



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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Climate Change	1
ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY	
DESCENDS ON POZNAN.....	
Fisheries	3
ICCAT TUNA QUOTA REDUCTIONS	
NOT ENOUGH:	
ENVIRONMENTALISTS.....	
In Brief	5
BIOFUELS CONFERENCE LOOKS	
TOWARD GLOBAL MARKET	
DEVELOPMENT	
OBAMA CALLS FOR CARBON	
TRADING SCHEME, VOWS STRONG	
ACTION ON CLIMATE.....	
THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL: NEW	
INITIATIVES TO TACKLE CLIMATE-	
DAMAGING SUBSTANCES.....	
Events & Resources	8
Events.....	
Resources.....	

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Climate Change

ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY DESCENDS ON POZNAN

Hotels are filling up in the western Polish city of Poznan as Ministers, delegates, civil society representatives and the media prepare for the year's most anticipated conference on climate change. The 14th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), or COP-14 – set to kick off on 1 December – will see as many as 8,000 government representatives and observer organisations to the UNFCCC discuss an array of issues addressing climate change.

As the penultimate annual meeting before Parties are expected to hammer out an agreement to succeed the Kyoto Protocol – which will expire in 2012 – many observers will be looking to Poznan for indicators as to how the next 12 months of negotiations leading up to COP-15 in Copenhagen will progress.

But with developed and developing countries still split on longstanding issues (e.g., long-term goals and technology transfer), the current global financial crisis, and the political limbo in the US resulting from the transition of presidential administrations, there is little expectation that significant progress will be achieved during the two week meeting.

Nevertheless, COP-14 will be the first time that a real negotiating text for a successor pact to the Kyoto Protocol will be on the table and hot button issues – most notably the transfer of climate change combating technology to developing countries – will certainly be attracting much attention.

Moreover, widespread pessimism among many observers in light of the current state of the global economy is being challenged by a recent survey commissioned by the HSBC Climate Partnership, a group composed of business and environmental groups. According to the report, 43 percent of people surveyed in select developed and developing countries place climate change ahead of the current financial meltdown as an issue of concern. The study also found that a majority of people in the developing countries surveyed – including Brazil, India, and China – were willing to make 'lifestyle changes' to reduce climate change.

Parties to the UNFCCC have agreed that they will clinch an 'ambitious' climate change deal in Copenhagen that will follow on the first phase of Kyoto. Organisers say that Poznan will serve as a mid-way stop between Bali and Copenhagen – an opportunity to take stock of progress made in

2008 and map out in detail what needs to happen in 2009 to reach an agreement. Parties will table a text at the conference that could serve as the basis for an agreement at Copenhagen.

Need for a ‘shared vision’

Bridging the gap between developed and developing countries has been highlighted as a necessary priority for moving forward. Issues such as the nature of a functional technology transfer package and the request by some developed countries that more industrialised developing countries take a more participatory role than their poorer counterparts have the potential of bringing climate talks to a standstill.

To address this potential deadlock, the ‘Bali Roadmap’ – agreed to at COP-13 – requires Parties to establish a long-term ‘shared vision’ for moving climate talks forward. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is expected to emphasise the importance of this vision when he addresses ministers and senior officials during the high-level meeting near the end of the Poznan Conference.

Technology transfer could monopolise agenda

Technology is the most high profile issue on the Poznan agenda and agreement on the issue will be key to establishing a shared vision. Parties are striving to come to an agreement on an appropriate framework for the transfer of technology from developed to developing countries to assist poorer countries in their attempts to meet climate change targets. Both developed and developing countries have agreed that this transfer will be an essential aspect of a Copenhagen deal. However, reaching a consensus on the details of the plan has been formidable.

Key discussions related to technology will take place early in the conference when the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) – which counsels the Conference of the Parties on matters of climate, the environment, technology, and method – and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) – which helps review how the Convention is being applied – meet at the beginning of the two weeks. Informal consultations of groups formed on SBSTA and

SBI topics will then continue until the two bodies close on 10 December.

The Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) – a subsidiary body under the UNFCCC charged with facilitating cooperation on matters such as establishing a framework for technology transfer – will hold several workshops on key negotiating issues, such as a “shared vision for cooperative action” and “ranges of emission reduction objectives” throughout the first week of the Conference.

In addition, several side events, organised by governments and civil society organisations, will discuss various aspects of striking a deal on technology. Organisations such as the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) will be hosting events covering the general principles and procedures related to technology transfer, while others, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) will focus in on financing – a key stumbling block in negotiations.

Issues related to trade and technology transfer will be addressed during a 2 December side event, hosted by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN), and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India.

Deforestation

Adopting an initiative to combat deforestation and forest degradation is of high importance to a Copenhagen deal and it will undoubtedly be discussed at Poznan. Of interest to many environmentalists will be debate surrounding the UN Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Programme, (UN-REDD).

UN-REDD, unveiled by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in September of this year, has been touted as a probable component of a Copenhagen agreement. The programme aims to allow participating tropical forested developing countries to generate carbon credits by demonstrating their capacity for tree planting and ‘avoided deforestation’.

Discussion on deforestation will kick off on 1 December at a meeting of the SBSTA, and side events hosted by governments including Ghana and New Zealand as well as non-governmental organisations, such as the Amazon Institute for Environmental Research (IPAM) and the Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK), also have in depth discussions and presentations on UN-REDD planned.

Critics of UN-REDD say they will be pushing Parties to address problems with the programme at Poznan. 'REDD Myths', a new report released on 27 November by environmental group Friends of the Earth International, says that carbon trading schemes like UN-REDD have the potential to undermine the stated objectives of the negotiations.

"During the climate talks, we will be demanding that forests are kept out of carbon markets, that plantations are entirely excluded and land rights are enforced as the basis of any forest policy," says Joseph Zacune, Friends of the Earth International Climate and Energy Coordinator. "If governments are serious about tackling climate change, deforestation must be stopped once and for all. To do this we need to tackle the consumption of agrofuels, meat and timber products which is driving deforestation and support good governance of forest resources."

Adaptation

Funding for projects aimed at assisting adaptation to the effects of climate change is also expected to be addressed. Organisers say the Kyoto Protocol's Adaptation Fund will likely be finalised in Poznan, with some governments likely to voluntarily provide initial funding. Agreement on the issue could clear the way for actual projects to be implemented in 2009.

Due to the timing of the religious holiday Eid, a shorter than usual high level meeting of ministers and senior officials is scheduled for 11-12 December, the final two days of the conference.

ICTSD Reporting.

Fisheries

ICCAT TUNA QUOTA REDUCTIONS NOT ENOUGH: ENVIRONMENTALISTS

The international organisation in charge of regulating the bluefin tuna industry has been slammed by environmentalists after deciding on catch limits higher than the organisation's own scientists have recommended.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, or ICCAT, convened for their 16th annual meeting from 17 to 24 November in Marrakech, Morocco, in what had been built up to be the meeting to decide the fate of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species. But, conservationists have been quick to condemn what passed the vote, saying that the measures are not stringent enough to prevent a collapse of the bluefin tuna stock.

Under the agreement reached, the total allowable catch for eastern bluefin tuna has been reduced to 22,000 tonnes in 2009 from 28,500 tonnes in 2008, and this limit will be further decreased to 19,950 tonnes in 2010 – a two-year reduction of 30 percent. In addition to the catch limits, the agreement authorises a four month reduction in the fishing season for the purse seine fleet, which make the bulk of the tuna catches, and capacity will be frozen at 2007-2008 levels to help combat illegal fishing. In a separate decision, ICCAT also established a peer review system to assess member compliance, and which has the authority to impose sanctions.

Proponents of this deal, which was driven by the EU with the support of Algeria, Egypt, Japan, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia, defeated a rival proposal to limit the total catch to 15,000 tonnes and close the fishery for the full spawning period, when most of the tuna catch occurs. According to the decision, there will be an overlap between the spawning season and authorised fishing period.

Notably Japan, which consumes 80 percent of tuna caught in the Mediterranean, switched sides during the negotiations from that of the defeated proposal. Led by the US, Brazil, Canada, Iceland, Mexico and Norway had moved to have the 2008

quota limit in the range of 8,500 and 15,000 tonnes – in line with ICCAT's own scientists' recommendations.

"The result may not be perfect," ICCAT chair Fabio Hazin conceded. "But it was the best result possible in such a complicated meeting and I am very confident and hopeful that the decisions we made here will help to ensure the sustainability of the tuna stocks we have demanded to manage."

Environmental groups slam ICCAT decision

International environmental groups including Greenpeace, Oceana and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) were quick to accuse ICCAT member nations of disregarding their own scientific advice and so paving the way for a species crash, like that of the Atlantic cod collapse.

"Instead of preserving the bluefin tuna stock from collapse, they gave in to the industry's short-term economic interests," said Xavier Pastor, Executive Director for Oceana in Europe. "With this decision, we can only wait for the disappearance of bluefin tuna." Greenpeace concurred, calling the decision "disastrous and shameful."

ICCAT scientists had warned in a 2006 report that bluefin tuna numbers in the east Atlantic and Mediterranean had fallen to one-fifth of levels seen in the mid-1970s. The report says that extensive illegal fishing is resulting in annual catches as high as 50,000 tons, which could lead to a collapse in the tuna stock. The scientists' report called for the legal quota to be more than halved from 32,000 to 15,000 tonnes and for a ban on all fishing during the spawning period during May and June.

Environmental groups were quick to blame the EU for the decision. Both Greenpeace and the WWF, accused the EU of pressuring ICCAT members from developing countries to support higher quotas by using trade threats – reportedly related to the valuable banana industry.

Tensions were indeed high at the meeting with Libya, which sees the most prolific Mediterranean tuna fishing in its region, reportedly walking out of the meeting.

But the EU has defended its decision. "A [quota] is not enough in itself to protect fish stocks; a reduced [quota] accompanied by a shorter season and increased control is the solution to preserving this resource," said Nathalie Charbonneau, spokeswoman for the EU fisheries and maritime affairs department.

And while many believe the quotas put in place are not stringent enough, others point out that current fishing limits would be adequate if they were respected. According to ICCAT statistics, the total catch in the Mediterranean last year was 61,000 tonnes, more than twice the authorised limit of 29,500 tonnes. The year before that, ICCAT scientists estimated the illegal fishing in the same region added about 30 percent onto the official catch figures.

Environmentalists call for bluefin boycott

Indeed, part of the outcry expressed by environmentalists in the wake of the meeting, may be attributable to the fact that opposition to anything but a strong agreement was not evident in the lead up to the meeting. In a statement released earlier in the year, the EU said they would "be seeking an ambitious revision of the recovery plan that can bring about decisive improvements of the condition of the stock without further delay."

Moreover, the ICCAT decision ignored a vote by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in Barcelona last October, and supported by many environmental organisations, calling for a moratorium on the species until member states were able to reign in the industry's rampant illegal fishing. The vote was notable for the fact that even the big tuna nations Japan and Spain had called for a suspension of the fishery from concern over critically low stock levels (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 17 October 2008 <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/31323/>).

Environmentalists have pointed to the agreement as proof that ICCAT, by continuously ignoring its own scientists' advice on quotas, has failed as a credible international regulatory body. Indeed ICCAT implemented a 15-year recovery plan for eastern bluefin tuna in 2006. But ICCAT scientists

have recently reported that the plan and its system for control and monitoring of the fishery have failed in the envisaged effectiveness.

And environmental groups fear this year's decisions will also prove ineffective, hinting that ICCAT members' do not have the means to enforce the quotas. Instead, they see a moratorium as the most viable option to ensure the long-term survival of the tuna stock and fishery.

Indeed, international environmental campaign group, the WWF, has renewed its campaign for a consumer boycott of Atlantic bluefin tuna. The organisation has also indicated it will apply for bluefin tuna to be added as an 'appendix 1' species on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora's (CITES) list, and so automatically authorise a ban on the international tuna trade. Proposals for the list are required by August 2009 to be considered at the next CITES meeting in Doha in January 2010.

Sharks, western bluefin tuna also considered

The annual ICCAT meeting also looked at measures for other endangered stock in the region. Strong action was adopted to rebuild the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock. Driven by the US, this measure sees the quota for the western Atlantic stock reduced from 2,100 tonnes to 1,800 tonnes by 2010.

Regarding North Atlantic swordfish, management measures will be extended for another year, in order to provide time for stock replenishment and assessment.

Several shark conservation proposals were also considered, including three proposals by the EU directed at thresher and hammerhead sharks, blue and mako sharks, and concerning the porbeagle shark. And action on the bigeye thresher sharks was taken, authorising the live release of these sharks accidentally caught.

ICCAT is comprised of 46 majoring fishing nations, ranging from Japan to Egypt, Norway and the US, and is responsible for setting the quota catch for the Atlantic and Mediterranean oceans.

ICTSD reporting; "Higher quotas will push Atlantic tuna closer to collapse, campaigners warn," THE GUARDIAN, 25 November 2008; "EU, other states, cut Mediterranean tuna quotas," REUTERS, 26 November 2008; "Bluefin tuna: call for boycott after quotas set higher than scientists recommend," THE TELEGRAPH, 25 November 2008; "International talks to save overfished tuna start in Morocco," AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 17 November 2008.

In Brief

BIOFUELS CONFERENCE LOOKS TOWARD GLOBAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Issues such as trade, standards and technical requirements were tackled at a recent biofuels development conference held in Brazil – one of the leading biofuels producers in Latin America.

The conference – entitled Biofuels as a Driving Force of Sustainable Development – hosted by the Brazilian government from 17-21 November in São Paulo – focused primarily on the challenges and opportunities of biofuels. Specific issues discussed include energy security, sustainability of biofuel production and use, agricultural and industrial processing, technical specifications and standards, international trade, and its sometimes controversial relationship to climate change.

Representatives from 92 countries, as well as non-governmental and private sector organisations, attended the conference. While no formal declaration was adopted, the summaries of the plenary sessions suggest that participants agree on several statements. For example, participants felt a 10 percent share of biofuels in transport worldwide is feasible and that the use of biofuels as an alternative to fossil fuels is a desirable goal. As such, biofuels can contribute significantly to combating climate change. Regarding production, however, not all countries are in a position to produce them in a sustainable manner, and a successful model to produce biofuels cannot be identically replicated in different locations without taking into account local realities.

On the controversial issue of sustainability criteria, conference participants felt that these must be “scientifically and transparently” set. In their view, the current food, energy and financial crisis provide an opportunity to revise standards of production and consumption and boost the development of renewable and sustainable energy sources. Looking at developing countries specifically, meeting participants agreed that they can benefit greatly from the modernisation of agriculture, especially in the area of biofuels. Significant opportunities for the production of biofuels in arid and degraded land, especially in Africa, were identified.

Regarding trade, participants felt a number of measures were required to create a global market for biofuels, including their classification as environmental goods under the WTO and the reduction of tariffs, agricultural subsidies and other trade barriers. A global market for biofuels could contribute positively to combat climate change and ensure energy security, they said.

According to the UN Centre for Trade and Development’s (UNCTAD) Acting Deputy Secretary General, Lakshmi Puri, Brazil’s biofuels development strategy should be seen as a model.

“We analysed the Brazilian model so as to see in which countries it might be reproduced,” Puri said. “The use of biofuels as we imagine it is a win, win, win strategy. The environment wins, the commerce wins, and development wins too.”

Puri insisted that the biofuels sector represents a new and dynamic opportunity – particularly for poorer nations. “What we are doing is try and help developing countries. We help nations to choose the correct model, and all of that needs to go hand in hand with food security.”

During the closing of the Conference, Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva called on industrialised countries to support biofuels production in land rich but cash poor countries – particularly in Africa. However, he was careful not to overstate its importance.

“Biofuels are far from being a panacea, the solution to all social, environmental and economic

problems,” Lula cautioned. “Nevertheless, they may help us reconcile development and respect to the environment.”

Additional information

The International Conference on Biofuels website is available at www.biofuels2008.com

ICTSD Reporting; “Brazil’s President Lula Closes International Biofuels Conference, Calls for Investments in New Energy Sources,” CLIMATE-L.ORG, 25 November 2008; “Brazil is a model in biofuels strategy”, ANBA, 20 November 2008.

OBAMA CALLS FOR CARBON TRADING SCHEME, VOWS STRONG ACTION ON CLIMATE

US President-elect Barack Obama pledged on 18 November to “engage vigorously” on climate change issues upon entering office in January.

“Climate change and our dependence on foreign oil, if left unaddressed, will continue to weaken our economy and threaten our national security,” he said in a surprise video message to a summit of government officials from the US and abroad.

“Too often, Washington has failed to match the leadership displayed by various US governors and required on an international level in order to confront the challenges posed by climate change,” Obama said.

“That will change when I take office,” he promised. “My presidency will mark a new chapter in America’s leadership on climate change.”

Obama repeated his proposals for action, including a federal cap and trade system and a goal to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, with an additional 80 percent emission reduction by 2050. To support this goal and in an effort to make the US more energy independent, Obama has earmarked an annual amount of US\$ 15 billion to invest in private sector progress on clean energy.

Opponents of such a high level of engagement say that making aggressive commitments to cut greenhouse gases would do more harm than good to the US economy.

But the President-elect answered critics by saying that his green policy could be a way through the current financial crisis: "It will also help us transform our industries and steer our country out of this economic crisis by generating five million new green jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced."

But Obama qualified his remarks by noting that the global threat of climate change requires a global response. Attention will now turn to Poznan, Poland, where government officials from around the world will gather in early December for a meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Although Obama will not be present for the talks, he has asked members of Congress attending the conference to report back to him.

"Now is the time to confront this challenge once and for all. Delay is no longer an option. Denial is no longer an acceptable response. The stakes are too high. The consequences, too serious," Obama warned.

The Bi-Partisan Governors Global Climate Summit took place in Los Angeles. It was convened by the Republican governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

ICTSD Reporting; "Obama affirms climate change goals," THE NEW YORK TIMES, 18 November 2008; "Obama vows climate change 'engagement'," BBC, 18 November 2008.

THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL: NEW INITIATIVES TO TACKLE CLIMATE-DAMAGING SUBSTANCES

Last week the parties of the Montreal Protocol and the Vienna Convention met in Doha to continue their work on reducing ozone-depleting substances. The parties undertook new initiatives to increase efficiency and even further reduce the presence of climate-threatening substances.

Since its creation in 1987, the Montreal Protocol has successfully phased out more than 95 percent of 97 ozone-depleting substances. According to scientists, its efforts have delayed climate change by up to 12 years and eliminated the equivalent of 135 billion tonnes of CO₂ between 1990 and 2010. It has been hailed as an exceptional example of international cooperation against climate change.

The World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) Greenhouse Gas Bulletin released on Tuesday shows that while levels of ozone-depleting substances in the atmosphere have been reduced, levels of greenhouse gases are still rising. Venturing beyond the Protocol's traditional focus on ozone-depleting substances, the parties began discussions on adopting some greenhouse gases that were formerly under the purview of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

"In a world of scarce financial resources, maximizing the impacts of the various multilateral environmental agreements is paramount," said Achim Steiner, executive director of the UN Environment Programme. "Governments have made it clear that there can be multiple benefits if the experiences of the Montreal Protocol and the UN climate change convention can be better shared to reinforce mutual aims."

Thanks to the Montreal Protocol, climate-damaging substances, like those found in aerosols, refrigerants, and fire-fighting equipment, have largely been phased out of production. However, many of these products that were manufactured prior to their phase out remain in existence and are reaching their end of life. If not collected and disposed of properly, experts estimate that by 2015 they could release the equivalent of several billion metric tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Last week's meeting produced a new initiative to dispose of these stockpiled ozone-depleting substances. Military personnel from Australia, the Netherlands, and the United States have agreed to aid countries in the disposal of climate-damaging materials at an expected cost of less than a third of the current market price.

In the interest of increasing efficiency and minimizing environmental impact, the Montreal Protocol will create an international clearinghouse to match holders of climate-damaging material with those who have the capacity to dispose of it. The clearinghouse is intended to minimise the geographical distance needed for transport and with measures taken to ensure compliance with Basel Convention rules on international waste trade.

The meeting also announced plans for a new ozone-monitoring grounds station in Qatar which would be the first in West Asia.

Additional Resources

The WMO's Greenhouse Gas Bulletin can be found here:

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gaw/ghg/documents/ghg-bulletin-4-final-english.pdf>

“Military Enlisted to Combat Climate Change and Ozone Layer Damage,” UNEP press release 20 November 2008; “Military Experts Enlisted to Dispose of Ozone-Damaging Chemicals,” ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS SERVICE 20 November 2008.

Events & Resources

Events

Coming up in the next two weeks:

1-5 December, Irvine, US. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER SCARCITY, GLOBAL CHANGES, AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT RESPONSES. This Conference, convened by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the University of California Irvine, will bring together water management and climate change experts, scientists and engineers, policymakers, lawyers and economists, and executives of water services of local and regional authorities. Among other objectives, the Conference will present innovative and appropriate technologies to address water scarcity and global change effects on water availability and quality, explore the specific

scientific and technical tools for groundwater studies and management, and discuss how to incorporate such technologies into short-term decision-making and long-term water management and policy-making. For more information contact Jean Fried, tel: +1 714 679 6888; fax: +1 949 824 3672; internet: <http://www.waterunifies.com/>

1-5 December 2008, Rome, Italy. THE NINTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES. Organised by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Secretariat and the Government of Italy, this meeting will be preceded by the 15th meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (27-28 November), a meeting of the Steering Committee of the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project (28-30 November), the first Meeting of the Parties to the Gorilla Agreement (29 November), a meeting on arid land mammals (30 November) and the 34th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (30 November). The second meeting on international cooperation on migratory sharks will be held from 6-8 December 2008, immediately following the COP. For more information refer to http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/cop9_meeting_docs.htm.

1-5 December, Maputo, Mozambique. CGIAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008. This meeting is organised by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Participants will explore how agricultural research, science and technology, and food policy initiatives can improve the lives of the poor. For more information refer to http://www.cgiar.org/meetings/agm08/agm08_index.html.

1-5 December, Belem, Brazil. PROVOKING CHANGE: STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE FOREST USERS IN THE AMAZON This conference aims to discuss current strategies for rural development and forest conservation in the region; catalyze processes of reflection and learning as options for promoting forest-based rural development; discuss possibilities for overcoming political, technical, legal and financial barriers; identify feasible approaches to support forest users in the Amazon to use their resources more effectively; and provide orientation about

skills, methods, strategies and key factors required for effectively reaching local forest users. For more information contact Lisa Hoch, tel: 55 91 3201 5230; fax: 55 91 3201 3627; email: congreso.forlive@gmail.com; internet: http://www.waldbau.uni-freiburg.de/forlive/05_Events/sc.html

1-12 December, Poznan, Poland. FOURTEENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNFCCC AND FOURTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) 14 and Kyoto Protocol COP/MOP 4 are scheduled to take place from 1-12 December 2008 in Poznan, Poland. These meetings will coincide with the 29th meetings of the UNFCCC's subsidiary bodies. For more information contact the UNFCCC Secretariat, tel: +49 228 815 1000; fax: +49 228 815 1999; email: secretariat@unfccc.int; internet: http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php?year=2008

1-12 December, Poznan, Poland. ECONCERN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EVENT. This 12-day event will take place at the same time as the Poznan Climate Change Conference, and will include presentations and panel discussions, exhibits of sustainable projects and networking events. For more information contact Sylvia Meeks, tel: +31 (0)30 662 3961; email: cop14@econcern.com; internet: <http://www.cop14poznan.com/>

2-3 December, San Francisco, US. CORPORATE WATER FOOTPRINTING-CONSERVING WATER ACROSS THE SUPPLY CHAIN. The topics to be addressed during the conference include: "Water Footprinting" – what does it involve – what are the corporate benchmarks?; measuring water use across the supply chain; working with stakeholders on water solutions; the outlook for future water supply shortages and their impact on business; monitoring water consumption per product or service; techniques on engaging employees and managers on water conservation; updates on water efficiency, recycling and reuse; and expert analysis on water risks for corporations. For more information contact Yahya Al Barishi, tel: 1 9714 813 5214 or

+1 971 50 77 55 427; fax: 1 44 207 900 1853; email: Yahya.b@greenpowerconferences.com; internet: http://www.greenpowerconferences.com/corporateclimateresponse/corp_water.html

2-4 December, Bangkok, Thailand. INFORMAL WORKSHOP ON STAKEHOLDERS' INFORMATION NEEDS ON CHEMICALS IN ARTICLES/PRODUCTS. The topic of this meeting is the reduced use of hazardous chemicals and improved risk reduction. Discussions will focus on information exchange for the purpose of enabling actors to avoid hazardous chemicals and managing risks to users and the environment. The overall aim of this initiative is to facilitate informed decision making in relation to this issue. Note: The situation in Bangkok is currently not stable and the main airport is presently closed. Please consult the web site for definitive confirmation of the meetings. For more information contact the SAICM Regional Focal Point, tel: 41 22 917 8532; fax: 41 22 797 3460; email: saicm@chemicals.unep.ch; internet: http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/cheminprod_dec08/default.htm

3-7 December, Mt Taranaki, New Zealand. SNOWCHANGE 2008. In recognition of the International Polar Year 2007-2008 Snowchange are working with Maori (Indigenous peoples of Aotearoa) to organise a four day event "Snowchange 2008", devoted to indigenous and local peoples discussions around the crucial themes of climate and ecological changes from their own perspectives. The meeting has confirmed delegations from Inuit of Canada, Gwitchin of Canada, Snowchange Finns, Aboriginals from Australia, several Chukchi, Yukagir, Even and Evenki participants from Sakha-Yakutia as well as large Maori participation. Different international scientific institutions and conservation agencies will as well participate in the work of Snowchange 2008. For further information contact Sandra Julian, tel: 64 6 759 6920; email: sandra@auaha.co.nz; internet: <http://www.snowchange.org/>

8-10 December 2008. Washington DC, United States. BIODIVERSITY IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD. This meeting is a part of the 9th National Conference on Science, Policy,

and the Environment and seeks to address the challenge the changing world poses to biodiversity (and to humanity). The conference will provide an opportunity to look at what is happening to biodiversity in the context of radical climate disruption, human population rise, land use changes, globalisation and other economic forces. The conference will also collectively develop a 21st century biodiversity science and conservation strategy. For more information contact the National Council for Science and the Environment, tel: 202 530 5810; email: conference@ncseonline.org; internet: <http://ncseonline.org/Conference/Biodiversity/>

Other upcoming meetings:

5-6 March 2009, London, UK. AN ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT FUTURE. Given the balance between the soaring demand for transport, the environment and society needs, the demand for sustainable transport is becoming increasingly pressing. This conference will seek to address the steps which need to be taken by policymakers, the transport industry and the investment community to resolve this conundrum. For more information contact Chatam House Conferences, tel: +44 (0)20 7957 5753; fax: +44 (0)20 7321 2045; email: conferences@chathamhouse.org.uk; internet: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/conferences/view/-/id/134/>

5-7 February 2009, New Delhi, India. DELHI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT. This annual event will be organized around the theme "Towards Copenhagen: an equitable and ethical approach." The DSIDS is organized by TERI and seeks to provide long-term solutions for sustainable development. The 2009 Summit will aim to reinforce the climate change agenda of the previous year and will feature: an international climate change exhibition; screening of films on climate change; an Africa day; a young global leaders meeting; Sustainable Development Leadership Award; live performance: Tabla Maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain; and the CEO Forum 2009. For more information contact Satish Kumar, Programme Assistant, tel: +91 011 24682100 (Ext.2524); email: satish@teri.res.in; internet: <http://dsids.teriin.org/2009/>

10-12 March 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark. INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE: GLOBAL RISKS, CHALLENGES AND DECISIONS. This Congress will include a session on "Adapting Coastal Zone and Marine Recourses to Climate Change." The Congress is organized by the University of Copenhagen in cooperation with the partners in the International Alliance of Research Universities. It is part of the run-up to the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2009, and as such its main aim is to provide a synthesis of existing and emerging scientific knowledge necessary in order to make decisions concerning the application of mitigation and adaptation strategies in response to climate change. For more information contact Torben Mandrup Timmermann, tel: +4535324106; email: tmti@adm.ku.dk; internet: <http://climatecongress.ku.dk/>

Resources

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

LAND OF THE GM-FREE? HOW THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ARE STARTING TO TURN AGAINST GM FOOD. Soil Association, 2008. This report claims that the biotechnology industry has managed to keep U.S. consumers in the dark about the food they have been eating for more than a decade, by lobbying the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and state governments to ensure that foods do not legally have to be labelled as genetically modified (GM). But a new labelling initiative called the "Non-GMO Project" will be launched next year and, according to the report, will provide consumers with the option of choosing a wide range of non-GM foods. The report says the initiative has been developed by companies in the natural and organic industry. About 400 companies with annual sales of 'at least' US\$ 12 billion are expected to participate. The report says that given a choice, over 50 percent of Americans would not eat GM. <http://www.soilassociation.org/gm>

FISHERIES ASPECTS OF ACP-EU INTERIM ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS: TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS. By Liam Campling. ICTSD, October 2008. This study reviews fishery provisions contained in the EPAs, as they relate to rules of origin, SPS measures and preference erosion, and analyses their implications for trade and sustainable development for the ACP countries. It is intended to contribute to a better understanding of the substance of the fishery-related provisions in IEPA/EPA and to enhancing preparedness as negotiations proceed towards full EPAs. <http://ictsd.net/i/publications/33418/>

TECHNOLOGY OBSCURING EQUITY: HISTORICAL RESPONSIBILITY IN UNFCCC NEGOTIATIONS. By Mathias Friman and Bjorn-ola Linner. The Swedish Institute for Climate Science and Policy Research, 2008. According to the concept of historical responsibility, the commitments of individual countries to take action on climate change are distributed based on the relative effects of their past emissions as manifested in present climate change. Brazil presented a comprehensive version of the concept to pre-Kyoto negotiations in 1997. The 'Brazilian proposal' originally combined several justice principles; however, following referral to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, discussion soon became confined to technical calculations. This case illustrates how disparities in knowledge production and framing can influence the inclusiveness of negotiations. Southern participation in the policy process was restrained due to lack of scientific expertise on the part of Southern countries and due to the non-inclusive biophysical discourse traditionally preferred by Northern policy-makers. <http://earthscanjournals.com/cp/008/cp0080339.htm>

RESPONDING TO THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS: THREE PERSPECTIVES. By Joachim von Braun, Josette Sheeran, and Namanga Ngongi. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), September 2008. IFPRI has published three essays on the dramatic rise and volatility of food prices over the last year, how policymakers can respond, and what the future

holds. According to the authors, the world may be entering the third phase of this crisis-a nutritional crisis, which requires critical action for groups such as children under two years old, who will suffer deprivation for life. However, with good agronomic practices and wise use of fertilizers and irrigation, the large-scale adoption of improved varieties should double or triple current yields in Africa.

http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/books/ar2007/ar2007_essay.asp

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