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Environment at the WTO

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT: MEMBERS PROGRESS ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE, STILL STUCK ON EGS

Members recently discussed all aspects of the Doha negotiating mandate on environment. According to sources, participants at the 2-3 May meeting of the special (negotiating) session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) mainly made progress on ways to facilitate information exchange between multilateral environmental organisations and relevant WTO bodies (Para 31 (ii) of the Doha Declaration). This area of work represents the best bet for agreement on a possible way forward towards text-based negotiations.

While engaging in efforts to clarify their positions, Members did not reach convergence with regard to how to define the relationship between WTO rules and the specific trade obligations (STOs) that are set out in multilateral environmental agreements (Para 31 (i) of the Doha Declaration). Nor did Members agree on how to progress towards the "reduction or, as appropriate, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services" (Para 31 (iii) of the Doha Declaration).

With regard to environmental goods and services (EGS), a group developed countries has proposed that the WTO Membership to agree to a 'list' of specific environmental goods for liberalisation; these countries submitted a joint, revised list at the meeting. However, many developing countries are sceptical of this approach, since they fear that products of export interest to them may fail to figure in the list.



International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development



New Australian proposal on the MEA-WTO Relationship

To move discussions forward, Australia made a proposal to draft a report detailing the relationship between existing WTO rules and specific trade obligations that have been set out in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) (TN/TE/W/72). Australia proposed that the CTE special session recommend ways in which Members could build on the CTE's conclusions and observations on the topic, while continuing to enhance the mutually supportive relationship between the WTO and MEAs. While most countries welcomed the Australian proposal and report as a means of fulfilling the Para 31 (i) mandate, the EU and Switzerland felt that these measures did not go far enough to address the substance of the mandate, which they said involved developing principles to clarify the relationship between existing WTO rules and specific trade obligations set out in the MEAs.

Members converge on information exchange, observership

According to trade sources, Members were close to reaching convergence on the Para 31 (ii) mandate at the meeting. Delegates reportedly broadly agreed on the use of a set of indicative questions that had been proposed by the US to determine observership (TN/TE/W/70). Members also reportedly supported a new submission by Canada and New Zealand that develops the issue further (TN/TE/W/71). The latter proposal could, according to one developing country trade source, form the basis of an early draft text on Para 31 (ii).

Canada and New Zealand provided a list of MEAs (contained in TN/TE/S/2) that had been included in CTE information sessions. With respect to the CTE special session, the co-sponsors agreed that UNEP and seven MEA secretariats* that presently have ad-hoc observer status should be granted observership status for the remainder of the Doha negotiations. The proposal recognised that this was not the same as 'permanent observer status.'

Demandeurs submit revised proposal on environmental goods

Canada, the EU, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Chinese Taipei, Switzerland, and the US (termed the "Friends of Environmental Goods") submitted a joint proposal (JOB (07)/54) featuring a revised list of environmental goods following a

review of their previous lists. Hong Kong, China supported the proposal without officially being a co-sponsor.

The revised list sets out a reduced set of goods in response to concerns raised by trading partners, and seeks to offer the potential for convergence among Members. Proponents of the proposal hoped that it would both encourage more focused engagement on products of interest and trigger momentum in the negotiations.

Coined "the potential convergence set" of products by its co-sponsors, the list contains 153 products (including a number of ex-outs, i.e. specific products identified solely by name rather than by HS code). The number of products on the list is significantly lower than on the previous consolidated list of goods, which totalled 465 products. The list groups the various products under broad environmental categories, with details related to the environmental benefits of each product described in an additional column.

The proposal envisages special and differential treatment (S&DT) mainly in terms of extended liberalisation periods for developing countries. The proposal includes a review mechanism to ensure that the list does not remain static over time.

Members still disagree on fundamental approach to EGS

Developing countries generally felt that the new proposal did not address the crucial issue of the negotiating approach. Many countries, including major players like Brazil and India, said they wanted discussions on whether to adopt a 'list' or 'project-based' approach -- or a compromise solution -- before progressing to discussions on specific products. India is reportedly set to submit a new proposal fleshing out issues related to the project approach, including more development elements.

Although the proponents stressed that their list had been significantly cut, many Members felt that the proposal to liberalise items at the six-digit HS level meant the list still covered a large number of products. According to one developing country trade delegate, the new proposal did not clarify how many of the products on the revised list were 'dual-use' items, which by definition can be used for purposes other than solely environmental ones.

The co-sponsors of the EGS submission said they welcomed comments from Members in time for the

next CTE special session, scheduled for 11-13 June. The Chair, Ambassador Toufiq Ali (Bangladesh), promised to engage in informal bilaterals with Members in the meantime and called for Members to work harder on Para 31 (i) and (iii).

*The Basel Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

ICTSD reporting.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: EU, OTHERS REITERATE MARKET ACCESS REQUEST

Members have discussed environmental services -- such as sanitation or nature protection -- during a recent 'cluster' of services talks at the WTO. Participants mainly focused on technical details related to a 'plurilateral' request for market opening made by the EU and a number of co-sponsors more than a year ago, and the EU posed additional questions with regard to current access to environmental services.

The first formal cluster of services meetings held at the WTO since the Doha round talks were suspended last July concluded on 27 April after two weeks of intensive plurilateral and bilateral negotiations (see Bridges Weekly, 2 May 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-05-02/story2.htm>). Although many developing countries remain reluctant to further open their markets to foreign services providers until there is more progress in the talks on agriculture and industrial tariffs, some major 'demandeur' Members such as the EU and the US have identified key 'breakthrough' sectors in which they are especially eager to see new liberalisation. The environmental services sector is considered a 'breakthrough' sector by the EU.

Paragraph 31(iii) of the Doha Declaration requires WTO Members to negotiate on "the reduction or, as appropriate, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services." The

special (negotiating) session of the Committee on Trade and Environment has focused on environmental goods, however (see related story, this issue), leaving environmental services aside.

Demandeurs pose specific questions regarding access, binding of commitments

The plurilateral meeting on environmental services took place on 26 April. The EU, with nine other countries including Australia, Japan, and the US, had originally circulated a request in February 2006, after services negotiations entered a phase that included plurilateral collective requests (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 3 March 2006 <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-03-03/story2.htm>).

The plurilateral collective request encouraged Members to open up their sewage; refuse disposal; sanitation; cleaning of exhaust gases; noise abatement; nature and landscape protection; and other environmental protection services sectors. According to the demandeurs, it was intended to complement, not supersede, the bilateral request-offer negotiations. It sought not to impair the ability of governments to regulate their environmental services sectors, and excluded water for human use (i.e. the collection, purification and distribution of natural water).

At the 26 April meeting, the demandeurs asked the participating countries to what extent their existing practices reflected the commitments being sought in the plurilateral request, and whether they had plans to bind this access. If not, the demandeurs wanted to know why. They also asked about potential plans to create new access in the recipient countries, and whether this would require any legislative changes.

No new offers were made at the meeting. Certain developing countries alluded to a red line they were unwilling to cross until seeing meaningful progress in agriculture and industrial market access. Only two delegations indicated that legislative changes would be required for them to comply with the request.

According to sources, the countries on the receiving end of the request were Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey.

Classification headings up for grabs

There are two sets of classifications currently in use with regard to environmental services. The WTO Services Sectoral Classification List (WTO Document MTN.GNS/W/120) defines the environmental services sector as being comprised of four sub-sectors of activity: sewage services; refuse-disposal services; sanitation and similar services; and other environmental services. The UN Central Product Classification (CPC) system contains several additional sub-sectors of activity for environmental services, namely, cleaning services of exhaust gases, noise abatement services, nature and landscape protection services and other environmental services not elsewhere classified.

There have been a number of proposals by Members that consider that the W/120 list needs updating. In a submission as early as 1999 (C/CSC/W/25), the EU stated that the list did not, for instance, reflect changes in the environmental industry, which was developing beyond traditional end-of-pipe/pollution control/remediation/clean-up towards integrated pollution prevention and control, cleaner technology and resources and risk management. The EU has proposed an alternative classification comprising 'core' services that can be undisputedly classified as "purely" environmental and where the services are classified according to the environmental media (i.e. air, water, solid and hazardous waste, noise, etc.).

The plurilateral request prods recipients to undertake commitments across all environmental services sub-sectors. At the meeting, the EU clarified that the category of "other environmental protection services" also should cover services such as environmental impact assessment and risk analysis. The recipients of the request were asked to make their commitments under either of the existing lists, or under revised classification headings used by many Members.

The request noted the important interplay between the liberalisation of environmental services and the liberalisation of other related services, such as construction, engineering, technical testing and analysis, and management consulting.

The way forward

The idea of 'breakthrough' sectors has prompted Mexican Ambassador Fernando de Mateo, chair of the services negotiating body, to adopt a sectoral approach in a continuing series of informal talks

with a group of ambassadors from about two dozen selected WTO Members. Over the course of the next few weeks, seven service sectors will be the focus for discussions -- environmental services among them.

According to sources, the co-sponsors of the request will be putting together a document with answers to 'frequently asked questions' on environmental services to assist the process.

ICTSD reporting.

Natural Resources

WTO: MEMBERS DISCUSS DETAILS OF US PROPOSAL ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

The US has called for sweeping eliminations on fisheries subsidies under the Doha Round talks.

At a meeting of the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules on 1 May, Members discussed the US proposal -- initially submitted in March 2007 -- which represents a far-reaching effort to modify international trade rules to prohibit most government subsidies to commercial fishing (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 30 March 2007).

Under the Doha mandate, Members are required to strengthen WTO fisheries subsidies disciplines, "with a view to enhancing the mutual supportiveness of trade and environment." Echoing this directive, the US Ambassador to the WTO, Peter Allgeier, claimed that the recent proposal is not only beneficial for trade, but also valuable "in terms of protecting the marine environment and also sustainable development, since so many countries depend on fishing as an important part of their economy."

A critical commodity

In addition to being a heavily traded good, fish is an important commodity for developing countries in particular, as it is the source of at least 20 percent of the daily protein intake of 2.6 billion people worldwide, mostly residing in developing countries. Worldwide one billion people are estimated to depend on fish for their livelihood.

According to conservationists and marine life activists, strong WTO rules that limit fisheries subsidies can play a vital role in slowing down over-harvesting. A 2006 Canadian report put worldwide

annual government spending on fisheries subsidies at about US\$ 34 billion, of which some US\$ 20 billion are considered to directly support overcapacity fishing. Japan, the EU, and China are the biggest subsidisers globally, respectively doling out about US\$ 5.3 billion, US\$ 3.3 billion, and US\$ 3.1 billion annually. Unless steps are taken to curb such overfishing, scientists warn that global fish stocks risk irrevocable collapse within 50 years (see BRIDGES Weekly, 8 November 2006).

Broad eliminations

The current US proposal (TN/RL/GEN/145) calls for a comprehensive prohibition on all subsidies that support commercial enterprises for wild capture fishing, including treatment of operating costs, payments for fuel, and loan guarantees. Exceptions to this ban would be available for policies that do not encourage overfishing, such as re-education for fishermen, marine conservation-focused research initiatives, and the removal of boats through buybacks. These exemptions, which are to be further negotiated over the coming months, demand strong disciplines to avoid circumvention, the US stated.

Periodic reviews, transition phases, and increased transparency are also included under the proposal. For smaller coastal states, strengthened transparency on the part of distant water governments is critical; without the capacity to properly measure fish stocks, these mainly developing coastal nations are in a difficult position to negotiate with distant water fleets from the developed world. Under the US proposal, distant water governments would be obligated to publicise stocks, catches, and payments made to small coastal nations.

Absence of special and differential treatment makes waves

At the meeting of the Negotiating Group on Rules on 1 May, a number of Members expressed concern about the lack of detail regarding small-scale fishing and the absence of special and differential treatment (S&DT) under the US proposal. The US recognised that this issue needed to be further developed and acknowledged that the proposal is still a work in progress that demands greater explication in several areas. A US representative noted that both Brazil and Argentina have established S&DT proposals that were compelling but were not "quite mature enough" and "require refinement."

One source to the negotiations called the US's lack of determination on S&DT a way of holding back and "expecting other countries to come up with a solution," adding that perhaps "they don't want to come up with this question."

Under the proposal there is also a placeholder on small programmes. The US said that given the size of these enterprises, it didn't think they contributed enough to the problem the ban is trying to address. Other Member delegates expressed disappointment at these missing pieces in the proposal.

Recent developments

Overall, however, the proposal reportedly met with extensive support at the 1 May meeting, with a number of delegations describing it as a good basis for further negotiations. Members expressed a common desire to reach a satisfactory outcome on the issue, using the US proposal as a framework for moving forward and putting down a text in the Doha round negotiations. Chile commented that the paper contains the points it needs to see in a final agreement; Ecuador, Canada, Iceland, and Egypt, among others, echoed this sentiment. New Zealand furthered that they could already see the end result of the negotiations. Several of these countries have banded together loosely as a group coined the 'Friends of Fish' in the negotiations.

Sources also noted that several technical questions about the proposal were raised, such as who can bring a dispute related to the issue, or how broad certain language used in the text may be. Technicalities related to, for instance, how wild-fish harvesting affects aquaculture or inland fisheries, or what bodies of water are included in the proposal remain open for negotiation and discussion.

Questions from developing countries including Mauritius, the Solomon Islands, and Barbados, were mainly focused on issues that are seen as having a significant development impact, such as onshore processing. Under the US proposal, onshore processing would not be prohibited but would remain subject to existing rules and agreements.

As concerns access fees, the US proposed that government-to-government payments for fishing rights be exempt from the provisions. They furthered that their current policy for access fees, which requires reimbursement from the fleet to the distant water government, is a model that other countries should adopt. However, as Mauritius reiterated in the meeting, it is critical that the US

more effectively clarify the treatment of access fees under the proposal.

In response to the extensive inquiries put forth, the US stated that they planned to "deal with some of these issues that are in the gray areas so that [the proposal] is reasonable and workable."

Support flounders

While support for the proposal was widespread, opposition was not absent from the talks. Many of the big fishing communities, such as the EU and countries in Asia, expressed discontent with the text. Sources report that Norway was notably vocal, focusing their arguments mainly on technical issues, such as how the proposal deals with exceptions to prohibitions, which they believed could create operational and implementation problems.

While they remain part of the 'Friends of the Fish' group, Norway has "striking differences" in terms of approach, preferring to first identify specific harmful subsidies and then ban them, as opposed to implementing sweeping prohibitions. According to a Norwegian representative, they would prefer a bottom-up approach to allow greater freedom for countries to choose their own subsidies, "because if you have a list with twenty exceptions it is difficult to know what is prohibited and what is not." The EU, India, Japan, Chinese Taipei, and Korea all seconded this critique. The Norwegian representative further noted that if the US applied a narrower scope, focusing on vessel subsidies as opposed to a broad prohibition, they would be in better agreement. As one delegate stated, "there is a possibility to maybe find a solution more in line with what the majority wishes to concentrate on with the vessels subsidies."

Japan, Korea, and Chinese Taipei -- which have long opposed a blanket ban on subsidies and supported the bottom-up approach -- expressed plans to submit their own document before the next rules meeting. However, with the chair setting a 1 June deadline for proposal submissions, it remains to be seen how extensive their work can be given the short timeframe.

Moving forward

On 2 May, one day after the proposal was introduced, the chair of the Negotiating Group on Rules, Ambassador Guillermo Valles Galmes (Uruguay), led brainstorming sessions focused on establishing criteria for some of the still-

undetermined areas, such as special and differential treatment, and artisan and small-scale farming. The details of S&DT will likely be discussed at the next meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for 11 June.

ICTSD reporting; "US Proposes Fishing Subsidies Ban," THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 1 May 2007; "US Calls for Cuts in Fishing Subsidies," THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 1 May 2007.

UNFF AGREEMENT ADDRESSES ILLICIT TRAFFICKING, SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

After years of disagreeing on how to proceed with regard to global forest governance, negotiators meeting under the auspices of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) agreed on 28 April to a non-legally binding instrument that establishes objectives and guidelines to promote sustainable forest management at the international level.

The establishment of the non-legally binding instrument NLBI represented the culmination of the seventh session of the UNFF (UNFF-7), a two-week meeting held at UN headquarters in New York that brought together more than 500 delegates. UNFF-7 session members also agreed to a Multi-year Programme of Work, which sets forth an agenda for the UNFF over the course of the next eight years.

The chair of the session, Hans Hoogeveen of The Netherlands, praised the NLBI as "an outstanding achievement" that opened "a new chapter" in the management of the world's forests. Sceptics, however, expressed concern that the negotiation process had watered down the agreement to such an extent as to render it ineffectual.

The finalisation of the NLBI was preceded by several years of debates over whether the UNFF should pursue a formal treaty or a non-legally binding agreement. Several representatives from nations rich in forest resources fought hard against a formal treaty out of fears that such a legally enforceable agreement would rob them of their right to exploit their own resources. Conversely, delegates from other nations, namely Canada and the EU, worried that a non-binding agreement would result in little, if any, measurable changes in international forest policy. After years of deadlock on this question, the decision to proceed with a non-legally binding agreement was taken at the

conclusion of UNFF's sixth session, held in February 2006 (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 3 March 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-03-03/story4.htm>).

NLBI reflects growing understanding of the importance of forests

The UNFF's recently forged NLBI builds on an emerging global consensus that forests are critical in terms of mitigating climate change, protecting biodiversity and supporting the millions of people whose livelihoods directly depend on forest resources.

The NLBI is based on four global objectives for international forest policy that UNFF member states agreed to in 2006. The goals are to reverse the current rapid loss of global forest cover; to enhance the social, economic, and environmental benefits associated with forests; to increase the number of protected and sustainably managed forests worldwide; and to boost funding for the implementation of sustainable forest management by increasing official development assistance and by mobilising new financing mechanisms. The establishment of these objectives in November 2006 signalled that member states have a common understanding of the importance of promoting sustainable forest management, reducing deforestation, and using forests as a means to achieve international development goals, though they may disagree over specific implementation strategies.

Agreement seeks to combat illicit trafficking

The NLBI sets forth two trade-related goals: the reduction of illicit trafficking of forest products and the promotion of trade in products that come from sustainably managed forests.

By definition, illegally traded forest products -- principally timber and poached wildlife -- have been harvested in contravention of national laws. Trade in such illicit products has been linked with environmental degradation, the destabilisation of traditional rural livelihoods, and the undermining of legitimate business ventures. Moreover, proceeds from illegal logging are often used to fund armed conflict, thus threatening the rule of law and good governance.

To counter such practices, the NLBI calls upon members to forge bilateral, regional, and international partnerships to crack down on illegal

trading, and to work to enhance the capacity of all countries to fight illegal activities within their borders. The agreement further urges signatories to enact strong national-level legislation to combat illegal practices in the forest sector and in other related sectors as well.

The UNFF's call for action on this front was reinforced by the UN Economic and Social Council's recent adoption of an Indonesian proposal to increase efforts to fight illegal forest trade. The proposal, which was adopted in Vienna on 25 April, urges members to strengthen national-level law enforcement, share information with one another, and report their progress to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Agreement addresses trade in sustainably produced forest products

Also on the trade front, the NLBI calls upon governments to cooperate to promote trade in products that come from forests that are sustainably managed. The FAO defines sustainable forest management as the stewardship and use of forest lands in a way that allows the forests to meet current ecological, economic, and social needs without damaging the ability of future generations to derive the same benefits from the land.

To increase trade in sustainably produced forest products, the NLBI urges members to work to strengthen the capacity of all countries, particularly developing ones, to increase production in sustainably managed forests. It also encourages governments to promote market-based, non-regulatory certification systems designed to encourage sustainable forest management. Under such a system, producers of forest products that practice sustainable forest management can apply for certification from an independent certification body. Some studies have shown that consumers, especially those who live in developed countries, are willing to pay a modest price premium for products with a certification label. Most certification standards consider the economic and social, as well as environmental, impacts of the production process in question. The Forest Stewardship Council is currently the largest international certification system; many national-level certification systems exist as well.

Other provisions of the NLBI call upon national-level governments to open their forest-related policymaking processes to various stakeholder groups, including, among others, women, children,

indigenous peoples, local authorities, workers and trade unions, and non-governmental organisations. The agreement further encourages all countries to voluntarily submit periodic reports to the Forum detailing their progress toward achieving the established objectives.

Background

According to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the world loses 13 million hectares of forest every year; deforestation worldwide is estimated to account for as much as 20 percent of current global greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, forests and forest soils worldwide capture and store over one trillion tons of carbon -- twice the amount of carbon currently found in the atmosphere. As relates to global poverty, the FAO reports that 1.2 billion people in developing countries rely on forests as sources of food or income; significant losses of forest cover would have powerful negative impacts on 90 percent of those individuals, most of which live in extreme poverty.

The forest products sector comprises roughly three percent of international merchandise trade and generates approximately one percent of gross domestic product worldwide. According to recent estimates, annual trade in forest products amounts to nearly US\$ 270 billion. More difficult to quantify in financial terms are the many ecosystem services that forests provide, as well as on the various non-timber products, such as mushrooms, honey, forest fruits, and medicinal plants, that are harvested in forests. Such products are critical to the livelihoods of many of the world's rural poor.

The UNFF, created in 1995 by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC Resolution E/2000/35), is the sole international-level body for intergovernmental discussions on global forest policy, taking a holistic approach to biodiversity, social, developmental, economic, financial, trade and other aspects of forests. At its founding, the UNFF was meant to serve as a new forum for discussions that had been ongoing in the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, two institutions that grew out of the Rio Summit in 1992 after negotiators failed to launch a process to establish a legally-binding instrument. The UNFF was mandated to facilitate the implementation of forest-related agreements and foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management, provide a forum for policy development and

dialogue, enhance cooperation and strengthen political commitment. In addition to adopting decisions urging UN Members to take agreed-upon measures and approaches, the UNFF has also headed up the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, which includes 14 major organisations working on forests, has instituted a notification system and has hosted talks on the nature and content of an international instrument on forests.

"United Nations Forum on Forests Seeks to Finalize New International Agreement at Headquarters 16-27 April," UN NEWS SERVICE, 13 April 2007; "UN adopts new International Agreement to protect world's forests," UN NEWS SERVICE, 28 April 2007; "Summary of the Seventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests: 16-27 April 2007," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN, 30 April 2007; "Trade in Forest Products and Services," FAO; "UN Adopts Proposal to Fight Illicit Timber Trade," CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY RESEARCH, 10 May 2007.

Climate Change

CLIMATE CHANGE: SCIENTISTS SAY CARBON EMISSIONS CAN BE REDUCED AT REASONABLE COST

According to a new report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) -- the scientific body examining global climate research -- measures to mitigate global warming can be undertaken at reasonable cost. The report was released on 4 May in Bangkok following international consultations. Addressing the short, medium (until 2030) and long term (after 2030), the report states that growth in greenhouse gas emissions can be curbed through a series of measures ranging from boosting renewable energy use and increasing energy efficiency to curbing deforestation.

Stressing the urgency of taking action, the report lists mitigation practices and technologies by sector, examining both those commercially available at present and those projected to be commercialised by 2030. While "no one sector or technology can address the entire mitigation challenge," the technologies with the greatest potential include energy supply, transport, buildings, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste. The report stresses that energy efficiency "plays a key role across many scenarios for most regions and timescales."

Entitled "Mitigation of Climate Change," the report is the third in a series of four comprehensive assessment reports that examine the effects of global climate change, to be completed by the end of 2007. The first report -- an overview of the science of global warming -- was issued in February and concluded that it is "very likely," or at least 90 percent certain, that mankind is to blame for most of the warming in the last half century (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 2 February 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-02-02/story2.htm>). A second report, released a month ago, highlighted the global impacts of climate change, noting that the most vulnerable populations will be hardest hit (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 13 April 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-04-13/story1.htm>).

Greenhouse gas emissions to grow...urgent measures needed

At its outset, the IPCC report notes that greenhouse gases have grown substantially since pre-industrial times, and are set to grow by between 25 and 90 percent between 2000 and 2030. While developed countries account for most historic and current emissions, up to about 75 percent of the projected growth in emissions will come from developing nations.

The new report underlines the urgency of implementing mitigation measures. At the launch of the report, IPCC Chair Rajendra Pachauri stressed that "we don't have the luxury of time." Many researchers believe that keeping concentrations below 450 parts per million (ppm) of atmospheric carbon dioxide is necessary to keep the average global temperature increase below two degrees centigrade, avoiding major climate change disruption. However, the lower the stabilisation level aimed for, the sooner greenhouse gas emissions would have to peak and then start to decline. Efforts over the next two to three decades will have a large impact on what can be achieved in the longer term.

Key sectors for action

The IPCC singles out the building sector as a major potential contributor to climate change mitigation. Measures to be taken include installing efficient lighting, heating, cooling, and insulation systems. Potential barriers in the sector include limited availability of technology and financing, limitations inherent in building design, and the lack of

appropriate portfolios of policies and programmes. Such barriers are higher in developing than developed countries.

Energy production and consumption are key contributors to climate change, and mitigation measures in the sector include improving efficiency and fuel-switching to alternate energy sources such as nuclear, hydro, solar, and bio-energy. The IPCC also highlights the potential for developing combined heat and power generation and carbon dioxide capture and storage.

According to the IPCC, multiple mitigation options exist in the transportation sector. However, their effect could be outbalanced by overall growth, and hampered by barriers such as consumer preferences and a lack of adequate policy frameworks.

Mitigation efforts within the industrial sector should focus on energy-intensive industries, where efficient electrical equipment, heat, and power-recover techniques, along with material recycling processes, could be installed. According to the IPCC, neither industrialised nor developing countries are making full use of existing options in their industrial sectors. Upgrading older, inefficient facilities could deliver significant emissions reductions. Key barriers in the sector include the slow rate of capital stock turnover, a lack of financial and technical resources, and the limited ability of firms -- particularly small and medium enterprises -- to access and absorb new technological information.

In terms of the agriculture sector, the IPCC highlights the large mitigation potential of soils through carbon sequestration. However, stored soil carbon might be vulnerable to loss through both weak land management practices and climate change itself. Considerable mitigation potential further exists for methane and nitrous oxide emissions from some agricultural systems. The report also highlights the importance of biomass from agriculture and dedicated energy crops as bioenergy feedstock, but cautions that widespread use of agricultural land for biomass production for energy may compete with other land uses and could have either positive or negative impacts on environment, and implications for food security.

The IPCC further stressed that forest-related mitigation activities could have a considerable impact. Sixty-five percent of total mitigation potential is located in the tropics and about 50 percent of the total could be achieved by reducing emissions from deforestation. The report also notes

that sustainable development benefits, such as employment, biodiversity conservation, and poverty alleviation, can be derived from mitigation projects.

Policy framework and costs

The IPCC report lists a number of policies and instruments targeting producers and consumers that countries could choose from based on the criteria of environmental effectiveness, cost effectiveness, distributional effects (including equity), and institutional feasibility. These policy instruments include, among other things, regulations and standards, taxes and charges, tradable permits, financial incentives, and voluntary agreements. The report notes that climate change policies should be integrated into broader development policies.

In terms of mitigation costs, the IPCC report assesses the likely impacts on global GDP by 2030 if countries adopt cost-effective mitigation. Stabilisation of atmospheric carbon at between 445ppm and 535ppm would cost less than three percent of global GDP, stabilisation between 535ppm and 590ppm would cost 0.2-2.5 percent of GDP, while stabilisation at levels between 590ppm and 710ppm would bring anything between a net benefit of 0.6 percent and a net cost of 1.2 percent.

The Summary for Policymakers of the IPCC report on "Mitigation of Climate Change" is available at <http://www.ipcc.ch/SPM040507.pdf>.

ICTSD reporting; "UN Findings on Costs of Fighting Global Warming," REUTERS, 7 May 2007; "Climate Change 'Can be Tackled'," BBCNEWS, 4 May 2007; "Climate Change: Options to Tackle It Are Affordable, Agree Governments," FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, 4 May 2007; IPCC Press Conference Webcast, available at <http://www.ipcc.ch>.

Dispute Settlement

BRAZIL CALLS WTO RULING IN RETREADED TYRES DISPUTE 'FAVOURABLE'

Brasilia has expressed satisfaction with the ruling of a WTO dispute panel in the EU's high-profile complaint against its import limitations on 'retreaded tyres'. It claims that the decision was largely favourable to its environmental and health-related arguments for the restrictions. Brussels is

studying the details of the ruling and will decide whether to appeal.

The report, released to the two parties on 23 April, will remain confidential until mid-June. Both sides have been reticent about the specifics of the panel's reasoning.

'Retreaded tyres' are old tyres that have been reprocessed for a second and final use. At issue in the case are a series of trade restrictions imposed by Brazil on retreaded tyres. The EU claimed that Brasilia's policy of allowing imports of retreaded tyres from its Mercosur trade bloc -- while banning them from the rest of the world -- violated WTO rules.

Not disputing that the restrictions appeared inconsistent with its obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Brazil sought to justify them on environmental, fire hazard, and health grounds. It contended that the shorter lifespan of retreaded tyres links them more directly than imported new tyres to pollution and other adverse effects associated with all waste tyres, which become breeding grounds for mosquitoes that spread malaria and dengue fever. Therefore, Brazil argued that its trade restrictions should be exempt from sanction under GATT Article XX, which describes the circumstances under which Members may deviate from their WTO obligations -- for instance, restricting trade to safeguard exhaustible natural resources and public health.

However, the introductory paragraph, or 'chapeau', of Article XX specifies that such deviations are permitted so long as they "are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination...or a disguised restriction on international trade."

This is why Brazil's continued imports of retreaded tyres from Mercosur countries - while those from elsewhere are banned - is potentially problematic. Brasilia pointed to a Mercosur arbitration panel decision that compelled it to exclude Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay from the import restrictions on such tyres. It has argued that obeying this decision was necessary to comply with its international obligations and domestic laws, and was thus justified under the exemptions set out in Article XX(d). Brazil insists that it is simply not equipped to deal with the far greater amount of additional waste that would be generated if EU retreaded tyre imports were allowed (see BRIDGES Weekly, 14 March 2007,

<http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-03-14/story2.htm>).

In a press release issued in response to the panel report, the Brazilian foreign ministry described it as "amply favourable" to its arguments. The ministry "recognised with great satisfaction the sensibility of the panel with regard to the environmental and health challenges faced by the country."

Sources close to the proceedings said that the panel appeared to have ruled against the way in which Brazil was applying the restrictions, while affirming its need - and therefore right - to block trade in retreaded tyres to pursue health and environmental goals. This would in turn suggest that minor changes to the policy could make the import limits WTO-compliant.

These sources claim that the panel agreed that Brasilia's import restrictions did indeed meet the 'necessity test' of GATT Article XX(b) and (g) requiring measures to respectively be 'necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health' or for the 'conservation of exhaustible natural resources'. However, the panel also found that the measures were applied in an arbitrary fashion, and thus did not qualify as an exemption under the chapeau.

Brazil's foreign ministry said that "as expected, the panel maintained the findings of the interim report," which had been circulated to both sides in mid-March. At that time, Roberto Azevedo, a senior official in the ministry, said that the panel had affirmed that some 'adjustments' to the restrictions on retreaded tyre imports would ultimately suffice to allow Brazil to maintain the ban.

The devil will lie in the details: if the panel has in fact accepted that the import restrictions, in principle, are in conformity with Article XX, it may have made it possible for Brazil to modify their application to ensure that they fully qualify as exemptions.

Once the report is made public in mid-June, the EU and Brazil will have 60 days to file for an appeal.

ICTSD reporting; "Relatório final sobre a proibição da importação de pneus reformados foi rígido com a OMC," BRASIL FATOR, 25 April 2007.

In Brief

CONTROVERSIAL MONSANTO SOY PATENT REVOKED

The European Patent Office (EPO) has revoked a patent held by Monsanto on a technique for the genetic modification of soybean plants. In a decision on 3 May in Munich, an EPO appeal board ruled that the patent lacked "novelty" as well as sufficient disclosure, a designation that indicates that a skilled person could replicate the patent.

The far-reaching patent has been opposed since its inception 13 years ago, and is credited with giving Monsanto unprecedented control over the production and sale of GM soybeans. Applying to all species of soybean, it covered a technique for genetically modifying soybean without identifying the gene sequences in question. The patent was protected in 13 of the 32 EPO member states.

Dr Christopher Then, a patent expert for Greenpeace, said the case had shown that "the [EPO] is granting patents covering broad sectors of agricultural diversity with no real invention to back them up."

The patent was first granted to US biotech company Agracetus in 1994 and was at once "vigorously and formally" opposed by Monsanto itself, along with various environmental groups and agribusiness firms. In 1996, however, Monsanto acquired Agracetus and took control of the patent, which helped them corner 90 percent of the world's GM soybean market.

The challenge that led to the patent being overturned was launched by the ETC Group, an international civil society organisation based in Canada, with supporting statements from an unlikely combination of Greenpeace, "No Patents On Life!", and multinational firm Syngenta. The forceful arguments that Monsanto contributed to the original case in 1994 are understood to have been employed against it in the appeal. One such argument came from a top Monsanto scientist who described the patent disclosure as insufficient to allow its replication, which is one of the criteria of patentability.

Since the patent is due to expire in 2008, Monsanto commented that they "do not expect this decision to have an impact" on their business. However, Rainer Osterwalder of the EPO stressed that the

ruling will set a precedent for other GM technology patents because "case law is important."

"GM Patent Rejected After 13 Years," NATURE, 4 May 2007; "Revoked!! Monsanto Monopoly Nixed in Munich," ETC GROUP RELEASE, 3 May 2007.

CTE: MEMBERS DISCUSS ORGANIC STANDARDS

Discussions at a recent meeting of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), described as "uneventful" by participants, focused mainly on environmental requirements and market access issues, particularly standards in organic agriculture. During the brief meeting on 2 May, many Members said they saw organic standards as an opportunity, but also recognised the difficulties sometimes faced by developing countries in particular in achieving conformity with organic standards. Discussions, according to one trade source, took place in a 'solutions-oriented' mode.

At the meeting, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) gave a presentation on technical assistance and capacity building carried out by the UNCTAD-UNEP Capacity Building Task Force related to the development of an East African Organic Standard. A number of developing countries, including China and India, welcomed such initiatives. The US also presented its experience with the Energy Star Labelling programme to highlight the benefits of labelling and the growing acceptance of certain labels.

The WTO secretariat provided an informal document containing a list of environmental impact assessments of trade liberalisation under multilateral, regional and bilateral initiatives being carried out in a number of developing countries. The document was submitted to Members for comments, and will be further discussed in the future.

The Basel Convention applied for observership status at the regular session of the CTE.

Additional resources

The East African Organic Standard (final draft) is available at <http://www.unep-unctad.org/CBTF/events/nairobi4/EAOS%20final%20draft%2015%20Jan%202007.pdf>.

ICTSD reporting.

COMPLIANCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TOP CHEMICALS MEETING AGENDA

Delegates meeting for the third Conference of the Parties (COP-3) to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) spend a significant amount of energy trying to bridge differences over how to monitor and enforce compliance. Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from 30 April - 4 May, they also discussed, inter alia, issues related to the review of the effectiveness of implementation, and technical assistance -- including the provision of financial resources.

Thierno Lô, Senegalese Minister of Environment and Protection of Nature, stressed that efficient implementation of the Stockholm Convention "requires financial resources and a compliance procedure to be applied to all parties." Financing for developing countries comes mainly through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the meeting called on the GEF to, among other, support Best Available Technologies and Best Environmental Practice to minimise and eliminate releases of POPs, including demonstration projects.

Participants did not agree on a compliance mechanism, since some parties were wary of the intrusion other parties or the secretariat through party-to-party and secretariat triggers of non-compliance procedures. Others felt triggers of this kind were important to give the compliance system teeth. The issue will be further dealt with at the next COP meeting.

The Stockholm Convention includes 12 harmful chemicals, which do not break down through normal processes but accumulate in the body fat of people, marine mammals and other animals and thus can enter the food chain. There is a review process under that convention that allows for the addition of new chemicals to it.

COP-3 was the last of the annual conferences, with the next COP scheduled to take place in 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland.

"Lack of funding hampers Stockholm Convention on POPs," ANGOLAPRESS, 9 May 2007; "Summary Of The Third Meeting Of The Stockholm Convention On Persistent Organic Pollutants," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN VOL. 15 NR. 154, 7 May 2007.

A STEP TOWARDS A MECHANISM OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE ON BIODIVERSITY

Recent discussions have added perspectives on how to move forward on a mechanism that would strengthen the link between science and policy with regard to biodiversity protection.

A European regional consultation on the development of an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB) was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 26-28 April. Meeting participants, which included government representatives, international and non-governmental organisations, and scientific institutions, identified the current needs for such a mechanism, analysed how an IMoSEB might meet those needs, and established goals and guiding principles for a strategy to communicate scientific information on biodiversity.

The concept of an IMoSEB was first launched at an international conference entitled "Biodiversity: Science and Governance," held in January 2005 in Paris, France. Global biodiversity policy-making lacks an institution similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the independent scientific body examining and synthesising the findings of global climate research. The IMoSEB would not necessarily take the form of the IPCC, although this is one of the options considered.

On the first day of the regional consultation in Geneva, introductory presentations addressed biodiversity and sustainability, as well as the science-policy interfaces for biodiversity in Europe. Following the presentations, roundtable discussions addressed the issue of scientific expertise necessary for effective biodiversity policy, the consultative process towards an IMoSEB in regards to the outcomes of previous regional consultations, and the integration of biodiversity into business strategies.

On the second day, meeting participants split into working groups to have more in-depth discussions about the needs and options for a possible IMoSEB. Working group participants also sought to establish goals and principles for the communication of scientific information on biodiversity. The discussions were based on a document prepared by the Executive Committee following the first phase of consultation. The outcomes of the working group discussions were examined in a final plenary session and were

included in a text that might eventually become a concrete and workable proposal for an IMoSEB.

The workshop followed consultations held in North America and Africa, and additional workshops are being considered for Asia, South America, and possibly Oceania in the coming months. The Executive Secretariat will present the results of the regional consultations at the upcoming session of the Convention on Biological Diversity subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice.

Additional resources

International Steering Committee Members Responses "Needs & Options" Document: http://www.imoseb.net/content/download/1319/6766/version/5/file/Needs%26Options_EC_ISC_V6.doc

Connecting Biodiversity Knowledge and Decision-making
http://www.imoseb.net/content/download/1289/6601/version/5/file/CN_IMoSEB-Eng.doc

Other documents on the European regional consultation on an IMoSEB (including the final report not yet available)
http://www.imoseb.net/regional_consultations/europe

A comprehensive summary report by IISD's Earth Negotiations Bulletin is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/imoseb3/>

ICTSD reporting.

Events & Resources

EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar, <http://www.trade-environment.org/page/calendar.htm>.

Coming up in the next two weeks

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>.

12 May, International: WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY. Fair trade and the campaign for justice in trade will be celebrated internationally today through seminars, concerts, fashion shows, and more organised by members of IFAT, the global network of fair trade organizations. The theme of this year's events is 'Kids Need Fair Trade.' For further information visit <http://www.wftday.org/english/index.htm>.

14-15 May, London, UK: THE NEW POLITICS OF ENERGY - EUROPE IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT. European oil and gas import dependency is rising rapidly, which highlights the need for a European response to energy security. The European Commission and Council will prepare an Energy Policy for Europe Action Plan for its meeting in March 2007. Current thinking is that energy security should be considered in the context of general foreign and security policy. This Chatham House conference will explore the rolling out of the 'new' EU strategy and compare the EU strategy with those of other countries with similar concerns. For more information, contact conferences@chathamhouse.org.uk; internet: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/index.php?id=5>.

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_375783_80_1_1_1_1,00.html.

18 May, Washington, DC: INVESTMENT PROTECTION AND THE ENERGY CHARTER TREATY. Organised by the International Centre for Settlement of Dispute Issues and co-sponsored by the Energy Secretariat and the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, this event will concentrate on issues arising under Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) arbitrations. The key areas to be examined will be related to substance and procedure. For more information visit

<http://www.worldbank.org/icsid/highlights/03-18-07.htm>.

20-25 May, Paris, France: OIE 75TH GENERAL SESSION. The 75th General Session of the International Committee of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) will bring together representatives of 168 OIE Member Countries, as well as observers from the international organisations that have signed an official agreement with the OIE as well as other international and regional organisations and invited guests. The International Committee establishes the policies of the OIE and supervises their application. Topics include the adoption of international standards regarding safety in world trade in animals and animal products. For further information visit

<http://www.oie.int/eng/Session2007/infos.htm>.

22-23 May, London, UK: SEVENTH ANNUAL WTO CONFERENCE. Hosted by the Institute of International Economic Law and the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, this conference will gather practitioners, officials, and leading academics in the fields of trade and dispute settlement to analyse current issues of the WTO dispute settlement system and major issues faced today by the world trading system, including the genetically modified organism (GMO) dispute, dispute settlement mechanisms under free trade agreements (FTAs), importance of international juridical institutions, and WTO institutional reform. For more information, email eventsregistration@biicl.org; internet: <http://www.biicl.org/events>.

23-25 May, Prague, Czech Republic: ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS 2007. The conference mission is to promote awareness of sustainable development concepts and tools by using indicators and environmental accounting framework. The main theme of the Conference will be the urgent need for international organisations, states, local authorities, and non-governmental organisations to take steps towards sustainable development. In this way, the Conference will contribute to the worldwide debate and efforts to strengthen the bridge between theory and practice in meeting environmental threats and challenges. The Conference aims to bring together around 250 environmental experts, academics, statisticians, officials, accounting and financial managers, other business specialists, scholars, and researchers in order to discuss environmental issues from a variety of perspectives. For

more information, contact conference@ea-sdi.ujep.cz;
internet: <http://ea-sdi.ujep.cz/>.

23-25 May, Nairobi, Kenya: 11th AFRICAN OIL AND GAS, TRADE AND FINANCE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION. Organised by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Kenyan Ministry of Energy, the National Oil Corporation, and ITE Group, this conference will provide a platform for Kenya to demonstrate the opportunities it can offer to exploration companies and will also give oil and gas executives the opportunity to network with key decision makers in Africa. The main focus of the 2007 agenda is the 'Interface between Hydrocarbons and Finance'. Social functions and an exhibition will run alongside the event to facilitate contacts and create an environment conducive to initiating business. For more information, contact Frida Youssef (frida.youssef@unctad.org) or Rachid Amui (rachid.amui@unctad.org); tel. + 41 22 917 5022; internet: <http://www.africa-ogtf.com/home.html>.

Other upcoming events

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

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

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.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY: A FRAMEWORK FOR DECISION MAKERS. UN-Energy (8 May 2007). This report presents a comprehensive review of the likely economic, environmental, and social impacts of the emerging bioenergy market and advises decision makers as to what policies are needed to prepare for upcoming opportunities and challenges in this arena. The authors conclude that bioenergy could present significant benefits in terms of alleviating poverty, enhancing rural development, and building rural infrastructure; however,

the authors warn that increased bioenergy production could threaten world food supplies, and that the cultivation of many bioenergy crops requires large amounts of fossil fuels. The report may be accessed at <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/a1094e/a1094e00.pdf>

MONITORING OF ILLEGAL TRADE IN IVORY AND OTHER ELEPHANT SPECIMENS. Traffic (May 2007). This study, which documents trade in ivory and other elephant specimens worldwide since 1989, reports that there have been 12,400 seizures of such products in 82 countries over that time period. Currently, mainland China is the largest market for ivory and other elephant products, while Cameroon, Nigeria, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are the primary suppliers of such goods. The study further documents a recent increase in the trade in elephant products, following a decline between 1990 and 1995. The report is available at <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/14/doc/E14-53-2.pdf>.

CHINESE WOOD PRODUCT'S SUPPLY CHAIN ANALYSIS: HELPING CHINESE WOOD PRODUCERS ACHIEVE MARKET DEMANDS FOR LEGAL AND SUSTAINABLE TIMBER. The Tropical Forest Trust (March 2007). This report, which was prepared for the UK's Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, concludes that Western consumers can encourage Chinese wood producers to practice responsible forest management by increasing their demand for wood products that have been sustainably produced. The authors of the report claim that such a shift in demand would pressure timber-purchasing companies to change their purchasing practices in China. The report further documents that the Asian nation is currently the world's largest exporter of plywood, furniture, and wood flooring. To access the report visit http://www.tropicalforesttrust.com/media/uploaded/Chinese_Supply_Chain_Analysis.pdf.

CROP RESEARCH TO BENEFIT POOR FARMERS IN MARGINAL AREAS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD: A REVIEW OF TECHNICAL CHALLENGES AND TOOLS. By Maruricio R. Bellon (Bioversity International, December 2006). Many rural farmers who live in marginal areas have not been able to take advantage of recent breakthroughs in crop science that have benefited farmers in the developed world. This report offers a comprehensive review of the barriers that developing-country farmers must overcome in order to take advantage of the latest crop technology. The author also identifies several tools -- including poverty mapping and participatory research approaches -- that decision makers might use to help even the playing field for farmers living in marginal areas. The report may be accessed at <http://news.bioversityinternational.org/media/1/Bellon.pdf>.

ENERGY SECURITY AND CLIMATE POLICY: ASSESSING INTERACTIONS. International Energy Agency (March 2007). This book presents an in-depth analysis of the linkages between policies that address global warming and those that seek to ensure energy security. The authors assert that government action on energy policy will be most effective if it takes into consideration both of these issue areas concurrently. The

book also presents a set of energy security indicators that are designed to monitor the on-the-ground effect of shifts in governmental energy policy. To order a copy of the book, visit <http://www.iea.org/books> or send an email to books@ica.org.

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