EUROPE, 25 June 2007; “EU Govts Deadlocked over Genetically Modified Corn Imports”, DOW JONES NEWSWIRES, 26 June 2007; “EU Receives Deadline of Nov. 21 To Comply With WTO GMO Ruling”, BNA INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 28 June 2007.

Natural Resources and Intellectual Property

ETHIOPIA AND STARBUCKS REACH COFFEE AGREEMENT

The government of Ethiopia and Starbucks -- a key buyer of Ethiopian coffee -- recently reached an agreement that respects Ethiopia’s right to use the intellectual property system to seek to increase its revenues from coffee. The two parties will work together to strengthen the brand associated with three premium-quality Ethiopian coffees: Harar, Sidamo and Yirgacheffe.

On 21 June, Ethiopia and Starbucks announced that they had reached a licensing agreement covering distribution and marketing of Harar, Sidamo and Yirgacheffe coffee. The agreement acknowledges Ethiopia’s ownership of the three coffee names, although Starbucks will not be required to pay royalties for using them.

Through the agreement with Starbucks, Ethiopia is hoping that its specialty coffees will become more widely recognised and appreciated, which would prop up the price.

“We believe, and Ethiopia believes, that having a greater ability to control distribution of the coffee and having these kinds of licensing agreements will over time lead to stronger demand and better pricing for their specialty coffees,” said Sandra Taylor, Starbucks’ senior vice president of corporate social responsibility. “And that, of course, is going to be good for coffee farmers and their communities,” she added.

“This agreement marks an important milestone in our efforts to promote and protect Ethiopia’s speciality coffee designations,” said Getachew Mengistie, director general of the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office.

Specialty coffees are selling at premium prices. Meanwhile, coffee farmers remain poor, capturing

little of the benefits. Ethiopia has launched a strategy to retain more of these benefits by registering its specialty coffees as trademarks. It moved to trademark Harar, Sidamo and Yirgacheffe in 2005. The trademarks have now been successfully registered in the EU, Japan and Canada. In the US, only Yirgacheffe has been approved as a trademark so far, and the trademarks are pending in China, Brazil and India.

According to Oxfam America, “The Ethiopians’ strategy on coffee is particularly noteworthy because they are seeking to use trademarks - a part of the modern intellectual property system - to benefit poor farmers.”

Trademarks or GIs?

Starbucks initially questioned Ethiopia’s strategy to register trademarks, declining to sign a voluntary licensing agreement recognising Ethiopia’s rights to the Harar, Sidamo and Yirgacheffe names even in countries where they were not trademarked. According to Starbucks, going for trademarks would be legally complicated and might price Ethiopian coffee out of the market. Reportedly, Starbucks suggested other avenues for protecting the Ethiopian coffee names based on a certification trademark (certifying origin/quality), which is directly linked to the region of production and compliance with established quality standards. Under this system, the US recognises names such as Washington apples and Hawaiian Kona coffee. Another option for Ethiopia could have been to register its coffee names as Geographic Indications (GIs) in other importing countries. The EU is a strong supporter of GIs -- protecting own names such as Champagne and Feta cheese.

Filing trademarks is generally a more rapid process than filing GIs, and in some cases developing countries have simply sought to use the most efficient avenue with regard to intellectual property protection in order to avoid biopiracy, or the misappropriation of names, to take place. Starbucks had already filed for intellectual property protection for a coffee name derived from Sidamo. While Starbucks ended up withdrawing this bid in 2006, the US National Coffee Association (NCA) opposed the Ethiopian trademark bid in the country. Development charity Oxfam accused Starbucks of having pressured the NCA into taking this position, something Starbucks denied.

Oxfam then initiated a campaign to influence Starbucks on the issue, and close to 100,000 people petitioned Starbucks to treat Ethiopia fairly. Under the new licensing agreement with Starbucks, the company will respect Ethiopia's right to the three coffee names both in countries where the trademarks have been registered, and where they have not.

Boosting incomes for small farmers?

In its strategy to seek the trademarks, Ethiopia is hoping to boost the price it gets for coffee, in order to be able to improve the livelihoods of the coffee farmers. The idea is to move from pure commodity exports to exports of niche market products -- and to prices based on quality, not quantity -- using intellectual property tools such as trademarks. Over time, the country counts on being in a position to negotiate better deals with coffee roasters or retailers that want to use its trademarked names. In terms of figures, Ethiopia hopes to increase its coffee export earnings by 25 percent, or US\$ 80 million per year.

Raymond C. Offenheiser, president of Oxfam America, lauded the agreement, saying that "Harnessing market forces and allowing poor countries to benefit from intellectual property rights are keys to creating fairer and more equitable trade. With this agreement, Ethiopians can build the value of their coffees and farmers can capture a greater share of the retail price. This should help improve the lives of millions of poor farmers, allowing them to send their children to school and access health care."

Other countries are reportedly looking to the Ethiopian example, to see if they could use similar tactics to raise the value of their coffee exports by differentiating them from the mass. Other African countries in particular may follow suit at a time when coffee prices are on the rise and demand for specialty and quality coffees growing.

Some observers have, however, noted that Ethiopian farmers still capture a much smaller share of the export price of coffee than farmers in many other coffee-producing countries, and are dependent on middlemen that take much of the value. In addition, concerns have been raised as to whether it makes sense for the central government, rather than regions or farmers' cooperatives, to hold the right to the trademarks.

Background

Ethiopia is Africa's largest coffee producer. Around 25 percent of Ethiopia's 80 million population lives off the coffee farming industry, and 40 to 60 percent of the country's export earnings are derived from coffee.

Starbucks's annual net revenue in 2006 was close to US\$8 billion -- which amounts to 75 percent of Ethiopia's GDP in the same year. The average annual income in Ethiopia lies at around US\$1,000.

Ethiopian coffee is produced predominantly by small-scale farmers and in high-altitude regions, assuring a premium quality. "Ethiopia is recognised as the historic birthplace of coffee and the source of some of the finest coffee in the world," noted Howard Schultz, Starbucks chairman, in conjunction with the new deal between Starbucks and Ethiopia.

ICTSD reporting; "Starbucks, Ethiopia Reach Trademark Deal," AP, 20 June 2007; "Starbucks and Ethiopia thrash out agreement," GUARDIAN UNLIMITED, 21 June 2007; "Starbucks in Ethiopia coffee vow," BBC, 21 June 2007; "Starbucks, Ethiopia Agree on Licensing," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 21 June 2007; "Oxfam Celebrates Win-Win Outcome for Ethiopian Coffee Farmers and Starbucks," OXFAM AMERICA, 20 June 2007; "Starbucks, Ethiopia settle licensing dispute," REUTERS, 21 June 2007; "Hot Cup of Money: Starbucks, Ethiopia, and the Coffee Branding Wars," DER SPIEGEL, 16 November 2007.

Regional Agreements and Environment

US-PERU BILATERAL TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL LOGGING, BOOST MEA IMPLEMENTATION

Civil society groups in the US are lauding a newly-revised version of the US-Peru free-trade agreement as the first bilateral trade treaty to recognise and seriously address the problem of illegal logging.

In the area of environment, the US-Peru FTA has been amended through the inclusion of new and significantly strengthened provisions, as well as through the addition of a new annex on forest sector governance.

After the US Democratic Party took control of Congress in late 2006, it negotiated a new framework on trade policy with the current administration, requiring revisions to already-agreed free-trade agreements (FTAs) between the US and some of its trading partners (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 25 May 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-05-25/inbrief.htm#2>). Among the changes, labour and environmental requirements of 'best-endeavour' sort have now been elevated to core obligations subject to dispute settlement, and several patent-related intellectual property rules have been relaxed (see Bridges Weekly, 4 July 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-07-04/story2.htm>).

Tough measures against illegal logging

The new annex on forest sector governance in the US-Peru FTA contains a number of detailed and mandatory provisions to address illegal logging as well as illegal trade in wildlife. Among implementation measures, Peru will develop systems to track Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)-protected tree species from the harvesting stage through transport, processing and export. The annex includes set time periods and provisions for verification and action against traders in case of non-compliance. Peru is also obliged to identify a focal point, with appropriate and sufficient authority and staff to investigate violations of law and regulations for forest sector governance. The annex further provides for the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Forest Sector Governance under both the Committee on Trade in Goods and the Environmental Affairs Council to facilitate consultation and information exchange.

Under the forest annex, Peru is expected to craft, adopt and make the financial resources available for implementing a strategic plan of action on broad-leaf mahogany in order to comply with CITES. Broad-leaf mahogany is listed in Appendix II of CITES, meaning its trade is regulated and severely restricted. Among key measures, Peru is to establish an annual export quota for broad-leaf mahogany, as proposed in the CITES context (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 22 June 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-06-22/story2.htm>). Peru is the world's number one exporter of mahogany, and the US the main importer.

The forest annex allows the US to detain questionable shipments pending verification that the timber was legally harvested. A Geneva-based expert noted that, with regard to inspections that US authorities will be able to undertake, Peruvian authorities have not been provided reciprocal access.

According to the expert, a number of measures in the forest annex would require changes in Peruvian legislation, including the penal code. He acknowledged that civil society pressure in the US was key in the formulation of the forest annex, but stressed the need to recognise 'realities' on the ground. He stressed the need to enhance Peru's capacity, as current capacity for enforcing the measures over wide forest areas was just not adequate.

The two parties will to review the operation of the forest annex three years after the agreement enters into force.

Peru, US list key MEAs

The environmental chapter of the revised US-Peru FTA contains requirements for the parties to fulfil their obligations under a set of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that have been ratified by both parties: CITES, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling and the Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. Absent from the list are the Convention on Biological Diversity, not signed by the US, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The list is open to modification in the future.

Prior the recent revision, the environmental chapter of the US-Peru FTA only committed parties to enforcing their own domestic environmental laws while 'enhancing the mutual supportiveness of MEAs and international trade agreements' to which both are parties.

Weak language on biodiversity, traditional knowledge

While the revised US-Peru agreement places enforceable obligations on Peru with regard to forest governance, parties merely 'recognise' the

importance of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and their role in contributing to sustainable development. Similar 'soft' language is included on traditional knowledge, with parties 'recognising' the importance of respecting and preserving traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous and other communities that contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

With regard to environmental cooperation, the US and Peru likewise simply declare at a general level their commitment to undertake activities pursuant related to the chapter's implementation.

FTA sets us trade policy on 'new course' say NGOs

Civil society groups -- including the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth International, Earthjustice, Centre for International Environmental Law -- welcomed the new provisions in the revised US-Peru FTA, commending the Democratic leadership and stating that the revisions should be the starting point for setting US trade policy 'on a new course.' The groups, which had previously strongly criticised the US-Peru FTA, said, however, that the deal did not provide a final template for trade deals generally. They added that much work remained to be done on investment and other trade provisions to ensure that they strengthened rather than undermined environmental protection in the US and abroad.

On 28 June, Peru's Congress approved the new FTA text with 70 votes in favour, 38 against and one abstention. According to a trade source, the US is likely to seek ratification only after Peru has made domestic legislative changes to comply with the revised FTA.

ICTSD Reporting; "Environmental Chapter of the Peru Trade Agreement Marks a Significant Step Forward", STATEMENT BY CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE, EARTHJUSTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, SIERRA CLUB, 26 June 2007; "US Democrats Reject FTAs with Korea, Colombia", FTA MALAYSIA, 2 July 2007; "Peru: Trade Pact Approved Amid Protests," WORLDWAR4 REPORT, 2 July 2007.

Standards

DEBATE ON PRIVATE SECTOR STANDARDS CONTINUES IN SPS COMMITTEE

Some Members have suggested that governments should take responsibility for the WTO-compatible of voluntary standards set by companies within their borders.

At a meeting of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures from 27-28 June, Egypt, Argentina and several other developing countries said that governments were, in fact, responsible for the standard-setting activities of private sector entities operating within their territory. With this debate, meeting participants continued a two-year old debate on private sector standards, which started when the small island state of St. Vincent and the Grenadines first drew attention to the challenges it faced when trying to access the EU market due to strict standards set by commercial supermarket chains (see BRIDGES Weekly, 6 July 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-07-06/story3.htm>).

The EU questioned the notion of countries being responsible for private-sector standards, noting that there had been no disputes to clarify the issue yet. Other major developed country importers declined to comment on the issue at this point.

Some developing countries cautioned that the remit of private sector standards was expanding, now touching on issues such as production methods, environmental concerns including 'food miles' (i.e. carbon emissions associated with transport of agricultural products), and labour and fair trade issues. This led to high expenses and further complications for their exporters, they said.

Also at the SPS meeting, Argentina introduced a paper (G/SPS/W/211, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) criticising the standards for pesticide residues set by importing countries. The problem was first raised in the context of the agreed international standard-setting body Codex Alimentarius (jointly managed by UN-agencies FAO and WHO), and now brought to the SPS Committee because of its bearing on trade. Backed by a number of developing countries, including Brazil, Chile, Cuba and Pakistan, Argentina said that Members are setting standards stricter than those

agreed at Codex, or setting standards not yet covered by Codex.

Argentina called for the development of more Codex standards in this area, noting as an example that only 30 percent of pesticides used in Argentina were covered by international standards. The paper further called for scientific justification for the strict standards being imposed, stressing that developing countries lack the resources to prove the contrary. The paper also stressed that the additional costs related to complying with the pesticide standards falls on countries that do not subsidise their agricultural sector -- something the importing countries setting the standards often do. As such, market entry is already being constrained.

Under the SPS Agreement, WTO Members are allowed to set a standard of human and plant protection that they consider 'appropriate,' but any trade restrictions must be backed by a scientific risk assessment and applied only to the extent necessary to attain the stated goal.

The next meeting of the SPS Committee will take place from 17-18 October. The Codex Alimentarius Commission is currently meeting in Rome (from 2-7 July) and will deal with pesticide residues, among other issues.

Marinus PC Huige of the Netherlands was elected new chair of the SPS Committee.

ICTSD reporting.

In Brief

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING FOCUSES ON BIOFUEL SUSTAINABILITY, STANDARDS

The rapid expansion of biofuels use and the development of an international biofuels market can bring about benefits, but also lead to new problems unless checks and balances are put in place, participants at a 5-6 July conference in Brussels heard.

High-level speakers, such as Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and Commission President José Manuel Barroso addressed the development of international trade in biofuels, as well as related environmental and developmental issues.

In terms of trade, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said "Europe should be open to accepting that we will import a large part of our biofuel resources. We cannot contemplate, in my view, favouring EU production of biofuels with a weak carbon performance if we can import cheaper, cleaner biofuels."

Barroso stressed the need for "setting up a rigorous sustainability mechanism to underpin a new market for these products."

Brazil -- an producer of sugar-based ethanol that minimises carbon emissions -- faces a 70 percent import tariff. While some European countries, such as Sweden, are keen to see that tariff slashed, others are dominated by strong farming constituencies that see biofuels as the new frontier of farming. France, for example, is keen to promote homegrown biofuels. In addition, environmental groups that initially supported the EU biofuels target of a ten percent blend by 2020 are now calling for a strong verification system to ensure that any biofuels used have been sustainably produced and deliver real climate benefits.

The European Bio-ethanol Fuel Association (e-Bio) said that European producers already were responding to the ten-percent target through massive investment. However, their industry would not remain viable if the European market were to open up to large-scale imports. The group did support imports from developing countries, excluding middle-income countries such as Brazil. E-Bio also indicated that the US applies a 54 cent per gallon tariff on imports from countries such as Brazil -- a tariff that will remain in place at least until 2009. Accordingly, it would not be fair if the EU alone would face tariff reduction.

Lula, for his part, stressed that "We cannot send out contradictory signals. The very governments who reiterate their commitment to sustainable development, to the reduction of greenhouse gases, cannot then turn around and create obstacles to turning biofuels into international commodities."

Additional information

Conference homepage
http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/energy/biofuels/index.htm

BioRes articles on biofuels are available at
<http://www.trade->

environment.org/page/ictsd/news/cc.htm#biofuels

“EU Seeks Biofuel Imports, Environment Standards Too,” REUTERS, 6 July 2007; “Europe, Brazil Pledge Sustainable Biofuels Development,” ENS, 5 July 2007; “EU urged to monitor biofuel boom,” BBC, 5 July 2007.

NORTH AMERICAN OFFICIALS LAUNCH ONLINE AIR POLLUTION TRACKER

Senior environmental officials from Canada, Mexico, and the US recently announced the launch of an interactive online tool to track air pollution throughout North America.

Juan Rafael Elvira Quesada, Mexican Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, Stephen Johnson, Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency, and John Baird, Canadian Environment Minister met in Morelia, Mexico at the annual meeting of the Commission on Environmental Co-operation (CEC), an organisation that was established in conjunction with the North American Free Trade Agreement to address regional environmental concerns. They adopted a statement on 27 June that reaffirmed their interest in addressing trade and environment in an integrated manner

The goal of the new tool to track air pollution throughout the North American continent -- which uses the Google Earth mapping tool -- is to harmonise air quality data among the three nations, while also enhancing public access to that information, the officials said.

“This new tool creates a picture of industrial pollutant data across North America and, for the first time, allows anyone, whether in Manitoba, Mississippi, or Michoacán, to access the pollution profile of reporting industries across the continent or in their community,” according to the officials in attendance.

The officials also announced the publication of Mexico’s first official dataset on industrial pollutant emissions and transfers. That information, when combined with similar data from Canada and the US, represents the continent’s first comprehensive database on pollution emissions and chemical sales and shipments.

Environment Minister Baird of Canada claimed that the integration of air quality data from the three countries “could set the stage for the development of a North American emissions trading regime.”

The environment officials also agreed to encourage green building and promote the conservation of the vaquita porpoise and the monarch butterfly.

“We are all partners in caring for this continent,” Baird said.

Additional resources

The online pollution tracker is available at <http://www.ccc.org/naatlas/prtr>.

“North American environment officials launch air pollutant tracker,” ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 27 June 2007; “U.S., Mexican, Canadian environmental leaders promote green building and pollution tracking tool for citizens,” EPA PRESS RELEASE, 27 June 2007; “Google Earth adds pollution data,” DAILY GREEN, 27 June 2007.

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

2-7 July, Rome, Italy: CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION MEETING. This meeting, jointly hosted by the World Health Organisation and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, will consider proposed draft standards, the implementation of standards assessments, as well as relations between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other international organisations. For more information contact the WHO/FAO office at +39 06 57051, or email at codex@fao.org. internet: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/current.jsp?lang=en>.

3-12 July, Geneva, Switzerland: 11TH SESSION OF THE WIPO INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE. This meeting, organised by the World Intellectual Property Organisation, will be the Committee’s final working session before it reports to the WIPO Assemblies

meeting in late 2007. For more information contact the IGC Secretariat at +41-22-338-8161 or email grtkf@wipo.int. internet: <http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/>.

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. Internet: <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=223&id=3240>.

9-13 July, Paris, France: SECOND MEETING OF THE CBD OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION. Over 500 delegates will meet at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to look at ways to enhance tools for implementing the Convention and to integrate biodiversity concerns across all economic sectors through national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). internet: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/default.shtml>.

12 July, Geneva, Switzerland. SECOND MEETING OF THE WSSD GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CAPACITY BUILDING TO IMPLEMENT THE GHS. The second meeting of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) Partnership, organised by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, will review current progress and consider the actions and resources needed to further strengthen the Partnership towards 2008 and beyond. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to showcase support of the Partnership and for GHS capacity building; provide preliminary or confirmed support of future activities; and propose next steps and identify further opportunities for GHS capacity building and implementation. internet: http://www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs_partnership/index.htm

18-19 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT - SPECIAL SESSION. 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.

Other upcoming events

4-5 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO PUBLIC FORUM 2007: "HOW CAN THE WTO HELP HARNESS GLOBALISATION?" The WTO Public Forum 2007 will address how the WTO can help harness globalisation. The sub-themes are: 1. Global Governance: the challenges that interdependence and globalisation present and the role the WTO can play to ensure that globalization works to the benefit of all peoples; 2. Coherence: (a) the need for national and international coherence; and (b) the contribution of the WTO to the construction of a coherent multilateral system; 3. Economic Growth: trade as a vehicle for growth and development; and 4. Sustainable Development: the interaction of trade and sustainable development. internet: http://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/public_forum2007_e/forum07_e.htm.

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.

CLIMATE CHANGE, COMPETITIVENESS, AND TRADE. Chatham House, May 2007. This publication by Chatham House's Richard Tarasofsky and Aaron Cosbey of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) focuses on the nature of concerns over competitiveness and considers the relationship between the Kyoto Protocol and the World Trade Organization. The authors consider "what trade law might be applicable to each of the various possible instruments states might use to address climate change and competitiveness concerns." The report is available at <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/viewdocument.php?documentid=8773>

GLOBAL TRENDS IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INVESTMENT 2007. United Nations Environment Programme, June 2007. Climate change worries together with high oil prices and increasing government support have fueled soaring investment rates in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries, according to this study. Noting that renewable energy sectors such as wind, solar, and biofuels attract the highest investment levels, the study also stresses that renewable energies are no longer subject to the whims of fluctuating oil prices, but are becoming generating systems of choice for many power companies and countries. The study is available at http://www.unep.org/pdf/SEFI_report-GlobalTrendsInSustainableEnergyInvestment07.pdf.

"MARKER-ASSISTED SELECTION: CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES IN CROPS, LIVESTOCK, FORESTRY AND FISH", edited by E.P. Guimarães, J. Ruane, B.D. Scherf, A. Sonnino and J.D. Dargie (FAO, June 2007). The 22-chapter book includes a series of case studies giving a

comprehensive technical description and assessment of the current use and future possibilities for marker-assisted selection (MAS) and concludes with a series of 5 chapters devoted to non-technical issues relevant to applications of MAS in developing countries, such as national research capacities and international partnerships, economic considerations, the impacts of

intellectual property rights, and policy considerations. MAS involves the use of DNA markers, that are linked to genes of interest, in breeding programmes for the genetic improvement of livestock, fish, crops or forest trees. The book is available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1120e/a1120e00.htm>

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

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

