



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

Issue: 2 March 2007

Climate and Sustainable Energy	1
SCIENTISTS URGE UN TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE.....	
Biodiversity	2
COUNTRIES SET STAGE FOR DEBATE ON SUSTAINABILITY OF TRADE AT CITES CONFERENCE.....	
STANDARD LAUNCHED FOR COLLECTION OF MEDICINE PLANTS	
In Brief	5
GLOBAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CONTINUES TO GROW	
EU MINISTERS UPHOLD HUNGARY'S GM BAN	
NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS TRADE RELATED MEASURES FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT.....	
ILLEGAL WILDLIFE INITIATIVE GOES GLOBAL.....	
Events & Resources	7
EVENTS.....	
RESOURCES	

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

Climate and Sustainable Energy

SCIENTISTS URGE UN TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

A group of eminent scientists have delivered a cautionary message on climate change to diplomats at UN headquarters in New York, focusing on options for mitigation and adaptation. The new UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, also raised the issue for the first time since taking office, speaking to schoolchildren in early March.

Meanwhile, a group of global private sector companies and organisations agreed on the need for a "bold" framework for tackling climate change in the near future, while more than a hundred legislators from key developed and developing countries reached a non-binding agreement on tackling climate change, looking to implement emission targets for all.

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, for his part, renewed a call for using the trade system to support climate goals by axing tariffs on low-emission technology.

CSD focuses on climate and energy

A scientific panel composed of 18 experts from 11 countries delivered a climate change report to the Preparatory Committee of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which met from 26 February to 2 March in New York. Entitled "Confronting Climate Change: Avoiding the Unmanageable and Managing the Unavoidable," the report said immediate action is necessary to stabilise global temperatures at between 2 and 2.5 C above the current average -- a necessary goal in order to avoid dangerous changes.

The Scientific Expert Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, which delivered the report, was created by the UN Foundation and Sigma Xi (the Scientific Research Society) two years ago. The expert group further concluded that global carbon dioxide emissions must to be brought down from their peaks in the period between 2015-2020, after which emissions should be reduced to one third of current levels by 2100. In order to reach these goals, existing and emerging technology has to be put to better use, including through transport and building efficiency improvements, and through the introduction of biofuels and carbon capture and storage techniques at a large scale. Countries would also need to take active steps to support adaptation to unavoidable climate change.

Peter H. Raven, one of the scientists, said "this report gives very clear recommendations for what the international community and nations themselves must do to mitigate and adapt to climate change. These steps will contribute to achievement of the UN's Millennium Development Goals; failing to do so will make those goals much harder, if not impossible to reach."

Rosina Bierbaum, another of the report authors, provided examples: "We can manage water better, bolster disaster preparedness, increase surveillance for emerging diseases, make cities more resilient, move vulnerable populations and prepare for environmental refugees, design more drought-tolerant crops, use natural resources more sustainably, and enhance local capacity to cope with a suite of expected changes."

"It is still possible to avoid an unmanageable degree of climate change, but the time for action is now," stressed John Holdren, another of the report authors. Run-away climate change would, among other, lead to surges in environmental refugees and conflict and unrest.

The 2006-2007 cycle of the CSD focuses on energy for sustainable development, industrial development, the atmosphere and air pollution, as well as climate change. CSD-15 will convene in New York from 30 April to 11 May.

Speaking at a separate event on 1 March, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon likened the impact of climate change to that of military conflict. "The majority of the United Nations work still focuses on preventing and ending conflict," he said. "But the danger posed by war to all of humanity and to our planet is at least matched by the climate crisis and global warming." He added that "In coming decades, changes in our environment and the resulting upheavals from droughts to inundated coastal areas to loss of arable land are likely to become a major driver of war and conflict."

Ban, UN Secretary-General since 1 January this year, said he would actively participate in G8 talks on climate change. There has been speculation that he would call a high-level meeting on the topic during the second half of 2007. However, UN sources indicate that he will look to the UNFCCC process to drive necessary action.

Private sector commitment to climate action

Meanwhile, over 100 leaders from companies including Allianz, Bayer, Citigroup, DuPont, General Electric, and Volvo, as well as other stakeholders met in a Global Roundtable on Climate Change hosted by Columbia University's Earth Institute. On 20 February, they adopted a joint statement that called for scientifically informed targets to stabilise the Earth's atmosphere; future climate action involving all countries, according to equity principles; the creation of a clear and efficient

international carbon market; and support for energy efficiency, de-carbonisation and new low-emission technologies. The signatories stressed their commitment to doing their part of the job.

"Global businesses are assuming their just place as catalysts for action on climate change. But action by business alone is not enough," commented Jeffrey Immelt, CEO of General Electric. "While we believe that applying technology against problems will create positive business opportunities that can result in positive change, national, state and local governments, academia and other non-governmental organisations must step forward with equal force," he added.

Legislators lean in on G8 climate process

Parliamentarians from the G8 major industrialised countries 'plus 5' (China, India, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa) met at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., from 14-15 February at a "Legislators Forum on Climate Change" to discuss how best to reduce the global risks of severe climate change impacts and forge collaboration to stop to rise of atmospheric greenhouse gases.

The meeting served to provide input into G8 discussions on the issue. The 2007 G8 Summit, chaired by Germany, will be held midyear in Heiligendamm. It took place shortly after the release of a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) -- the scientific body examining global climate research -- concluded that humans are to blame for climate change (BRIDGES Weekly, 7 February 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-02-07/story5.htm>). The meeting concluded by adopting a "Washington Statement," in which the parliamentarians stressed that human induced climate change is now "beyond doubt". "Climate change is a global issue and there is an obligation on us all to take action, in line with our capabilities and historic responsibilities," they said. They urged, among other, the establishment of a global market to trade carbon dioxide emissions as this was "the most efficient and powerful way to stimulate investment" in new technologies. Intergovernmental, regional and private-public initiatives and partnerships would all be needed to spur innovation.

The legislators called for action on creating a global regime for binding emissions reduction post 2012, when the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period expires. The next meeting in this process will take place in November this year in Bali, and the

legislators expressed hope that the G8 summit could provide a strong political message to help deliver results there.

On the controversial issue of developing country commitments (which major emerging economies such as India and China strongly oppose), the Washington Statement proposed "appropriate targets" for developing countries.

Speaking at the time of the legislators forum in Washington, US senator Joe Lieberman forecast that the US Congress would enact a law on cutting emissions by the end of 2008 or early 2009. The Bush administration in US has refused to sign onto the Kyoto Protocol. Presidential candidate John McCain said, however, that he was "convinced that we have reached the tipping point and that the Congress of the US will act, with the agreement of the administration."

Abolish tariffs on green goods

In related news, Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson reiterated his call for global solutions to the twin challenges of climate change and energy security at a meeting on 9 February in Norway.

On climate change, he supported an agreement in the WTO Doha negotiations for the phase-in of zero tariffs for green goods to encourage a better functioning global market in green technologies and services (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 19 January 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-01-19/story1.htm>). He stressed "an important hidden imperative behind Kyoto - and the successor to Kyoto we now need to negotiate - is the creation of an open global market in environmental technologies and in investment in green industrial change."

Additional resources

The UN Foundation/ Sigma Xi report "Confronting Climate Change: Avoiding the Unmanageable and Managing the Unavoidable," is available at <http://www.unfoundation.org/SEG/>

The Path to Climate Sustainability: A Joint Statement by the Global Roundtable on Climate Change is available at http://www.earth.columbia.edu/grocc/grocc4_statement.html

The "Washington Statement" on climate cooperation by G8 + 5 parliamentarians is available at http://www.globeinternational.org/docs/content/washington_statement.pdf

ICTSD reporting; "Climate change as dangerous as war - UN chief Ban," REUTERS, 1 March 2007; "Science Panel Outlines Roadmap for Reducing Risks from Climate Change," UN FOUNDATION RELEASE, 27 February 2007; "Mandelson Renews Call For International Rules on Energy Trade and 0% Tariff on Green Goods", EUROPEAN COMMISSION, 9 February 2007; "G8 Climate Change Dialogue Moves to Washington", WORLD BANK, 14 February 2007; "Politicians Sign New Climate Pact", BBC NEWS, 16 February 2007; "New World Body May Help Cut CO2 Emissions, UN Told", PLANETARK, 19 February 2007; "AAAS Board Releases New Statement on Climate Change", AAAS, 18 February 2007.

Biodiversity

COUNTRIES SET STAGE FOR DEBATE ON SUSTAINABILITY OF TRADE AT CITES CONFERENCE

The question of whether to allow limited trade in threatened species continues to divide parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The secretariat recently released proposals to be discussed at the next Conference of the Parties, and country submissions regarding the protection of commercially valuable species in the fisheries and timber trade are on the up.

"Biological diversity faces many threats, ranging from habitat destruction to climate change to unrestrained commercial harvesting for trade. By ensuring that the international trade in wildlife is carefully managed, CITES seeks to reward people engaged in sustainable trade while protecting the world's biological diversity," UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner commented.

The continuing controversy around limited ivory sales aptly illustrates the underlying tension between those that favour strict conservation and those that support 'sustainable' trade that allows benefits to flow back to the communities involved in conserving their natural resources. In their proposals, Botswana and Namibia wanted to ease sales of ivory stockpiles in order to help bring revenues to the local populations that help manage and conserve elephant populations. Kenya and Mali took a diametrically opposite view, calling for a 20 year moratorium on any sales of ivory products, which they said would encourage poaching.

A number of Southern African countries claim to have successfully protected their elephant populations, which now are growing to the extent

that South Africa is proposing to implement measures to limit fertility or cull elephants. Elephant culls are controversial, with animal right groups decrying their cruelty -- entire family groups are killed all at once. Tanzania now joins several other Southern African countries in proposing to de-list its ivory from Annex I (no trade allowed) to Annex II (trade is strictly regulated and based on a permit regime), without requesting quotas for sales at this time.

When the CITES Standing Committee last considered the issue of one-off sales of ivory, it said that monitoring and statistics were not yet in order, and could not recommend sales of ivory stockpiles (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 20 October 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-10-20/story1.htm>).

The CITES Conference of the Parties, which meets every three years, is set to take place in The Hague from 3-15 June this year.

Additional resources

Country proposals for the upcoming CITES meeting
<http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/14/prop/index.shtml>

2007 IUCN statistics on African elephant populations
<http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/afesg/aed/aesr2007.html>

"New Curbs Proposed on Trade in Endangered Species," REUTERS, 1 March 2007; "Governments to consider new CITES trade controls for high-value marine and timber species," CITES RELEASE, 28 February 2007; "South Africa Says May Resume Elephant Cull," REUTERS, 1 March 2007.

STANDARD LAUNCHED FOR COLLECTION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

A new standard to promote the sustainable management and trade of wild medicinal and aromatic plants was launched on 16 February at the World Organic Trade Fair in Nuremberg, Germany. The standard promotes appropriate management of wild plants to ensure that plants used in medicine and cosmetics are not over-exploited. It has been in the works for several years, and will now be tested on the ground in several projects.

Medicinal plants harvested from the wild

An estimated 400,000 tonnes of medicinal and aromatic plants are traded every year, with around 80 percent of the species harvested from the wild.

About 15,000 species -- 21 percent of all medicinal and aromatic plant species used in traditional and modern medicine in the world -- are at risk, according to a report by the Medicinal Plant Specialist Group, which is part of IUCN's Species Survival Commission. Numerous medicinal plant species face over-exploitation and even extinction due to over-collection and habitat loss. While they provide valuable income for rural households, especially in developing countries, unsustainable collection threatens not only the survival of many species but also the livelihoods of people depending on them.

Examples of such species include *Cascarilla cinchona pubescens*, the medical herb that was originally used to extract the anti-malarial drug quinine. The plant, which is found in Ecuador, may be threatened as a result of over-exploitation, according to the environmental organisation WWF. It is used to treat a variety of ailments, from upset stomach to immune system problems.

Consultative process involving key stakeholders

The International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP) was drawn up following consultation with plant experts and the herbal products industry. The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, WWF-Germany, the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC, and industry associations, companies, certifiers and community-based nongovernmental organisations were all involved. The standard seeks to provide specific guidance for industry, resource managers, collectors and other stakeholders on sustainable sourcing practices.

The standard is based on six principles: maintaining medicinal and aromatic plant resources; preventing negative environmental impacts; legal compliance; respecting customary rights; applying responsible management practices; and applying responsible business practices.

"Traders and companies, collectors and consumers must share the responsibility for maintaining populations of medicinal plants which are valuable natural resources," said Susanne Honnef of TRAFFIC. "The ISSC-MAP principles and criteria show how this can be achieved in practice."

"I welcome the launch of this new standard, which presents an important step in ensuring the sustainable use of natural pharmaceutical products,"

said Professor Drenckhahn, President of WWF-Germany.

The standard is now being tested out during 2007-2008, and will subsequently be revisited.

Additional resources

ISSC-MAP standards (pdf)
http://www.floraweb.de/proxy/floraweb/MAP-pro/Standard_Version1_0.pdf

IUCN SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group
<http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/mpsg/>

"Global Standard Set for Wild Medicinal Plant Harvesting", ENS, 20 February 2007; "New International Standard for Sustainable Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants", IUCN RELEASE, 16 February 2007; "New Industry Standard for Collection of Wild Plants", TRAFFIC, 16 February 2007.

In Brief

GLOBAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CONTINUES TO GROW

Annual statistics on global organic agriculture show growth both of production and of markets.

The ninth edition of "The World of Organic Agriculture: Statistics and Emerging Trends" was released in mid-February by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), Foundation Ecology and Agriculture (SOEL) and the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL).

According to the survey, almost 31 million hectares of land were managed organically on more than 600,000 farms worldwide in 2006. This constituted 0.7 percent of agricultural land. Australia led with almost 11.9 million hectares of organic land, followed by Europe (7 million hectares) and Latin America. In Africa, 0.9 million hectares of agricultural land was organically cultivated.

Certain European countries had the highest share of organic agriculture as compared to conventional agriculture -- Austria and Switzerland reached 10 percent or more. The US, followed by Argentina, saw the greatest increase in land under organic farming last year. On the other hand, organic land (extensive pastoral land) in China, Chile and Australia decreased.

According to the study, global sales of organic products approached USD 40 billion in 2006.

Demand was concentrated in Europe and North America, which imported large volumes from other regions.

In terms of the practicalities of these imports, the study noted that more than 60 countries had regulations on organic standards, and 395 organisations worldwide offered organic certification services. A lack of mutual acceptance and recognition of different certification and accreditation systems hurt trade and market development, the study noted. It highlighted the establishment of an International Task Force on Harmonisation and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture as a possible solution. The task force aims at generating consensus on harmonising standards/regulations between the private sector and government and between governments.

Cotton - a major topic in ongoing WTO negotiations - was one of the crops scrutinised by the study. Turkey was the global leader with regard to organic cotton cultivation in 2006, followed by the US, Mali, Pakistan, Benin, Greece, Israel, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Egypt and Burkina Faso.

Additional resources

The World of Organic Agriculture: Statistics and Emerging Trends 2007. Chapters with main results accessible at <http://orgprints.org/10506/01/willer-yussefi-2007-p1-44.pdf>

ICTSD reporting.

EU MINISTERS UPHOLD HUNGARY'S GM BAN

On 20 February, EU member states voted by a qualified majority to uphold a Hungarian ban on genetically modified MON 810 maize, which the European Commission had approved in 1998. Five European countries instituted such national level bans between the years 1997 and 2000.

According to a recent WTO ruling, national-level biotech bans cannot be justified as precautionary measures and are not based on an adequate risk assessment (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 October 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-10-04/story2.htm>). However, the EU Environment Council already voted in favour of allowing Austria to maintain its national level bans of two GM maize varieties (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 19 January 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-01-19/inbrief.htm#4>).

Following member states' rejection of its proposal, the Commission will now need to consider alternative options for implementing the ruling, which could include judicial action or requesting the relevant countries to provide a risk assessment that complies with WTO requirements.

"EU upholds Hungary's sovereign right to ban GMOs," REUTERS, 20 February 2007; "Are EU GMO rules starving the poor?" EURACTIV, 23 February 2007.

NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS TRADE-RELATED MEASURES FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Conservation organisation TRAFFIC recently released a report calling for effective management of fisheries in order to safeguard their future health and survival.

Entitled "Catching On? Trade-Related Measures as a Fisheries Management Tool," the report focuses on trade-related measures taken by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs). The measures examined include the use of documentation to authenticate the legality of catches, as well as the creation of "white" and "black" lists of vessels in order to identify those that comply -- or fail to comply -- with regulations. The report also considers the use of trade bans on states that do not implement conservation and management measures.

In terms of useful actions, the report recommends the installation of satellite tracking of vessels to monitor their position and fishing activities. It further recommends the use of Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS), which provide data on legitimate fish landings, "allowing sustainable quota levels to be set, and even provide insights into the levels of illegal trade."

According to TRAFFIC's Glenn Sant, "Systematic use of trade-related measures is effective. A combination of catch documentation, vessel monitoring, on-board observers, controls on transshipment and where vessels land and sell their catch do work. What it needs is the political will and adequate resources to ensure these measures are put in place."

The report was released in advance of a meeting of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Committee on Fisheries, to be held on Rome from 5-9 March.

Additional resources

The report "Catching On? Trade-Related Measures as a Fisheries Management Tool," can be downloaded at <http://www.traffic.org/content/833.pdf>.

"Fisheries not catching on," TRAFFIC RELEASE, 1 March 2007.

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE INITIATIVE GOES GLOBAL

A US-led initiative to fight wildlife crime was internationally launched in February this year. The Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT) aims to "boost wildlife enforcement, reduce consumer demand for illegally traded wildlife and generate high level political support to end the unlawful industry."

Claudia McMurray, US Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, outlined the three-fold reasons the initiative had been established. Firstly, to protect endangered species and biodiversity, second, to help stem the spread to humans of virulent wildlife diseases, such as SARS, avian influenza and the Ebola virus, and third, to stop organised crime. Wildlife trafficking often uses similar routes and methods as human, drug and arms trafficking.

Originally launched by the US in 2005, the initiative brings together the governments of Australia, India and the UK, as well as a number of organisations, including the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the American Forest and Paper Association, Conservation International, Save The Tiger Fund, the Smithsonian Institution, Traffic International and environmental group WWF.

The CAWT launch took place in conjunction with the UNEP Governing Council (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 16 February 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-02-16/story1.htm>).

The US currently chairs the CAWT. The country is the second largest market for illegal wildlife trade, following China.

Additional resources

CAWT website
<http://www.cawtglobal.org/cawt/public/>

"Opening Remarks at High Level Meeting of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking," US DEPT OF STATE RELEASE, 10 February 2007; "UK

Government helps fight against illegal wildlife trafficking,” DEFRA RELEASE, 13 February 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

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

4-11 March, Bangkok, Thailand: SECOND INTERNATIONAL AGARWOOD CONFERENCE. Organised by the Rainforest Project Foundation, this conference will follow up on the experience and the feedback of the First International Agarwood Conference, held in Vietnam in November 2003. It will cater to mix of researchers and participants involved in all aspects of agarwood production, trade and regulation. For further information visit <http://www.rainforestproject.net>.

5&7 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - AUSTRALIA. 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.

5-9 March, Budapest, Hungary: 28TH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING. This meeting will address criteria for the methods for the detection and identification of foods derived from biotechnology. For further information contact the Codex Secretariat at tel: +39-06-57-051; e-mail: codex@fao.org; internet: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/report/679/ma28_01e.pdf.

5 March to 1 April, e-conference: WATER SCARCITY AND AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGIES. This moderated e-mail conference is being organised by the FAO Biotechnology Forum in collaboration with FAO's water programme, and will coincide with the World Water Day, which is celebrated each year on 22 March. A related background document is available online. The document gives an overview of the current status and future perspectives regarding water availability and use on Earth as well as a discussion of some major strategies that can be employed to deal with water scarcity. It then

looks at the issue of water use in agriculture in more detail as well as some of the potential ways in which biotechnology could contribute to this area (e.g. increasing the efficiency of water use in agriculture; application of mycorrhizal fungi; or improving wastewater treatment). For further information visit <http://www.fao.org/biotech/C14doc.htm> or contact biotech-admin@fao.org.

6 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. For further information, contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41 22) 739 5007; fax: (41 22) 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org.

8-9 March, Bangkok, Thailand: DEVELOPING SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES IN ASIA. Organized by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the UN Division for Sustainable Development, this workshop will review national sustainable development strategies (NSDS) in countries in Asia and the Pacific and their relationship to national development plans and poverty reduction strategies (PRS) with a view to better integration. The following themes will be covered: sustainability and development in Asia and the Pacific; Governance approaches to national sustainable development strategies in Asia and the Pacific; The role of stakeholders in sustainability strategies; and integrating sustainability in development planning. For further information see <http://www.scidev.net/events/index.cfm?fuseaction=readevents&itemid=1044&language=1>.

12-13 March, New Delhi, India: SAVING DOHA AND DELIVERING ON DEVELOPMENT. Organised by the Government of India, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Oxfam International, the National Council for Applied Economic Research, and the Consumer Unity and Trust Society International (CUTS), participants at this seminar will discuss progress, or the lack thereof, in the Doha round and how it can be redirected to benefit developing nations. For more information, email Tpapanicolas@carnegieendowment.org.

12-21 March, Buenos Aires, Argentina: FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (CRIC-5). This meeting will focus on: review of the implementation of the Convention and its institutional arrangements; consideration of necessary adjustments to the elaboration process and implementation of action programmes; review of available information regarding mobilisation and use of financial resources; and consideration of ways and means to promote know-how and technology transfer; and improvement of procedures for communication of information. For further information visit <http://www.unccd.int>.

15-16 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COTTON - HIGH-LEVEL 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

26-28 March, Helsinki, Finland: BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS AD HOC JOINT WORKING GROUP ON SYNERGIES. This meeting is being convened as a result of decisions taken at the Conference of the Parties (COPs) of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to investigate synergies among the conventions and is being organized jointly by the three Secretariats. For further information visit http://ahjwg.chem.unep.ch/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=6&Itemid=33.

21-24 March, Tunis, Tunisia: MEDA WATER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT. This conference will focus on water saving, alternative water resources such as rainwater harvesting and wastewater reuse after treatment, wastewater treatment technologies suited for decentralised sanitation in peri-urban and rural contexts or tourism facilities located in remote areas. For further information contact Ahmed Ghrabi, email: ahmed.ghrabi@inrst.nrnt.tn; internet: <http://www.zer0-m.org/medawaterconf/index.htm>.

26-27 March, London, UK: SENSE AND SUSTAINABILITY: THE LIMITS AND REACH OF CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the historic World Commission on Environment and Development report, and fifteen years since the first UN 'Earth Summit'. Organised by Chatham House in partnership with the FTSE Group, this event will review the progress towards sustainable development, and explore the scope for both scaling up, and speeding up action - by governments, business and civil society. Corporate Responsibility 2007 is the ninth in Chatham House's CR series. For further information e-mail conferences@chathamhouse.org.uk; phone: +44 (0)20 7957 5753; internet: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/index.php?id=5&cid=110>.

28-30 March, Oslo, Norway. THE OSLO CONFERENCE ON GOOD GOVERNANCE, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY. The Oslo Conference aims to take the ongoing debate about business and sustainability beyond corporate social responsibility by providing a platform for an integrated approach comprised of key players from government, business, academia, trade-unions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The conference is hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Reporting

Initiative (GRI), the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment and the City of Oslo. For further information visit <http://www.csr-oslo.org/>.

14-30 April, e-conference: ANTHROPOCENTRISM TO ECOCENTRISM: MAKING THE SHIFT. EcoRes Forum, a nonprofit organisation dedicated to the free exchange of knowledge and ideas concerning society and climate change, invites you to join the first in a series of online e-conferences focusing on the ethical, political and socio-cultural aspects of climate change. For further information visit <http://www.eco-res.org>. For registration visit <http://www.eco-res.org/register.html>.

7-9 May, Ottawa, Canada. WORKING GROUP MEETING ON FOODS DERIVED FROM rDNA PLANTS MODIFIED FOR NUTRITIONAL OR HEALTH BENEFIT.

Organised jointly of FAO/WHO. For further information contact the Codex Contact Point for Canada at email: Codex_Canada@hc-sc.gc.ca or the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme at email: codex@fao.org.

14-19 May, Seoul, Republic of Korea: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION. The objective of this conference is to examine the scientific basis for forest landscape restoration and its linkages to practice and policy. Forest Landscape Restoration is a process that aims to balance trade-offs between and improves ecological integrity and human well-being in degraded or deforested forest landscapes by fostering appropriate forms of restoration at strategically chosen locations. For further information contact John A. Stanturf, e-mail: jstanturf@fs.fed.us; tel: +82 2 726 5555 5556; fax: +82 2 778 2514; internet: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/korea/>.

RESOURCES

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy or review by the Bridges staff to Malena Sell at msell@ictsd.ch.

THE ECONOMICS OF ILLEGAL LOGGING AND ASSOCIATED TRADE. By Arnoldo Contreras-Hermosilla, Richard Doornbosch and Michael Lodge (OECD, 2007). This paper outlines the nature, magnitude and consequences of illegal logging in forest-rich producer countries, and programmes on both the supply and demand side being implemented to reduce this problem. To access the paper visit: http://www.illegal-logging.info/papers/OECD_background_paper_on_illegal_logging.pdf.

FISHING CAPACITY MANAGEMENT IN THE EU POST 2002 COMMON FISHERIES POLICY REFORM. By James Brown (Institute for European Environmental Policy, December 2006). The author

analyses the new EU fleet management system and the European Fisheries Fund, and how they relate to each other. Performance is measured against the International Plan of Action (POA) for the management of fishing capacity. The paper finds that the EU has made the most progress in: establishing a legally binding EU wide capacity management system; assessing its fleets; and taking a phased and prioritised approach. The absence of an EU POA and national POAs is one of the main areas in which the paper suggests the EU falls short. To read the paper visit:

<http://www.ieep.eu/publications/pdfs/fisheries/EU%20fishing%20capacity%20management.pdf>.

GREEN ENERGY TV. Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (2007). This resource is an internet-based television channel dedicated to sharing stories of successful green energy initiatives. Videos are uploaded via the website, with the aim of raising awareness among consumers and companies of the energy choices available and to empower them to make educated energy choices. To watch visit:

<http://www.greenenergytv.com/watchnow.html>.

"Balancing access and benefit sharing and legal protection of innovations from bioprospecting: impacts

on conservation of biodiversity." By G. Kristin Rosendal in the JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT 15 (4, 2006). Biodiversity conservation, access and benefit sharing (ABS), and protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) linked to biotechnologies are all internationally agreed - but not necessarily compatible - objectives. The Convention on Biological Diversity aims for a balance between the needs and interests of owners of genetic resources and technology owners. Can current proposals for handling existing IPR legislation, such as disclosure of origin and certificates of legal provenance, contribute to finding a balance between the interests? Will the growing concern for legitimacy in international transactions with genetic resources be helpful to countries providing genetic resources for technological innovation or are the benefits too few? The article concludes that the success of establishing a multilateral system for access and benefit sharing still depends on compatible legislation in user and provider countries to counterbalance strengthened patent protection systems worldwide. Moreover, it is necessary to overcome the old schism between wildlife conservation and access issues in agricultural biodiversity to boost overall implementation efforts.

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 Melanie Butler, Fleur Claessens, Gueye Kamal, Alexander Kamarashki and Malena Sell. 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 tobiorees@ictsd.ch.