



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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Biofuels

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SEEKS TO LIMIT USE OF FIRST-GENERATION BIOFUELS

The use of biofuels to achieve climate change goals is stirring controversy once again.

The EU is set to adopt a legislative package on energy and climate change, which contains a target for biofuels use (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 25 January 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/9354/>), by the end of the year. While the European Commission has stood steadfastly behind the target, a recent vote within the European Parliament suggests that the tide may be changing in Europe.

Meanwhile, two new reports highlight human rights challenges posed by biofuels production as well as specific problems associated with export-oriented biofuels production in Latin America.

“The current path in the development of agrofuels for transport is not sustainable...if such development goes unchecked, further violations of the right to food will result,” UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier de Schutter, said in his new report.

Industry Committee supports high-tech biofuels

The European Parliament Industry Committee is reviewing the energy and climate legislation, which the French EU Presidency is hoping to pass in time for the next Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Poznan, Poland in December this year.

On 11 September, the Committee voted to amend the current draft, which stipulates that 10 percent of all liquid fuel used in vehicles should be derived

from renewables – i.e., biofuels – by 2020. The new draft retains the 10 percent target, but specifies that 40 percent of that target should be fulfilled through options other than biofuels produced from food crops. These could include second generation biofuels derived from waste or algae, or other sources such as hydrogen or renewable electricity.

The Committee also proposed a review of the target in 2014, and an interim target for the use of renewable fuels to satisfy five percent of the need for liquid fuels by 2015, of which one fifth would have to be derived from non-food crops.

The Committee further proposed strengthening some of the sustainability criteria for biofuels that a separate working group has been hashing out (see Bridges BioRes, 25 July 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/environment/14329/>), requiring that the biofuels used represent a 45 percent decrease in carbon dioxide emissions as compared to conventional fuels, rising to 60 percent by 2015. The Committee, however, took a more lax approach to indirect land-use change affects of biofuels production as compared to earlier discussions.

Luxembourg Green Member of European Parliament Claude Turmes, who was in charge of the negotiations, said the Industry Committee had “strengthened the safeguards against the damaging impact of agri-fuels in this directive.” Green campaigners also welcomed the move.

However, the European Bioethanol Fuel Association warned that “the parliament puts at risk over €5 billion invested in EU biofuel production capacity and all the employment linked to it.” According to the association, the strict targets for carbon efficiency would favour imports, such as Brazilian ethanol, over home-grown biofuels.

The entire European Parliament will vote on the energy and climate legislation in October, after European members states still have to approve the legislation.

Human rights abuses linked to biofuels

On 10 September, Olivier De Schutter, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, presented a report to the UN’s Human Rights Council in Geneva, which discussed biofuel-related problems. The report, commissioned at the UN Special Session on the Global Food Crisis in May (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 13 June 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/environment/12236/>), concluded that the world’s poor are not going hungry because there is not enough food to go around; rather, they are left empty-handed because the food that is available is too expensive for them to buy.

Several factors, such as population growth, speculation in commodities markets and changing dietary habits worldwide, have contributed to the recent rise in prices, De Schutter said. But he also noted that increased production of plant-derived transport fuels has helped make food more expensive by causing a significant amount of arable land to be shifted from food production to the production of bioethanol and biodiesel.

Focussing on the issue of biofuels, De Schutter said that increased production could have serious human rights implications beyond the negative impact on access to food. The shift in production away from food crops has also driven up the price of farmland, in some cases so much so as to make it unaffordable for small-scale producers. In extreme cases, De Schutter said, the push to create new mega-plantations could drive indigenous people off their land and erode agricultural working conditions in the developing world.

Moreover, biofuels production could widen the gap between rich and poor, De Schutter found. “When produced in developing countries in order to satisfy the growth of demand in industrialised countries, agrofuels may lead to distorted development, benefiting only a minority, and worsening the lot of many others,” he said in the report.

Sustainability standards for biofuels?

De Schutter recommended that the Human Rights Council begin looking at the food crisis – and biofuels production – from a human rights perspective, a framework which he said would allow a consideration of the trade-offs between

the consumer costs and producer gains associated with high food prices.

He cited a “need to strengthen the protection of the human rights of the most vulnerable groups including land-users whose land tenure is insecure, landless labourers, women, the displaced, indigenous people, minorities, the disabled and the rural and urban poor.”

De Schutter also said that the Council should work to build an international consensus on agrofuels, so as to avoid “the negative impact of its development on the international price of staple food commodities.” He stressed the importance of ensuring “that the production of agrofuels respects the full range of human rights and does not result in distorted development in producer countries.”

To that end, he said that countries should be allowed to refuse imports of agrofuels from states that fail to meet sustainability and human rights standards, which could include labour conditions. He said that a waiver from the WTO could allow states to discriminate in such a way - a practise that would normally be illegal under world trade rules.

However, a Brazilian representative who attended the presentation responded by emphasising that biofuels were “not the villain” in the global food crisis, and that increased biofuels production could in fact make an important contribution to economic and social development.

NGO report takes aim at Latin biofuels

In related news, a recent report by Friends of the Earth International slammed biofuels production in Latin America, concluding that rapid development of plant-derived fuels is threatening biodiversity, accelerating deforestation and spreading poor labour conditions in the region.

“More agrofuels means that agribusiness companies, financial speculators, and big landowners will make vast profits at the expense of people and the environment,” Paul de Clerck, Corporate Campaigner for Friends of the Earth International, said.

While the report, titled “Fuelling destruction in Latin America,” targeted several Latin American countries, it singled out Brazil, the region’s biggest ethanol producer, for especially harsh labour conditions for its sugarcane cutters, as well as its extensive use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers in agrofuels production.

The Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association (ÚNICA) issued a statement rebutting the NGO report, claiming that the information it provided was “out of context, inaccurate and generally outdated.”

ÚNICA President Marcos Jank said that Brazil had made significant strides towards increasing the sustainability of its agrofuels production by reducing associated carbon dioxide emissions, creating jobs and developing new technologies. “The Brazilian experience is the longest and most successful effort at large-scale, sustainable production and use of a biofuels in the world to date,” Jank said in the statement.

Additional resources

To access the report “Fuelling Destruction in Latin America: The Real Price of Agrofuels” visit <http://www.foei.org/en/publications/pdfs/biofuels-fuelling-destruction-latinamerica>

ICTSD reporting; “Unchecked biofuels could lead to food shortages: UN expert,” AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 9 September 2008; “UN report: biofuels adding to food crisis,” VOICE OF AMERICA NEWS, 10 September 2008; “Skyrocketing prices continue to threaten the right to food, UN expert says,” UN NEWS SERVICE, 10 September 2008; “EU Panel Votes to Cut Goal for Biofuels From Crops,” REUTERS, 12 September 2008; “MEPs’ biofuel vote could bring production to ‘standstill,’” EUROBSERVER, 12 September 2008.

Forests

EU-GHANA TRADE DEAL TAKES AIM AT ILLEGAL LOGGING

The EU and Ghana clinched a deal last week aimed at reducing illegal timber harvesting in the forested West African nation. The agreement was signed on 3 September on the sidelines of a foreign aid conference in Accra, Ghana. The deal is the first of what Brussels hopes will be a series of so-called Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) with timber-producing developing countries.

Under the terms of the pact, Ghana is obliged to establish a transparent licensing scheme for EU-bound timber exports that certifies that all of the goods have been legally harvested. The deal also compels the EU to establish a system that ensures that uncertified Ghanaian timber is not able to be enter the market. More broadly, the deal is also intended to promote better enforcement of forest law and has been designed to facilitate active involvement by both civil society and the private sector.

One aim of the deal is to provide Ghanaian timber with a competitive advantage due to their perceived environmental benefits. Because more than half of Ghanaian timber exports end up in the European market, the new deal could have a significant impact.

Agreements do not affect WTO commitments

The Ghana deal, along with other potential VPAs, do not violate world trade rules because the deals are both voluntary and bilateral. While the EU is also currently engaged in VPA negotiations with Cameroon, Indonesia, the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), and Malaysia, the inking of the Ghana deal marks the first time a VPA has been finalised since the initiative was proposed in 2003.

VPAs lie at the core of the European Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, the EU's response to a call for action at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. Beyond VPAs, Brussels promised to require EU member states to purchase sustainable forest products, and to introduce a legislative measure discouraging the importation of wood from unknown – and thus, potentially illegal — sources.

Environmentalists cautiously optimistic

Ghanaian timber exports bring US\$ 400 million to the domestic economy, making it the fourth largest industry after gold, tourism and cocoa. But logging practises in the country have been widely criticised as unsustainable and illegal harvesting is rampant. The World Bank estimates that roughly 60 percent of logging in Ghana in recent years has been conducted in contravention of domestic legislation. And Ghana's tropical forest cover has been reduced from 63,400 square kilometres in 1960 down to about 13,500 square kilometres today – a 25 percent decline.

Because there is currently no EU law preventing illegally harvested wood from entering the European market, environmentalists are cautiously optimistic about voluntary agreements, like the EU-Ghana VPA.

“For many years, Europe has talked the talk of saving the world's forests but demanded increasing volumes of cheap wood imports, providing profitable markets for illegal wood from very poor countries,” says Ralph Ridder, a FLEGT expert at the European Forest Institute (EFI). “Once implemented, this agreement will mean that buying wood from Ghana ensures that consumers, industry, and government in the EU are doing the right thing.”

In order to ensure proper certification is carried out, the VPA calls for a system of checks and balances that will be verified by a third party. “There will be a verification and tracking system for timber,” said Jaap Vermaat, an advisor for the European Commission. “As a safeguard, Ghana has agreed to have an independent monitor assess their systems on a regular basis.”

Loophole still needs closing

But some say that, while the EU-Ghana deal is a promising first step in the fight against illegal logging, it is no magic bullet.

At least initially, the VPA will cover a rather limited range of products: logs, sawn wood, plywood, and veneer. Furniture and other processed wood products will not be regulated by the agreement. And because the agreement with Ghana is bilateral, it will not be able to prevent the

export of illegal timber to a non-EU country, where raw logs could be processed, then re-exported to the European market.

Critics argue that this phenomenon, called 'transshipment,' has the potential to be quite significant, as illegal loggers could simply divert their shipments to non-EU markets and completely circumvent the certification process. Thus, they say, in order to be truly effective at combating illegal logging on a global scale, all major timber-importing countries would need to establish similar agreements with producer countries.

Moreover, the bilateral trade deals will have no impact on timber that never crosses an international border. The vast majority of timber harvested within a country ends up in the hands of domestic consumers, according to FAO statistics.

But the EU maintains that the transshipment issue has been overstated in light of the potential positive spill-over effects associated with the capacity-building support that the EU has promised will accompany the agreement. Specifically, Brussels argues that EU-funded governance mechanisms will help the Ghanaian government crack down on all illegal logging within its borders, regardless of the ultimate destination of the timber.

Other critics of the program point out that the vast majority of illegally harvested timber does not originate in potential partner countries. The World Wide Fund for Nature estimates that as much as 20 per cent of timber imports to the EU come from illegal or suspected illegal sources – mainly from Russia, China, and Indonesia. They say that the Ghana deal and similar VPAs will likely stop only 10 percent of illegal imports, and that more efforts should be made to tackle the transshipment issue and striking deals with Russia and China – talks with Indonesia are currently underway.

Further deals in the works

In addition to the ongoing negotiations with Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Indonesia, and Malaysia, informal VPA discussions have also begun with Central African Republic, Cote

D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Gabon, Honduras, Liberia, Nicaragua, and Vietnam.

The negotiations with Malaysia appear to be moving ahead briskly. Vincent Picket, EC Ambassador and Head of Delegation in Malaysia, noted the progress at a recent appearance in Kuala Lumpur. "Thanks to the high level of commitment from the Malaysian side, we have made good progress. If we can resolve the few remaining issues, then an agreement should be ready by the end of this year," he said. "Right now, we have a number of independent experts doing an analysis of how the Malaysian authorities and private sector assess the legality of Malaysian wood. The results will be tabled for discussion in October. If there are any gaps in the assessment, we will try and remedy it."

The EU currently expects the first VPA certified shipment from Ghana to arrive in late 2009.

The VPA is the second move in as many weeks to help combat deforestation in Ghana. On the sidelines of a recent climate change conference, officials in Ghana announced that a plan to harvest timber at the bottom of Lake Volta, an ostensible scheme to help offset terrestrial deforestation, would be going ahead (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 5 September 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/28638/>).

ICTSD Reporting, "Ghana, EU clinch deal to crackdown on illicit timber trade," AFP, 4 September 2008; "EU, Ghana Agree to Protect Tropical Forest With Timber Pact," BLOOMBERG, 3 September 2008; "EU and Ghana strike deal on illegal timber," FORBES, 3 September 2008; "Ghana agrees with EU to tighten timber exports," REUTERS, 3 September 2008.

In Brief

EU GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO GM SOYBEAN

The European Union has given its approval to allow a genetically modified (GM) soybean

produced by Bayer CropScience to be imported. The 8 September default ruling is the latest in a string of GM ‘rubber-stamp’ authorisations - mostly on maize products - granted since 2004 (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 5 October, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/9132/>).

“Rubber-stamp” approval is granted by default in cases where a proposal has been before the European Commission, the EU’s legislative body, for a set period of time and the 27 member countries are not able to reach a conclusive decision. In such cases, this conditional approval is granted for a period of 10 years.

The GM soybean, marketed as LibertyLink, is designed to resist glufosinate herbicides. Because the genetically modified species is not affected by the ‘non-selective’ herbicide, the two products can be used in tandem to eliminate weeds and thus produce higher soy yields.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has approved LibertyLink soybeans for use in food and animal feed products. Shipments will be imported either whole or as meal and then reprocessed in Europe for use in food or animal feed. All products produced from the soybean are subject to the EU’s rules governing labelling and traceability. The approval does not permit cultivation of the soybean within the EU.

The world’s top soybean producers, particularly in the US, rely heavily on GM technology for growing soy. As such, they are often critical of the EU’s zero tolerance policy on GM crops. They claim that the European guidelines - which ban imports with even trace amounts of unauthorised genetically modified products from the European marketplace - adds significantly to production and transportation costs.

Europe imports 26 million tonnes of soy and meal annually. And European livestock producers say the global move towards biotech production of soy and maize combined with the EU stance on biotech products has made it increasingly difficult to source feed. In the past, shipments of grains and rice have been seized at EU ports when samples were found to contain GM materials.

European officials say the move - along with a few other pending GM applications - is intended to help combat a European animal feed shortage. The European livestock industry, which depends heavily on soy products as a rich source of protein, welcomed the decision as part of a long-term solution to ensuring access to affordable animal feed.

But green groups say it is an example of the EU caving to pressure from lobby groups. “There was absolutely no reason to authorise it, absolutely none whatsoever,” says Helen Holder, GMO Campaign Coordinator at Friends of the Earth. “GMOs are not the solution to a number of issues that we need to solve in agriculture and environment and the more we allow into the EU, the more other parts of the world get destroyed environmentally and socially.”

Holder says that the new rules will allow major producers of GM soy, particularly those in the US, to access the European market more easily, noting that Brazil and Argentina can easily supply the EU with feed that meets the zero tolerance policy.

Recent news out of Brazil shows that the country’s soy producers still see a market for non-GM products in the EU. A group of Brazilian soy producers, including Andre Maggi - the world’s largest soy producing group, has announced the establishment of an association aimed directly at increasing GM-free grain and feed exports to the EU.

The Brazilian Association of Non-genetically Modified Grains (ABRANGE) guarantees that certified exports from member companies will be completely free of genetically modified organisms. “We want to make it clear that as long as Europe wants to buy [non-transgenics], we’re here to grow them,” says the Association’s president, Cesar Borges da Sousa.

But demand in Europe will depend on the future of rubber-stamping and whether the default 10-year conditional approval that the process provides will spread further. On 29 September the EU will vote on similar case relating to Monsanto’s Roundup Ready 2 soybean varieties.

ICTSD Reporting; "EU soon to import GM soy," ALLABOUTFEED.NET, 4 September 2008; "EU to approve Bayer GM soy imports next week," REUTERS, 3 September 2008; "Food firms launch Brazil GMO-free grain group," REUTERS, 9 September 2008.

ACTIVISTS ACCUSE INDUSTRY OF BIOPIRACY ON CLIMATE-READY CROPS

Environmental activists are speaking out against agricultural biotechnology companies, claiming their patenting of genetically engineered climate-resistant is tantamount to biopiracy.

The charges come as a reaction to a June 2008 report by Ottawa-based Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group) that draws attention to a recent spike in patent applications for "climate-ready" seeds in the past four years. Biotech companies say that these new crops will be able to withstand the harsh environmental conditions of a future planet affected by climate change.

But activists argue that industry is simply looking to profit from long established traditional knowledge. "Farmers in India have long known and used flood-resistant, drought-resistant, cold-resistant and heat-resistant seeds to adapt to local climatic conditions," says environmental activist Vandana Shiva. "Patents on these traits to multinational companies deny the innovation embodied in indigenous knowledge."

Current Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) regulations do not require patent applications to disclose the origin of biological resources or associated traditional knowledge. But developing countries are now pushing for the Agreement to be amended to require applicants to acknowledge origins and to provide evidence of prior information consent from the origin country and of benefit sharing.

According to the ETC Group report, over 530 applications for so-called climate-ready genes have already been submitted around the world. The organisation asserts that the deluge of patent

applications reveals a new strategy by the biotech industry to profit from climate change. "Biotech companies see a silver lining in climate change: An opportunity to assert that agriculture cannot win the war against climate change without genetic engineering," the report reads. "In other words, industry claims that biotech crops will offer essential adaptation measures."

Environmental activists argue that companies are mapping the genome seeds that are already used by traditional farmers and that patenting them could limit future access.

But industry counters that their advancements in biotech will be desperately needed in the future as weather patterns change and that patenting is the best way to help agricultural security. "Climate change will pose new challenges for farmers around the world, and Monsanto and other companies are making major research and development investments to help farmers meet those challenges," Monsanto said in a press release. "Patent protection allows companies to see a return on their investment which enables further investment in research and product development."

To access the ETC Group report "Patenting the 'Climate Genes'...And Capturing the Climate Agenda" visit http://www.etcgroup.org/en/materials/publications.html?pub_id=687

"Companies preparing to rule 'climate ready' crop market - report," ENN, 14 May 2008; "Climate ready GM crops: The patent race," CLIMATE CHANGE CORP, 17 September 2008; "Should Crucial Technology be Patentable?," MONSANTO PRESS RELEASE, 17 September 2008.

UK RECYCLING BEING DUMPED IN INDIA: REPORT

Mounds of household waste intended for recycling in the UK has been finding its way to dumps in India, according to an investigative report aired on British television. The report claims that mail and receipts found in a trash heap in Tamil Nadu, a state in south-eastern India,

could be traced back to UK residents, who confirmed that they had sorted the items for recycling months before.

The EU has historically been a strong supporter of its commitments to the Basel Convention, a 1992 agreement intended to mitigate the trade of hazardous waste. As a signatory to the Convention, the EU is expected to help minimise waste generation at the source, treat hazardous waste as close to its point of generation as possible, and reduce the international movement of hazardous waste.

Waste disposal in the UK has transformed radically in the intervening years and all councils are now required to recycle. However, critics now say that the system relies too heavily on the services of subcontractors, which does not allow for adequate checks and balances. They say that subcontractors are able to hide behind commercial confidentiality to obscure the final destination of recyclables. Further, critics say that because it can cost as much as £148 (US\$ 269) to recycle a tonne of waste and as little as £40 (US\$ 73) to export it to India, there is a strong incentive to circumvent the established system.

In addition to concerns that some recycling is not being processed properly, environmentalists charge that the use of fossil fuels to ship recyclables more than 7,000 km - risking the possibility of waste spills - is counter-productive to the intended environmental benefits of recycling efforts. They say reports such as these can cause residents to lose confidence in the positive impact of their efforts and thus erode environmental participation.

“It is vital that people have confidence in recycling so we can encourage them to go that extra mile and do more,” says Paul Bettison, Environment Board Chairman of a the Local Government Organisation in the UK. “If a contractor refuses to reveal where materials are being sold it can lead to suspicion and undermine the whole process.”

Syamala Mani, director of a waste and resource management group at the Centre for Environment Education in India, says there are public health risks associated with importing garbage that could potentially contain hazardous materials.

“Biomedical waste and heavy metals...find their way into India through this waste. And we don’t even have a single formal metal recovery waste unit in India,” Mani says. “All of it is done cheaply in the unregulated sector.”

While EU rules governing waste currently permit exports, shipments are required to be separated and recycled properly. Britain’s Environmental Agency says it will be investigating the matter.

“Uncovering the great recycling lie in a trail that leads to India,” DAILY MAIL, 6 September 2008; “Britain dumps its garbage on Indian soil,” TIMES NEWS NETWORK & AGENCIES, 2 September 2008; “UK firms caught in illegal waste dumping,” THE GUARDIAN, 28 March 2005.

Events and 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

22-25 September, Limbé, Cameroon. CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR CENTRAL AFRICA ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPS) AND MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY. This workshop will focus on particular topics on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP’s) in the region addressing such issues as biodiversity, poverty reduction, and the achievement of Millennium Development Goals. For more information contact Mary Fosi Mbantenkhu, tel: (+237) 22 22 94 80; email: mary...@yahoo.com; internet: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings>

24-25 September, Geneva, Switzerland. WTO PUBLIC FORUM 2008: TRADING INTO THE FUTURE. This year’s Forum will provide a platform for reflection on the multilateral trading system’s six decades. In particular, input will be

sought on the challenges and opportunities facing the WTO in each of its main functions, as well as on the challenges and opportunities facing the main actors and stakeholders of the system. For more information contact the WTO, email: Publ...@wto.org; internet: http://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/public_forum08_e/public_forum08_e.htm

26-29 September, Ottawa, Canada. CLIMATE LAW IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES POST-2012: NORTH AND SOUTH PERSPECTIVES. This conference will examine the legal and policy challenges that developing countries face in mitigating and adapting to climate change while meeting their social and economic needs. For more information contact the University of Ottawa, email: Sept...@uottawa.ca; internet: <http://www.iucnael.org>

29-30 September, Mumbai, India. CARBON MARKETS INDIA. The second annual Carbon Markets India will provide a platform for representatives from Indian industry to learn about Carbon Development Mechanism (CDM) business opportunities and do business with buyers of Certified Emissions Reductions (CERs). For more information contact the Green Power Team, tel: (+44) 207 099 0600; fax: (+44) 207 900 1853; email: i...@greenpowerconferences.com; internet: http://www.greenpowerconferences.com/carbonmarkets/carbonmarkets_india_2008.html

1 October, Washington DC, US. FISHING MURKY WATERS: CHINA'S AQUACULTURE CHALLENGES UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM. This China Environment Forum meeting will discuss some of the challenges facing Chinese fish farmers upstream in lakes, rivers, and fish ponds. It will also focus on the downstream issues of coastal pollution and over fishing that are endangering China's coastal fisheries. For more information contact Jennifer Turner, tel: (+1) 202 691 4233; email: c...@wilsoncenter.org; internet: http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?topic_id=1421&fuseaction=topics.event&event_id=473946

Other upcoming events

5-14 October, Barcelona, Spain. IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS. This forum will offer four days of debates, workshops, dialogues, art and film, roundtable discussions, training courses, music, and exhibitions that address the world's most pressing sustainable development challenges. For more information contact the Congress Secretariat, tel: (+41) 22 999 0000; fax: (+41) 22 999 0002; email: cong...@iucn.org; internet: http://www.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/index.cfm

10-12 March 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark. ADAPTING COASTAL ZONE AND MARINE RESOURCES TO CLIMATE CHANGE. This session of the Scientific Congress on Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges, and Decisions aims to provide a synthesis of existing and emerging scientific knowledge necessary in order to make intelligent societal decisions concerning application of mitigation and adaptation strategies in response to climate change. For more information contact Jane Sogård Hansen, tel: (+45) 35324251; email: j...@adm.ku.dk; internet: <http://climatecongress.ku.dk>

21-23 January, 2009, Bern, Switzerland. CONFERENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS OF CLIMATE POLICIES. The conference will cover a broad spectrum of climate economic research issues and foster cross-disciplinary links. Each topic will include a keynote plenary lecture and numerous parallel sessions. It is open to all interested researchers. For more information contact Seraina Buob, tel: (+41) 31 631 45 09; email: sera...@vwi.unibe.ch; internet: http://www.nccr-climate.unibe.ch/conferences/climate_policies/index_en.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 for review by the Bridges staff to Andrew Aziz at aaz...@ictsd.ch.

THE CONSERVATION AND USE OF WILDLIFE-BASED RESOURCES: THE BUSHMEAT CRISIS. By Nasi, R; Brown, D; and Wilkie, D. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. 2008. This paper addresses the hunting of tropical forest wildlife for food - commonly known as 'bushmeat', 'wildmeat' or 'gamemeat'. The authors see the bushmeat problem as unique - one in which the particular circumstances of a given native community must be evaluated. Villagers often turn to bushmeat when there are few alternatives for nourishment and livelihood. The authors explore the consequences of this problem on many tropical forest species, ultimately arguing that it is a development problem that must be addressed by acknowledging the particularities of the forest-dwelling or forest-dependant way of life. <http://www.eldis.org/assets/Docs/36080.html>

FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT, GOVERNANCE AND TRADE-THE EUROPEAN UNION APPROACH. European Forest Institute. September 2008. This policy brief introduces the Action Plan taken by the European Commission's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Group. The Action Plan focuses on EU trade policies by developing partnerships with producer countries, developing legislation to encourage importers to take responsibility for the provenance of the wood they buy, and promoting responsible purchasing by governments and timber importers in member States. <http://www.illegal-logging.info/uploads/efipolicybrief2.pdf>

THE CONTRIBUTION OF CHINESE EXPORTS TO CLIMATE CHANGE. By Christopher L. Webera, Glen P. Petersb, Dabo Guanc and Klaus Hubacek. Carnegie Mellon University, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Judge Business School, University of Cambridge, Sustainability Research Institute, University of Leeds, July 2008. Emissions from Chinese exports have risen sharply over time as a percentage of China's total emissions. This publication calls attention to this trend and the role of the developing world's consumption of Chinese goods. It addresses the pros and cons of possible policy responses and argues that China's rapidly expanding infrastructure and inefficient coal-powered electricity system need urgent

attention.

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6V2W-4T1SFRC-1&_user=10&_rdoc=1&_fmt=&_orig=search&_sort=d&view=c&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_u serid=10&md5=df1d5037dca7de1f18660d435afc60c6

VERSION ZERO - PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE BIOFUELS. By the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels. August 2008. The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels, an international initiative that brings together farmers, companies, NGOs, experts, governments, and inter-governmental agencies concerned with ensuring the sustainability of biofuels production and processing, has released the first draft of a Global Sustainability Standard for biofuels. The draft criteria of the Roundtable, developed through a multi-stakeholder process, are based on a comprehensive "land to tank" analysis, covering the whole chain of biofuels' production. 'Version Zero' of the standard will now undergo six months of global stakeholder consultation for incorporation into what will become Version One to be released in April, 2009. <http://cgse.epfl.ch/page70341.html>

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF A GLOBAL CAP AND SHARE SCHEME ON SOUTH AFRICA. By the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability. September 2008. This study seeks to identify the initial impact that a global Cap and Share scheme might have on South Africa, based on a set of limiting assumptions. It shows how South Africa might fare if the sharing was done by allocating each of its citizens an equal per capita share of the world's total carbon dioxide emissions each year and then allowing them to sell them. http://www.feasta.org/documents/energy/Cap_and_Share_South_Africa.htm

DEVELOPING COUNTRY EMISSIONS: COMMON AND JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES. By Benito Müller. Oxford Institute for Energy Studies. September 2008. This Oxford Energy and Environment Comment looks at the fundamental issues involved in the problem of reducing developing country emissions and puts forward a new approach for dealing with them, namely (bilateral) joint-responsibility framework

agreements, implemented by strategic partnerships
<http://www.oxfordclimatepolicy.org/publications/mueller.html>