



# Bridges Trade BioRes

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

**Volume 7 • Number 8, 27 April 2007**

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Bridges Trade BioRes© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at International Environment House II, Chemin de Balexert 7, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (+41) 22-917-8492; fax: (+41) 22-917-8093.

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ISSN 1682-0843

## **Sustainable Energy**

### **BIOFUEL ROUNDUP: SUSTAINABILITY AT STAKE**

As global production and consumption as well as target-setting for biofuels use increases, the debate has swiftly moved to hone in on a number of sustainability issues. During the last weeks, a meeting was held at the UN Food and Agriculture organisation (FAO) to consider the complex linkages between biofuel production, global food production and the environment. At another biofuels conference, a number of conservation organisations repeated warnings that increasing biodiesel production has become a major driver of deforestation in tropical forests. Meanwhile, WWF has released a new study regarding the full lifecycle carbon footprint of palm oil.

Amongst increasing calls for ways to ensure the sustainability of biofuels, a new international roundtable of biofuels stakeholders has been established to develop such criteria and guidelines — even as other organisations and groups are pondering who should take the lead and how such criteria or standards should be developed.

Not all support sustainability standards for biofuels, however. According to media reports, Brazilian trade diplomats have warned their EU counterparts that they would reject any standards placed by buyers on bioethanol and biodiesel, and would bring such attempts to the WTO for dispute settlement due to their trade impacts.

### **Ag experts say food/fuel competition depends on specifics of country, region**

Experts meeting at the FAO in mid-April agreed that the production of biofuels could present either an opportunity or a threat from a social and food security standpoint, depending on the circumstances. Joseph Schmidhuber, FAO Senior Economist, said that competition between food

and fuel uses of crops depended on whether countries were importers or exporters of food crops to begin with. Alexander Müller, Head of FAO's Natural Resources Management and Environment, commented that "In food security terms, bioenergy only makes sense if we know where the food-insecure populations are located and what they need to improve their livelihoods." Participants stressed that those hurt by rising food prices due to increasing bioenergy demands, whether at the household level or among the net food-importing developing countries — mainly located in Sub-Saharan Africa — would need to be supported.

Participants discussed the role of small-scale biofuel production, providing farmers with fuel for on-farm use as well as to provide income through sales. Such biofuel production could become part of the overall landscape mosaic, integrated with other crop production in a sustainable way.

Overall, participants felt that the relationship between biofuels, food production and the environment was extremely complex and warranted further research and analysis. They also said performance standards were needed for biofuels production to ensure its sustainability. For instance, the FAO's International Bioenergy Platform could draw up bioenergy guidelines to be used both by governments and private sector investors.

### **Abolish biodiesel targets, say enviro groups**

Meeting at the First European Summit on Sustainable Bio Fuels in Madrid from 17-18 April, 300 registered participants from both industry and civil society pondered future prospects for bioenergy.

A number of environmental groups expressed grave concerns, specifically with regard to palm oil production. "Biofuels made from unsustainably sourced palm oil are not green," said Michelle Desilets, director of the UK-based Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation, adding that "clearing forests for production of palm oil often involves burning [which releases greenhouse gas emissions and destroys biodiversity]." Countries in the EU, which has set ambitious blending target

for biodiesel, are set to import palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, or soy oil from Brazil based on production in areas where the Amazon has been cleared, said the groups.

Some reports have even found that clearing forests for palm oil production does not necessarily mean that plantations are planted. According to Willie Smits, who runs a satellite mapping service that charts the state of rainforests in Indonesia, companies are getting permissions to establish plantations in conservation forests. However, "what they're really doing is stealing the timber because they get to clear it before they plant. But the timber's all they want; hit and run with no intention of ever planting." According to UNEP, 98 percent of the rainforests of Indonesia and Malaysia will be gone within 15 years under current logging rates. The habitats of countless species will be destroyed, including orang-utans. These apes are further killed on plantations as they eat palm seedlings.

The environmental groups at the conference said the EU biodiesel target should be abandoned. A representative of the European Commission agreed that there are problems linked with biodiesel production in some cases, and said that the Commission was working on an incentive-based scheme to promote sustainably produced biofuels.

### **WWF: not all biodiesel is climate friendly**

Meanwhile, a new WWF study looking at the climate impacts of palm oil production and use shows that only palm oil grown on fallow lands is sustainable. Clearing rainforest and draining peatland for palm oil production leads to more greenhouse gas emissions than any non-blended diesel it replaces would have emitted, according to the report, entitled "Rainforests for Biodiesel?"

"It is imperative that the use of fallow lands for oil palm cultivation be considered and prioritised before more rainforests are destroyed," said Markus Radday, WWF Germany's tropical forest officer. WWF reiterated a call for binding sustainability criteria for palm oil — criteria that would ensure a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The group noted that palm oil certified as meeting criteria developed by

the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil — a multi-stakeholder platform comprising the main actors and interest groups in the area of palm oil production and consumption — is expected to be on the market in July this year.

The study, Rainforests for Biodiesel?, is available at [http://assets.panda.org/downloads/wwf\\_palmoil\\_study.pdf](http://assets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_palmoil_study.pdf).

### **Biofuels roundtable to develop sustainability criteria**

The Energy Centre at the Federal Polytechnical Institute (EPFL) in Lausanne, Switzerland, announced on 17 April that it would host a Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels. The initiative is set to bring together the private sector, civil society and governments to develop principles for sustainable biofuels, much in the way the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil and the Roundtable on Responsible Soy are doing.

Claude Martin, who chairs of the roundtable's steering board, said "Companies and farmers want global rules that they can follow. The Roundtable will bring together all of these actors to start writing these rules together, to ensure that biofuels deliver on their promise of sustainability."

Participants, which represent more than 80 organisations around the world, include WWF, Toyota, BP, the Mali Folkecenter, Shell, the Dutch and Swiss governments, the UN Foundation, Petrobras, Bunge and TERI India. They are set to "develop draft standards through a global feedback process" by early 2008. The standards will address environmental and social impacts, as well as overall greenhouse gas benefits.

### **Brazil views sustainability criteria as trade barriers**

The call for sustainability criteria is not proving popular in all quarters, however. According to Brazilian press reports, the country has rejected environmental certification criteria. Such criteria would impose large costs on the country, which hinted that it would be ready to challenge their legitimacy at the WTO, would they be imposed by the EU and other biofuel importers.

ICTSD reporting; "Bioenergy could drive rural development," FAO RELEASE, 23 April 2007; "Tropical Forest Felled for Biofuels, Ecologists Say," REUTERS, 19 April 2007; "Palm oil: the biofuel of the future driving an ecological disaster now," GUARDIAN, 4 April 2007; "Rainforests for Biodiesel?" WWF RELEASE, 23 April 2007; "EPFL Announces Global Alliance to Ensure Biofuels' Sustainability," EPFL RELEASE, 17 April 2007; "Brazil To Reject EU Environment Rules For Ethanol — Report," DOW JONES, 23 April 2007; "Brasil avisa a europeus que não aceita certificado ambiental," ESTADÃO - ONLINE, 19 April 2007.

## **Forests**

### **GREENPEACE: RESTRICT TRADE IN ENDANGERED MERBAU WOOD**

Environmental organisation Greenpeace recently released a report showcasing the illegal and unsustainable logging of merbau, a tropical hardwood species used to produce luxury flooring and outdoor furniture. Merbau remains in commercial quantities only on New Guinea (both in the Indonesian province of Papua and in Papua New Guinea). It is imported in large volumes by China, which processes it both for its domestic market and for export to the US, Europe, Australia and other countries.

According to new the report "most large international flooring producers include merbau in their product ranges, with the majority of them sourcing the wood from untraceable sources in Indonesia. Few, if any of these producers are able to credibly prove the full legal origins of their merbau supply." Merbau is on the IUCN red list of endangered species, categorised as "facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future."

Entitled "Merbau's last stand: How industrial logging is driving the destruction of the Paradise Forests of Asia Pacific," the Greenpeace report notes that if current rates of legal logging continue, merbau will be extinct in 35 years (and even more rapidly, when illegal logging is factored in). The tree takes up to 80 years to mature, and there are only a few merbau trees per hectare of

forest. When merbau is felled, the entire forest area is degraded, even if the other trees are not targeted for timber.

The study, which factors in previous work undertaken by the Environmental Investigation Agency and its Indonesian partner Telapak, highlights several routes that criminal organisations are using to smuggle the merbau for processing in China. One method involves using forged Malaysian documents; another buying from illegal operators in Papua New Guinea. Further, logs are openly exported from Indonesia to China despite an Indonesian export ban for logs put in place in 2001. Logs are also exported as "sawn timber" - meaning some value-added would have been produced in Indonesia prior to their export. However, in practice, this sawn timber actually consists of minimally processed "squared logs." The newest smuggling route involves shipping the logs via Malaysia, where the get stamped as originating in Malaysia.

According to the World Bank, illegal logging of timber on public lands in developing countries generates losses in assets and revenue of more than US\$10 billion each year. This amounts to more than six times the total official development assistance for sustainable management of forests.

The Greenpeace study makes several suggestions for how to address the problem. International and bilateral cooperation to resolve the problem should be strengthened, according to the organisation, and the countries that have merbau should engage in participatory planning activities aiming to create networks of protected areas. In addition, companies selling merbau products should adopt credible third-party chain-of-custody procedures. Further, Greenpeace suggests that Indonesia and Papua New Guinea seek to list merbau on Appendix III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), following the route taken with regard to mahogany and ramin. Once on Appendix III, quotas severely restricting the trade in merbau would be set.

The next Conference of the Parties of the CITES convention will be held from 3-15 June in the Hague, the Netherlands.

## Additional resources

The Greenpeace report "Merbau's last stand: How industrial logging is driving the destruction of the Paradise Forests of Asia Pacific" is available at <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/media/reports/merbaus-last-stand>.

The report by the Environmental Investigation Agency and Telapak "Behind the Veneer: How Indonesia's Last Rainforests are Being Felled for Flooring" from March 2006, is available at <http://www.eia-international.org/cgi/reports/reports.cgi?t=template&a=117>.

The update to "Behind the Veneer," from October 2006, is available at <http://www.eia-international.org/files/reports121-1.pdf>.

"Video hints at China's illicit trade in tropical lumber," GLOBE AND MAIL, 18 April 2007; "Gold rush' for wood flooring is destroying endangered habitat," THE INDEPENDENT, 17 April 2007; "Greenpeace Says China Guilty in Illegal Logging," REUTERS, 17 April 2007.

## In Brief

### CONFERENCE SEEKS SOLUTIONS TO END WHALING DEADLOCK

With the debate at the International Whaling Commission polarised between pro-whaling and anti-whaling countries (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 16 February 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-02-16/inbrief.htm#2>), a recent meeting in New York tried to find ways to break the deadlock by exploring new options allowing the conservation of whales.

Over 60 experts participated in the "Symposium on the Conservation of Whales in the 21st Century" — which was sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trust — to consider scientific, legal and political issues.

Trade-related issues featured among the topics of discussions. Some participants suggested that a ban on trade in whale meat could help stem

demand, leading to the gradual phase-out of whaling. Whale meat is mainly consumed in Japan, which engages in “scientific” whaling after an international moratorium on commercial whaling was put in place in 1986. The meat is then sold for consumption. Recent Icelandic whale hunts have been conducted despite a lack of domestic demand for whale meat, with whalers banking on exports to Japan (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 20 October 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-10-20/inbrief.htm>). Norway has also exported whale blubber to Japan.

Participants also highlighted the fact that the existing whaling fleet is highly subsidised, and would be unviable without government funding. They noted ongoing discussions at the WTO aiming to curb fisheries subsidies (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 30 March 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-03-30/story1.htm>), suggesting that whaling subsidies should be disciplined as well.

At the end of the meeting, the Chair summarised a number of specific recommendations emanating from the discussions, as well as four general recommendations to: conduct more research into the economics of whaling, and particular into the issue of subsidies; raise awareness within pro-whaling countries regarding all aspects of the practise; improve dialogue by establishing new forums or mechanisms to constructively engage stakeholders from both sides of the debate; and explore new approaches to conflict management within the International Whaling Commission.

The next meeting of the International Whaling Commission will take place in Anchorage, Alaska, from 28-30 May.

#### **Additional resources**

To access the Chair’s summary of the meeting visit  
<http://www.vardagroup.org/whalesymposium/documents/chairsummaryfinal.pdf>.

For a full report of the meeting, see IISD Reporting Services at  
<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/whales/>.

ICTSD reporting; “IISD Reporting Services Vol. 137 No. 2,” 16 April 2007.

#### **US-KOREA FTA UNDER CIVIL SOCIETY FIRE**

The US and South Korea approved a bilateral trade agreement in early April following intense negotiations (see Bridges Weekly, 4 April 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-04-04/story1.htm>). The comprehensive deal, which still has to be approved domestically in both countries, has drawn criticism among civil society groups, including anti-GM activists.

According to South Korean media outlet the Hankyoreh, the countries’ negotiators agreed to ease rules on imports from the US containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) under the free trade agreement in return for the US opening its textile market to Korean exporters. South Korea has generally been much more restrictive with regard to GMOs than has the US.

Korean environmentalists criticised the government for ‘selling off’ the health of the nation, citing concerns that GMOs may be hazardous to consumer’s health, especially in the long run. South Korea had recently approved regulations on labelling of GM foods, had moved to ratify the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and was planning to conduct safety tests on GM animal feed.

Critics also raised concerns that allowing the import of US GM feed, US GM corn imports — banned in Korea since 2002 — would resume. Korea does grow some of its own GM products, including corn, making up a small percentage of its total crops.

BIO, a biotechnology industry organisation, released a statement 17 April applauding the US Trade Representative’s office for reaching a successful conclusion to the FTA and praising the agricultural negotiators for “ensuring that Korea’s agricultural biotechnology regulations are science-based, and that trade of biotech-derived crops, foods, and feeds continues with out disruption.”

The details of the deal are not yet publicly available.

In related news, the US- Korea FTA requires both parties to effectively enforce their own domestic environmental laws, and this obligation is enforceable through the agreement's dispute settlement procedures. It also commits each party to establish high levels of environmental protection and not reduce or weaken environmental laws to attract trade and investment.

"SK reportedly agrees to nix testing US genetically modified crops," THE HANKYOREH, 7 April 2007; "BIO commends USTR for successfully concluding US-Korea free trade agreement," BIO PRESS RELEASE, 17 April 2007; "Documents show S. Korean government lying over trade-off with US on GMOs," GMWATCH.ORG, 9 April 2007.

### **EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO CONSERVE DEVELOPING COUNTRY CROP DIVERSITY**

The Global Crop Diversity Trust — a foundation seeking to promote food security through, among other, seed bank systems — recently announced that it had received additional funding to help conserve the seeds of key crops from developing countries.

"This initiative will rescue the most globally important developing-country collections of the world's 21 most important food crops," said Cary Fowler, director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust. The crops include cassava, yams, bananas and rice. Many crops grown in developing countries are referred to as orphan crops, as they have been neglected by companies that use modern approaches to crop breeding. This genetic material, used by the poor, is particularly threatened.

The new funding would "secure over 95 percent of the endangered crop diversity held in developing country gene banks, many of which are under-funded and in disrepair". The information would also be linked to a global network.

Climate change is expected to put new demands on agriculture, and seed banks provide "insurance" by preserving a variety of genetic

traits that may be useful for future breeding. Currently, agriculture is becoming increasingly homogeneous, and seed supply at a commercial scale is dominated by a few multinational companies. There are 1500 genebanks in the world, which freeze and store seeds.

"Gates Foundation Funds Efforts To Rescue 95 Percent Of World's Endangered Critical Crop Biodiversity," GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST RELEASE, 19 April 2007; "Third World crops get \$37.5 mln gene storage bank," REUTERS, 19 April 2007.

### **SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATES CLIMATE CHANGE**

Members of the UN Security Council discussed climate change for the first time on 17 April. They did not issue any resolution or statement on the topic, and also disagreed internally on whether the Security Council was an appropriate forum for such a discussion.

Introduced by the UK, the topic did not fare well with the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement nor the Group-77 developing countries. Russia and China also felt climate and energy should be discussed in other fora, such as the General Assembly.

British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett stressed, however, that "The Security Council is the forum to discuss issues that threaten the peace and security of the international community. What makes wars start? Fights over water. Changing patterns of rainfall. Fights over food production, land use." UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also said that "issues of energy and climate change have implications for peace and security." Speaking for the Pacific Island Forum, Papua New Guinea's U.N. Ambassador Robert Aisi added that "The dangers that the small islands and their populations face [due to climate change] are no less serious than those nations and peoples threatened by guns and bombs."

According to Beckett, the purpose of the debate was to make sure climate change moved from being a fringe issue into the mainstream.

Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol will be meeting in December this year at a crucial conference in Bali to hammer out a plan for negotiating future climate change commitments. Ban Ki-moon has suggested the possibility of holding a high-level meeting to focus politicians' minds on the issue in September, before the December meeting. This could pave the way for a global climate summit in 2009.

"First climate debate divides UN," BBC, 18 April 2007; "U.N. Security Council holds groundbreaking debate on climate change over protests from developing countries," AP, 17 April 2007; "UK Puts Climate Change in UN Council, China Objects," REUTERS, 18 April 2007.

## Events & Resources

### EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies.

#### ICTSD Event

10 May, New York, USA: INTERNATIONAL TRADE, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRANSITION. ICTSD in collaboration with UNEP and the Italian Ministry of Environment will organise a high-level panel in conjunction with CSD-15. Taking place from 18:15 to 19:45 on 10 May at UN Headquarters (Conference Room 4), the event will address the vast range of opportunities and challenges at the interface of trade, climate change and energy, assess sustainability challenges, and identify viable solutions for harnessing the potential of international trade to contribute to advancing the global agenda on climate change and energy for sustainable development.

### Coming up in the next two weeks

30 April to 4 May, Senegal, Dakar: THIRD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (COP-3). The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. For more information on COP-3 contact the Stockholm Convention Secretariat; tel: +41-22-917-8191; e-mail: [ssc@pops.int](mailto:ssc@pops.int); internet: [http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/cop\\_3/default.htm](http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/cop_3/default.htm).

30 April to 4 May, Ottawa, Canada: CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING. Organised jointly by FAO and WHO, this meeting will focus on guidelines for the production, processing, labelling and marketing of organically produced food, labelling of genetically modified food and food ingredients, and advertising in relation to nutrition and health claims. For more information contact the WHO/FAO office at +39 06 57051, or by e-mail at [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org); internet: [http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/report/682/fl35\\_01e.pdf](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/report/682/fl35_01e.pdf).

30 April to 11 May, New York, US: UN CSD-15. The fifteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15) will focus on the areas of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change. For further information contact the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; tel: +1 212 963 8102; fax: +1 212 963 4260; e-mail: [dsd@un.org](mailto:dsd@un.org); internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm>.

2 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT. 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](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

2-3 May, Minneapolis, US: TOWARD A GLOBAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY FOR AN OPEN INTERNATIONAL

ECONOMY. The worldwide tendency to consider food and agricultural policies from a national or domestic perspective has created barriers to the efficient use of the world's agricultural resources and reduced the contributions that agriculture can make to global economic welfare. This symposium to honour University of Minnesota Regents Professor Emeritus G. Edward Schuh will bring together scholars and policy experts to discuss how to move toward a global food and agricultural policy for an open international economy. For further information, including presenters and paper topics, visit [http://www.hhh.umn.edu/schuh\\_symposium/index.html](http://www.hhh.umn.edu/schuh_symposium/index.html).

3-4 May, 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](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

3-5 May, Rome, Italy: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY. Organised by the FAO. Organic agriculture is a holistic production management system that avoids use of synthetic fertilisers, pesticides and genetically modified organisms, minimises pollution of air, soil and water, and optimises the health and productivity of interdependent communities of plants, animals and people. The conference will include presentations on perspectives on organic agriculture and a number of case studies on subtopics relevant to the theme. For further information, contact Nadia El-Hage Scialabba and Tara Moreau at (+39) 06 5705 6729 or by e-mail at [organicag@fao.org](mailto:organicag@fao.org); internet: [http://www.fao.org/organicag/ofs/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/organicag/ofs/index_en.htm)

7 & 9 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - COSTA RICA. 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](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

7-10 May, Rome, Italy: FAO COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY. The thirty-third

session of the meeting will assess the world food security situation and consider the status and lessons learned from special, national and regional programmes for food security. For further information contact Margarita Flores, e-mail: [margarita.flores@fao.org](mailto:margarita.flores@fao.org), tel: +39 06 570 56566; internet: [http://www.fao.org/UNFAO/Bodies/cfs/cfs33/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/UNFAO/Bodies/cfs/cfs33/index_en.htm).

7-12 May, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea: ITTC-42. The forty-second Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) and Associated Sessions of the Committees will consider a wide range of issues, including: forest law enforcement and governance in the context of sustainable tropical timber trade; inclusion of additional timber species under CITES; and developments in the UNFCCC related to forests and their potential implications for tropical forests and the world tropical timber economy. For further information visit <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=179&id=3227>.

7-18 May, Bonn, Germany: UNFCCC SESSIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES. The twenty-sixth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will be held from 7-18 May 2007. The third session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG) will be held from 14-18 May. The third workshop under the Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention will take place from 16-17 May 2006. For further information visit <http://unfccc.int/meetings/sb26/items/3919.php>

8-9 May, São Paulo, Brazil: ROUNDTABLE ON RESPONSIBLE SOY GENERAL ASSEMBLY. The goal of the Global Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS) is to set up a multistakeholder and participatory process that promotes economically viable, socially equitable and environmentally sustainable production, processing and trading of soy. For further



information see  
<http://www.responsiblesoy.org/eng/index.htm>.  
 9-10 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO  
 GENERAL COUNCIL. 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](mailto:enquiries@wto.org). Other upcoming events

14-15 May, Paris, France: INNOVATION,  
 GROWTH, AND EQUITY. This multi-  
 stakeholder summit will bring together business,  
 labour, civil society, and government leaders to  
 discuss the hottest issues on the international  
 agenda in conjunction with the annual  
 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and  
 Development (OECD) Ministerial Summit. Areas  
 to be explored include trade policy, economy,  
 energy, and innovation. A special spotlight will be  
 given to Spain at the summit as the chair of this  
 year's OECD ministerial summit. For further  
 information see  
[http://www.oecd.org/site/0,2865,en\\_21571361\\_37578380\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/site/0,2865,en_21571361_37578380_1_1_1_1_1,00.html).

28-31 May, Anchorage, Alaska, USA: IWC-59.  
 The 59th Annual Meeting of the IWC (IWC-59)  
 will be preceded by meetings of the Scientific  
 Committee and other committees and sub-  
 committees. For further information, contact the  
 IWC Secretariat at tel: +44-1223-233-97, e-mail:  
[secretariat@iwcoffice.org](mailto:secretariat@iwcoffice.org); internet:  
<http://www.iwcoffice.org/meetings/meeting2007.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 for review by the BRIDGES staff to Malena Sell.

ETHICAL SOURCING IN THE GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEM. Edited by Stephanie Barrientos and Catherine Dolan. Earthscan, 2006. Ethical sourcing, both through fair trade and ethical trade, is increasingly entering the mainstream of food retailing. Large supermarkets have come under pressure to improve the returns to small producers and conditions of employment within their supply chains. But how effective is ethical sourcing? Can it genuinely address the problems

facing workers and producers in the global food system? This book brings together a range of academics and practitioners working on issues of ethical sourcing in the global food system. It critically explores the opportunities and challenges in the ethical sourcing of food by combining analysis and case studies that examine a range of approaches. It explores whether ethical sourcing is a cosmetic northern initiative, or can genuinely help to improve the conditions of small producers and workers in the current global food system. Order the book online at <http://www.earthscan.co.uk>.

A FAIR FARM BILL FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY. Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, April 2007. The third instalment of a series of papers on the 2007 US Farm Bill, this paper address the challenges posed by the growth in farm-based renewable energy production and their implications for the 2007 US Farm Bill. It encourages diversification of biofuels production from corn and soybeans to more sustainable biomass crops. It also offers predictions on how food prices could be affected by dedicating more land to biofuel production and what can be done to ensure that farmers and rural communities benefit from the new bioeconomy. The brief suggests that a renewable-fuels system based on perennial crops and local ownership will ensure the success of the 2007 Farm Bill and offers concrete policy steps that should be taken to that end. Download the report online at <http://www.iatp.org/iatp/publications.cfm?showall=false>.

SHOULD THE GREEN BOX BE MODIFIED? By David Blandford and Timothy Josling, International Food and Agriculture Trade Policy Council, March 2007. Agriculture is at the heart of the current Doha "Development" Round of trade negotiations, with increased market access for agriculture playing an important role in furthering economic development and poverty reduction in developing countries. Progress in reducing trade-distorting subsidies has been helped through the introduction of the "Green Box" category in the WTO, which identifies minimally trade-distorting support, including financial support for research and development, food aid, decoupled income support, disaster relief, and environmental programs. In this

discussion paper, the authors raise salient questions regarding the Green Box and how it can best be utilised to meet the needs of both rich and poor countries. Download the full report, or the shorter policy focus, online at [http://www.agritrade.org/Publications/green\\_box.html](http://www.agritrade.org/Publications/green_box.html).

causing further northward movement of marine organisms. To read the paper visit [http://www.vliz.be/docs/Events/JCD/MB\\_Climate\\_Change\\_VLIZ\\_05031.pdf](http://www.vliz.be/docs/Events/JCD/MB_Climate_Change_VLIZ_05031.pdf).

THE EMISSION GAME: HOW MARKETS CAN HELP SAVE THE PLANET. By Christine Loh and Roger Raufer, CLSA Asia Pacific Markets, January 2007. This report explores both the environmental and financial aspects of emissions trading. The authors first explain the environmental arguments for carbon emissions reduction and how emissions trading works, including a case study of proposed emissions trading schemes in China and Hong Kong. Putting a "price" on carbon will lead individuals and businesses to move away from high-carbon goods and services to their low-carbon alternatives. The development of carbon-trading markets is also an important opportunity for the financial sector, already worth more than USD10 billion annually worldwide. The authors envision a world where businesses, nations, and even individuals transition to a carbon constrained world. Download the report online at <http://www.civic-exchange.org/index.php?cat=99>.

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE EUROPEAN MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT. (March 2007). Published by the European Science Foundation, this report is based on a two-year study led by marine ecologist Katja Philippart from the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, who chairs the European working group on Climate Change Impacts on the European Marine and Coastal Environment. This position paper reveals that European marine species are feeling the effects of global warming. The study provides details about the impact of climate change at a European Seas level - in the Arctic, the Barents Sea, the Nordic Seas, the Baltic, the North Sea, the Northeast Atlantic, in the Celtic-Biscay Shelf, the Iberia upwelling margin, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. It finds that the decline in sea ice cover in the northern Arctic and Barents Seas has triggered the most obvious temperature changes for marine life. The open systems structure of these seas demonstrates how climate changes are