



Bridges Trade BioRes

Biweekly news, events and resources at the intersection of trade and biodiversity

Volume 9 • Number 11, 12 June 2009

FISHERIES

Trade Leaders Call for
Fisheries Subsidies Reform 1

CLIMATE CHANGE

Slow-Moving Climate Talks
Conclude in Bonn 3

Carbon Market Prepares for
Ukraine Deal 4

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

Changes in Brazilian Environmental Law
Raise Ire of Minister, Activists 5

IN BRIEF

Stakeholders Reignite Debate over
Genetically Modified Wheat 7

China's Wind Turbine Bidding Process Unfair,
Say Foreign Firms..... 8

Events and Resources

Events..... 8

Resources 11

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

To subscribe to Bridges Trade BioRes or access back issues, visit www.ictsd.net/news/biores/.

Excerpts from Bridges Trade BioRes may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editor or the Director.

This edition of Bridges Trade BioRes was edited by Andrew Aziz, aaziz@ictsd.ch.

Contributors to this issue were Andrew Aziz, Daniela Godoy, Ana Maria Kley Meyer, and Allison Whiteman.

The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz.

ISSN 1682-0843

FISHERIES

Trade Leaders Call for Fisheries Subsidies Reform

Key trade officials marked the occasion of the first World Oceans day by calling for reform of global fisheries subsidies. Pascal Lamy, director-general of the WTO, and US Trade Representative Ron Kirk released separate statements recognising both the threat of overfishing and the role that subsidies play in contributing to the problem.

Lamy stressed that the US\$16 billion in worldwide fisheries subsidies are having a harmful effect on the world's oceans. But he insisted that sustainability can be achieved through negotiations at the WTO.

"WTO members are now negotiating to reform these subsidies programmes so that the fishing becomes a sustainable industry and so that we can fully appreciate our oceans' bounty for generations to come," the director-general said. "A deal in the WTO now, would mean richer oceans for the future generations."

Lamy cautioned that mismanagement of the world's fish stocks would not only have environmental impacts, but social ones as well. "Today, we run the risk that over fishing will so deplete fish stocks in our oceans that many species will disappear forever," he warned. "This is not only bad news for the oceans it is bad news for the world's 43.5 million full time fishers."

US Trade Representative Ron Kirk took a similar approach, noting the alarming connection between plummeting fish stocks and the millions of people who rely on the oceans for their food and livelihood. Kirk pointed out that declining stocks are directly connected to overfishing and a bloated global fishing fleet and acknowledged the important role of the trade community in helping

to solve the problem. "I am pleased that trade ministers play a constructive role in helping to address some of these challenges," he said in a statement.

The USTR also used the occasion to reaffirm his country's commitment to the current round of WTO negotiations, including the reeling in of fisheries subsidies. "In the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Development Agenda negotiations, the United States is a leader in pressing for stronger rules that prohibit harmful fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing," the statement said. "We will continue to seek an ambitious outcome in those negotiations, as well as explore other ways that trade policy can help the oceans support healthy fish stocks for generations to come."

Current fishing fleets unsustainable

The concept of an official day to recognise the world's oceans, as a compliment to Earth Day, was first floated in the wake of the first Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. Last year, the UN General Assembly resolved that 8 June 2009 would mark the occasion of the first World Oceans Day.

Concern over mismanagement of the world's fisheries in recent decades has brought the trade community into the environmental debate. The global fishing fleet has ballooned in the past 40 years and it is generally recognised that government subsidies worldwide have contributed to this growth.

The environmental group Oceana says that subsidies promote overcapacity and overfishing by pushing fleets to fish longer, harder and farther away than would otherwise be possible. The organisation estimates global fisheries subsidies to be somewhat higher than WTO reports - some US\$20 billion annually. This would represent about a quarter of the value of the world catch.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) now estimates that more than 80 percent of the world's fish stocks are depleted, overfished or fished to their sustainable limits, with no room for expansion. And a 2008 World Bank / FAO

report estimates that overfishing has led to annual losses of some US\$50 billion in marine fisheries.

Slow road to reform

The WTO's Negotiating Group on Rules is currently engaged in a dedicated negotiation on fisheries subsidies as part of its Doha trade round. However, progress has been slow due to longstanding disagreement over core issues. A particular challenge for the group has been to balance the need to protect the world's fish stocks from overfishing and the need to afford a just amount of 'special and differential treatment' to the world's poorer countries - many of which rely heavily on the sector.

The ministerial declaration that emerged from the WTO's 2005 Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong called on the Negotiating Group on Rules to "strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and over-fishing."

The November 2007 rules text took this into account, providing a detailed legal text for a new agreement on fisheries subsidies. Some subsidies would have been permissible for all countries, provided that they maintain an international standard fisheries management system. But it soon became clear that many governments considered the proposed disciplines to be too strict.

Given the controversy that arose over some of the fisheries portions of the November 2007 text, the chair of the rules group, Ambassador Guillermo Valles Galmés of Uruguay, released a more general 'roadmap' for the fisheries discussions on 19 December 2008 (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 23 January 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/38538/>).

The chair indicated that the purpose of the roadmap was to allow delegates to take a step back from the most recent draft text - without abandoning it - and "reflect on the fundamental issues" of its mandate to "strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector" and establish "appropriate and effective" flexibilities for poorer countries.

At the most recent meeting of the Negotiating Group on Rules, Members avoided controversial issues but continued to follow the chair's roadmap (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 29 May 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/47628/>).

ICTSD reporting.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Slow-Moving Climate Talks Conclude in Bonn

Despite the looming December deadline, observers say negotiations at the latest round of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany continued to progress at a snail's pace. The lack of commitments from countries – with little more than six months left before Parties are expected to outline a successor to the Kyoto Protocol – forced UN climate chief Yvo de Boer to acknowledge that a deal in Copenhagen will be “physically impossible.”

Still, the executive secretary remained optimistic, insisting that the conference will help elucidate key issues. “Copenhagen will deliver clarity on key political issues in this debate,” de Boer said on Wednesday. “There will be clarity on the extent industrialised countries will reduce their [GHG] emissions, and clarity on what major developing countries are willing to do to mitigate their emissions.”

The latest Bonn meeting, which ran from 1-12 June, resulted in the addition of more than 200 new pages to the 30-page draft negotiating text. This will have to be condensed into something more manageable for a final agreement to be reached.

At the meeting, the UNFCCC chief underscored the four issues that he believes should be the focal point of negotiations in order to reach a consensus. These pillars are establishing targets for industrialised countries' emissions cuts, presenting tangible efforts from more industrialised developing countries – such as

China and India – to limit emissions, commitments for technology transfer funding to help poor countries mitigate and adapt to climate change, and establishing a ‘governance structure’ for the future treaty.

But with the slow pace of negotiations it is unclear how long it will take to achieve de Boer's key issues. Some pundits are now saying that even if a Copenhagen deal can be agreed to ‘in principle’ at the December meeting, negotiations will undoubtedly continue into 2010.

Japan contributes to pessimism

Japan was widely criticised when it announced its plans to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on 10 June. Environmentalists panned the country's stated target of a 15 percent GHG reduction by 2020 because it uses 2005 as a base year. This would amount to a cut of only 8 percent below 1990 levels – or 2 percent less than what the country is currently committed to under Kyoto.

Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso said his country's plan was in line with those initiated by the US and Europe and encouraged others to make similar commitments. “We all must make a commitment to tackle the problem of global warming,” Aso said Wednesday.

But green groups were not impressed – some referring to the prime minister as ‘George W. Aso’, in reference to the former US president whose environmental policies were often criticised as weak. UNFCCC Executive Secretary de Boer also appeared perturbed by Aso's announcement, saying he was speechless. “For the first time in two and a half years in this job I don't know what to say,” de Boer told reporters.

Targets remain absent

Probably the primary sticking point in negotiations is the lack of GHG emissions reduction targets for developed countries, either collectively or as individual countries. The tone set earlier this year by US President Barack Obama led many observers to believe that the US would be leading the way to Copenhagen with ambitious

commitments for developed countries to follow. But this has not been the case so far.

Some critics now lay the blame for the current lack of progress on climate change negotiations on Washington's doorstep. "The election of President Obama created tremendous hope worldwide that the US would finally play a leadership role in solving the climate crisis," said Karen Orenstein of Friends of the Earth. "Unfortunately for the survival of people and the planet, the Obama Administration's position at these UN negotiations sounds frighteningly similar to that of George Bush."

But the US has made it clear that they are concerned that more industrialised developing countries – like China, now the world's largest polluter – will continue to increase their GHG emissions unabated, despite a Copenhagen deal.

On this note, Todd Stern, the top US climate negotiator, was in China last week laying the groundwork for future bilateral cooperation on emissions reductions. Although no formal agreement was reached during Stern's visit, the two countries agreed to strengthen scientific cooperation.

ICTSD Reporting; "Tougher climate target unlikely," THE AGE, 12 June 2009; "Green Groups Not Pleased With Japan's New Emissions Targets," RED ORBIT, 11 June 2009; "Bonn Climate Talks Conclude Friday," SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS, 11 June 2009; "No detailed deal in Copenhagen: UN climate chief," YAHOO NEWS, 10 June 2009.

Carbon Market Prepares for Ukraine Deal

The Ukraine Government recently announced its intention to sell US\$3.5 billion worth of carbon credits, known as Assigned Amount Units (AAUs), to buyers in Japan, Switzerland, and New Zealand. The sales would represent the biggest such transactions to date if completed.

AAUs are one of three measurements established by the Kyoto Protocol (KP) for quantifying

greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions – the other two mechanisms being Emission Reduction Units (ERU) and Certified Emission Reductions (CER). AAU is a cap and trade mechanism, and the latter two mechanisms deal with actual project based reduction.

Under the KP, countries have specific targets, based on the past year, that set a 'cap' on future emissions. If countries emit less than their cap, they may sell their surplus carbon allowances in an Emissions Trading System (ETS). This 'cap-and-trade' system has generated a multi-billion dollar market in emissions credits.

Kyoto set relatively easy targets for economies in transition by selecting base years for GHG emissions from their pre-transition period (1985-1990). The Ukraine agreed to cap its GHG emissions at 1990 levels through the first Kyoto commitment period (2008 – 2012).

Surplus of 'hot air' in Eastern Europe

The country's most recent GHG inventory showed that in 2004 the GHG emissions made up only 45 percent of their 1990 level, and basic forecasts indicate that in 2012 emissions will not exceed 1990 levels. Current estimates calculate that the Ukraine has over 1 billion AAUs that could be sold in the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period. The scale of the overall AAU market is many times this number, especially if number one supplier Russia sells its stores.

AAUs are often referred to as 'hot air'. From the vantage point of international carbon markets, this hot air represents an excess supply of AAUs. If excess is traded with no restrictions, Russia's and Ukraine's hot air could be purchased by other countries, allowing Kyoto targets to be met without anyone actually reducing their GHG emissions.

Most AAUs result from restructuring in Eastern Europe in the 1990s (when polluting industries in ex-communist countries were shutting anyway), rather than by new investment in clean energy as intended under the emissions reductions schemes. This reality raises questions of whether carbon trading achieves its purported goal of overall emissions reductions and whether it contributes to

the broader global goal of sustainable development.

Because of this, some buyers insist that AAU deals should be ‘greened’, meaning their proceeds go to investments in clean energy or energy efficiency, under Green Investment Schemes (GIS). Buyers have taken similar approaches to Joint Implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism trading, and some countries have regulated such a requirement.

Re-investment into green initiatives unlikely

The Ukraine could use the transaction revenues from the multi-billion dollar sale to co-finance climate friendly projects, but is not required to do so under KP rules. The decision would be voluntary or stated in the purchase contract. Analysts from the region observe that the extra income gained from the over-allocation of AAUs is unlikely to be invested in new low-carbon technologies or energy-efficiency schemes. “It is instead more likely to be treated as a windfall, to be used to subsidize polluting firms, and thereby enhance carbon lock-in,” says Gábor Takács of the Budapest Business School.

The shaping and preparation for sale of the Ukrainian AAUs was made possible, in part, by technical assistance from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). A one million dollar consultancy set up to evaluate GHG emissions and reduction potential, develop a framework for emissions, and increase local capacity, both amongst government representatives and local consultancies, to address carbon market matters. Notably, the project included the development of a pilot Green Investment Scheme (GIS) with the EBRD’s Multilateral Carbon Credit Fund.

Sale will impact global carbon prices

The carbon markets trading in AAUs and Kyoto’s other emissions reductions mechanisms constitute billions of dollars of potential profits for participating countries. The market, however, is volatile and although the number of units traded has increased by over 20 percent in the past year, the value of those units has dropped by 32 percent for the AAUs. The vast sale of AAUs is

considered problematic because it affects the value of carbon within the carbon market, since the other units that have more stringent requisites.

CDM and Joint Implementation projects have greater difficulties securing financing, in part because of this greater stringency. The World Bank notes that “banks and financial players are also less likely to engage in meaningful levels of project origination” for these initiatives. The level of attention and financing for countries trading in AAUs from the development banks and bilateral agencies begs the question of whether players in the carbon markets are, in practice, working in line with global sustainable development objectives, safeguards, and principles.

ICTSD Reporting; “Ukraine to sell \$3.5 bln more Kyoto carbon rights,” REUTERS, 26 May 2009; “Hot Air? Carbon Markets and Sustainable Development,” UNDP LSE, October 2008; “‘Perfect storm’ threatens poor nations’ CO2 cuts,” REUTERS, 28 May, 2009.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

Changes in Brazilian Environmental Law Raise Ire of Minister, Activists

Environmentalists in Brazil are lashing out at the government’s move to force two controversial environment-related amendments through congress. Green groups say the ‘provisory measures’ (PMs) – legal acts that allow the president to enact laws without congressional approval – signify a step backwards in environmental preservation achievements that have been accomplished in recent decades.

The first measure, PM 452, abrogates the need for prior authorisation for road construction. Critics say this effectively reduces the ability of the environment ministry to intervene when there are environmental concerns associated with repair, improvement, or duplication initiatives on federal highways. While some have celebrated the measure as a sign of bureaucratic liberation, environmentalists charge that the initiative is part

of a coordinated effort to develop rural areas by economic-minded sectors of government.

But Hideraldo Caron, director of the Department of National Road and Land Infrastructure (DNIT), says PM 452 does not apply to highways entering the Amazon region because it only applies to existing roads – roads in the Amazon remain unpaved. However, Senator Marina Silva – a former environment minister – says the measure is designed to circumvent laws currently preventing the asphaltting of BR-319, a highway linking Manaus and Porto Velho in the heart of the Amazon.

Officials clash over infrastructure fast tracking measure

Carlos Minc, Brazil's environment minister, says he agrees that there is a hidden motive behind the measure that would allow paving of the highway under the Growth Acceleration Program. Because of this, Minc says he does not have confidence in Transport Minister Alfredo Nascimento. Minc says the transport minister has a personal interest in the adoption of PM 452 as he would like to see the completion of BR-319. "Minister Nascimento is in a hurry and wants to do the work first and meet the environmental requirements later," Minc said. "I told President Lula that I am morally unable to agree with that."

José Guimarães, the initiative's rapporteur, argued that the changes made by PM 452 would simply expedite certain infrastructure projects – especially those included in the country's Growth Acceleration Program – that have been halted by excessive bureaucracy and delays in the granting of environmental licenses. Guimarães said that major improvement projects are being held back in cases where environmental impact assessments have been ordered. "The country often is locked and you need remove the bureaucracy," Guimarães argued. "It is not reasonable for a given project to be put on hold for 24 months while an environmental permit is processed."

The measure was approved by senate on 1 June and will now move up the government chain for consideration. To be implemented, the measure must be reissued by the government.

Minister censures land distribution measure

Another issue raising the hackles of the environment minister is PM 458, which allows the government to transfer up to 1.5 thousand hectares of its properties to settlers of so-called 'legal Amazon' areas without official bidding. The bill passed through Brazil's Chamber of Deputies last month and was approved by the senate on 3 June.

Minc argued that the measure would tie the hands of environment ministry because the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) would be prevented from taking part in the observation and prosecution of any legal violations. If the PM comes into force, the jurisdiction will be exclusive to the bodies responsible for initially granting the permit.

Approval of the measure was harshly criticised by Minc, who repudiated the support of other ministers and accused them of bowing to pressure by lobby groups. The environment minister's position closely follows criticisms outlined by a coalition of green groups, which published a harsh critique on 3 June that accused the government of dismantling the country's environmental protection structure.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva criticised the disagreements between ministers over the provisory measures and promised to act as a conciliator in the debate.

This article is based on a story that originally appeared in Pontes Quinzenal, Volume 4, Number 10.

ICTSD Reporting; "Provisory Measure N° 452," BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT, 24 December 2008, "Provisory Measure N° 458," BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT, 10 February, 2009; "Minc critica desmonte da legislação ambiental no Senado," BRAZILIAN MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, 26 May 2009; "Novas regras da MP 452 não incluem obras da região Amazônica, diz diretor do Dnit," O GLOBO, 5 May 2009; "Entidades criticam governo e Congresso por 'desmonte' de proteção ao meio ambiente e pregam dia de luto," O GLOBO, 4 June 2009.

IN BRIEF

Stakeholders Reignite Debate over Genetically Modified Wheat

Farmers associations and environmental groups are rekindling the debate about whether to support research for genetically modified (GM) wheat. A group of nine wheat organisations in the US, Canada, and Australia – the world's largest wheat exporters – issued a statement on 15 May calling for “the synchronized introduction of biotech wheat.” Two weeks later, fifteen groups opposing GM wheat issued a response offering point-by-point counterarguments against the crop's introduction.

The GM supporters' statement revived a debate many believed had run its course. In 2004, biotech company Monsanto shelved plans to develop an herbicide-resistant GM wheat due to fears from farmers, buyers, and exporters, over losing export markets.

This concern has not changed in the past five years. Many consumers, particularly in Europe and Asia, are apprehensive about eating genetically modified food. Six European countries have now invoked national bans on the cultivation of a GM maize variety produced by Monsanto, despite the EU's approval of the crop (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 1 May 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/45945/>).

Opponents cite this as a principle reason for prohibiting the introduction of GM wheat.

But GM proponents say this is a challenge worth pursuing. “If the consumer perceives that the benefit is just for the producer or worse still, just for some big company that's making a profit out of it, why would they want to adopt it?” Robert Henry, director of the Center for Plant Conservation Genetics, told Reuters. “They really need to be convinced there's some benefit for the environment from a point of view of their own health.”

Proponents hope to build this support by highlighting the crop's unique characteristics. According to their statement, GM wheat would

offer increased insect and disease resistance and improved tolerance of extreme weather, both of which contribute to higher crop yields. The crop could also be designed for consumption by people with wheat intolerance.

Critics argue that GM wheat offers no agronomic improvement other than easier application of pesticides, according to their statement. Additionally, they suggest that “there is no evidence to substantiate the claim that GE [genetically engineered] crop varieties increase yields.”

The GM wheat debate is complicated by the ease of seed movement throughout the environment. When wheat seeds are carried by the wind, they can cross-pollinate with other seeds. “If GE wheat is released commercially, contamination would be inevitable and markets would view all wheat produced from these areas as GE unless proven to be non-GE,” the opponent groups stated. Some farmers would unwittingly become subject to gene patent restrictions and labelling requirements.

“Once you introduce it, it's over and it's over and it's over and it all becomes GMO just like we now have in canola,” Canadian farmer Percy Schmeiser told the Canadian Press. Monsanto sued Schmeiser in 1998 for using the company's genetically modified seeds without a license. Schmeiser claimed that the seeds could have blown over from a neighbouring field.

Even if proponents build the necessary political support for GM wheat research, the new crop would not be introduced for some time. Supporters estimate that it could take six to eight years for new biotech wheat crops to be ready for commercial introduction.

ICTSD reporting; “GMO wheat acceptance hinges on public benefit,” REUTERS, 7 June 2009; “Debate on growing GM wheat rises again, but experts say issues are the same,” THE CANADIAN PRESS, 6 June 2009.

China's Wind Turbine Bidding Process Unfair, Say Foreign Firms

Foreign manufacturers say they are being unfairly excluded from competing for state renewable energy projects resulting from China's economic stimulus package. But Beijing says because purchases for state investment projects count as government procurement, priority must be given to domestic products unless such a purchase is commercially unviable.

Joerg Wuttke, president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, said recently that foreign companies were effectively shut out of the process when a US\$7 billion package to manufacture 25 wind turbines was made available. "It seems that the central government has decided that this must be awarded to Chinese manufacturers and not foreigners who have invested big in China," Wuttke told the Financial Times.

Four of the world's top five wind turbine companies – Vestas Wind Systems (Denmark), GE Energy (US), Gamesa (Spain), and Suzlon Energy (India) – were rejected early in the bidding process. Companies engaged in alternative energy production have been anxiously anticipating the implementation of China's stimulus package. Investments in areas such as wind power are expected to be a high priority due to China's efforts to reduce its dependency on fossil fuels – Beijing has said that wind-generated energy in the country will increase tenfold over the next decade.

But foreign companies are calling foul over their exclusion from the process. Despite going to great lengths to meet the country's 'localisation' requirements – rules requiring that a minimum of 70 percent of a given manufacturer's equipment be sourced and built in the country – foreign companies say they continue to be shut out of state wind energy projects.

Foreign companies also say that an initiative to eliminate sub-1 megawatt wind turbines from China is discriminatory to foreign firms as large capacity units are less common outside the country. But officials insist that this preference is

based on local conditions, rather than an effort to buoy local manufacturers.

"The size of the turbine isn't a strict government policy, but it is a market decision made by enterprises," Shi Liyan, the head of renewable energies at the National Energy Administration, told Reuters. "It is about wind conditions and the use of land, and investors are willing to choose bigger turbines."

Beijing counters that Chinese companies are similarly blocked from major investment deals around the world. This sentiment was bolstered last week when the multinational mining company Rio Tinto abandoned talks with Chinese metals giant Chinalco, in favour of a deal with Anglo-Australian miner BHP Billiton.

China's wind power is not the only sector under scrutiny by foreign firms. These critics also charge that similar conditions were faced when US\$2 billion in contracts were awarded to the rail sector and others have complained that the country's use of tax rebates is a veiled form of protectionism.

China is not a party to the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement – the plurilateral agreement designed to prevent discrimination against foreign companies when awarding state contracts. However, Beijing does have observer status.

ICTSD Reporting; "Protectionist fears over China stimulus ," FINANCIAL TIMES, 28 May 2009; "China's Raising the Drawbridge – Softly," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 11 June 2009; "Foreign companies blowing in the wind," ASIA TIMES, 11 June 2009; "Foreigners Swept Aside As Wind Power Blows Through China," REUTERS, 5 June 2009.

EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Events

Coming up in the next two weeks (12-26 June)

12 June, Basel, Switzerland. FOREST MOVEMENT EUROPE MEETING 2009.

Organised by the Bruno Manser Fund and the Forests and the European Union Resources Network (FERN), this conference will address issues of forests and climate. Other sessions will deal with the European Union's measures against illegal logging, the Shrink campaign to reduce paper consumption, agrofuels and the reform of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). For more information, please contact Saskia Ozinga at FERN, saskia@fern.org, or Lukas Straumann at the Bruno Manser Fund, or visit http://www.illegal-logging.info/item_single.php?item=event&item_id=168&approach_id.

16-18 June, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. SECOND AFRICA BIOENERGY CONFERENCE AND EXPO. This conference will bring together Ministers, Ambassadors, CEOs and stakeholders from across leading bioenergy, agriculture, chemical and finance platforms to discuss, face-to-face, a vast range of today's most important issues while networking to set the stage for the next step in Africa's bioenergy revolution. Featuring more than 50 speakers and 450 delegates, participants will focus on issues such as current economic challenges have in many ways demonstrating the need for energy sources, the call for the development of sustainable agriculture and renewable energy programs, along with the need to build-up renewable energy projects and infrastructure. For information, contact the organisers: tel: +1-605-323-0119; fax: +1-605-323-0122; email: info@biofuelsconferences.com; internet: <http://www.africabiofuels.com/>

17-19 June, Venice, Italy. 2009 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY WORKSHOP. Sponsored by the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change (CMCC) and the International Centre for Climate Governance, this workshop will address pressing energy concerns, from Post-Kyoto climate change policy to technology deployment and private investment. The conference will gather the main world experts in energy and climate change economics. The workshop is structured with one plenary session per day, each one hosting two key-note speeches of international experts of the research field. Then, five parallel sessions will be held at each time slot with three or four presentations each. A welcome cocktail and a social dinner will be

organised respectively on 17 and 18 June. Coffee breaks and lunches will be provided within the workshop. For more information, visit <http://www.iccgov.org/iew2009/index.htm>.

18 June, New York, US. UNGA INFORMAL THEMATIC DIALOGUE ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY, ENERGY CONSERVATION AND NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY. This event, organised by the UN General Assembly, will discuss energy efficiency, and investment and policy issues related renewable energy sources. This event will feature two panel discussions, one on prospects for energy efficiency and new sources of renewable energy, and the other on sustainable energy investment. For further information, visit <http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/letters/energy10509.pdf>.

18 June, Geneva, Switzerland. LECTURE: TRADE AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT. Jeffrey A. Frankel, Professor at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, will deliver a lecture on "Trade and the Global Environment." Frankel directs the program in International Finance and Macroeconomics at the National Bureau of Economic Research and has developed an innovative line of analysis on how the WTO can and should interact with climate issues. The talk will be held in the Auditorium Jacques-Freymond (132, rue de Lausanne) and will start at 18.30. This event is organised by the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI). For more information, please contact the organisers: email: ctei@graduateinstitute.ch.

22-24 June, Vienna, Austria. INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONFERENCE 2009: TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED ENERGY AGENDA BEYOND 2020: SECURING SUSTAINABLE POLICIES AND INVESTMENTS. This meeting is co-organised by UNIDO, IIASA, the Austrian Development Cooperation, and the Austrian Energy Agency. The conference brings together a variety of international high-ranking energy experts to tackle current energy and climate-related issues in the context of the current global financial and economic crisis. Through this meeting, the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE) will celebrate its tenth year anniversary in

the context of the wider energy conference. For more information, visit <http://www.gfse.at/>.

23-25 June, Jeju Island, South Korea. 8th WORLD WIND ENERGY CONFERENCE 2009 – WIND POWER FOR ISLANDS – OFFSHORE AND ONSHORE. This event will be comprised of a three-day program of panels and presentations focused on onshore and offshore wind technology, policy, financing, community based ownership models, integrated renewable energy systems, interconnection and grid connection issues, governance and capacity building, and a trade show exhibition showcasing new technologies, suppliers and manufacturers in the wind and renewable energy sector. This event is co-organised by the World Wind Energy Association (WWEA) and the Korea Wind Energy Association (KWEA). For more information, visit <http://www.2009wwec.com>.

23-26 June. Reykjavik, Iceland. WORLD CONGRESS ON ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE HYDROPOWER. Organised by the International Hydropower Association (IHA), this conference will focus on modern water, energy and climate policies, as well as discussion on markets and investment, culminating on the sector's progressive sustainability initiatives. IHA will offer a one day networking tour on 23 June and a two day post-Congress tour, offering insights into Iceland's hydro and geothermal development as well as Iceland's unique scenic and historical attractions. The Congress will examine the key issues affecting the growth and development of hydropower in an age of unprecedented global water, energy, economic and climate uncertainties. Progress on the development of a number of important initiatives, including the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Forum and the UNESCO/IHA Greenhouse Gas Project will be presented. For more information, visit <http://www.ihacongress.org>.

24-27 June, Amsterdam, Netherlands. 17th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMISTS. The European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) is an international scientific association

which aims to contribute to the development and application of environmental and resource economics as a science in Europe while building cooperation between university level teaching institutions and research institutions in Europe. This meeting aims to bring together academics, policy makers, and leaders in economics, agriculture, and forestry, among others, in their seventeenth conference. For more information, contact the organisers: e-mail: info@eaere2009.org; internet: www.eaere2009.org.

Other upcoming events

23 August, Nairobi, Kenya. SECOND WORLD CONGRESS ON AGROFORESTRY. This event, organised the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) of the University of Florida, will be based on several major topics including the use of markets as opportunities and drivers of agroforestry land use, tree-based rehabilitation of degraded lands and watersheds, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. For further information contact the organisers: email: wca2009@cgiar.org; internet: <http://www.worldagroforestry.org/wca2009/>

21-22 September, Venice, Italy. 11TH ANNUAL BIOECON CONFERENCE: ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS TO ENHANCE THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY. This event, hosted by the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, will focus on identifying the most effective and efficient economic instruments for biodiversity conservation. Special emphasis will be given to policy reforms aimed at increasing the commercial rewards for conserving biodiversity, increasing the penalties for biodiversity loss and circulating information on the biodiversity performance requirements of firms. For more information contact the organisers: tel: +39-041-2711461; email: ughetta.molin@feem.it; internet: http://www.bioecon.ucl.ac.uk/04_11_ann-conf.htm.

9 October, León, Mexico. GLOBAL RENEWABLE ENERGY FORUM 2009: SCALING UP RENEWABLE ENERGY. This

meeting, co-organised by the Ministry of Energy of Mexico and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), seeks to promote dialogue as a means to strengthen interregional cooperation and encourage innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships aimed at scaling up investments in renewable energy. For more information, contact Pradeep Monga: tel: +43-1-26026-3018; email: GREFMexico2009@unido.org; internet: <http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=7341>.

26 October-6 November, Bangkok, Thailand. LANDSCAPE FUNCTIONS AND PEOPLE: APPLYING STRATEGIC PLANNING APPROACHES FOR GOOD NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE. Co-organised by Wageningen International, the Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), this course offers participants an opportunity to learn current practices for landscape-level planning approaches and to develop practical skills and experience in the use of tools applicable for landscape-level planning, monitoring, and implementation. A CD-ROM based pre-course module will be sent to participants four weeks before the course commences. This self-study training material will introduce participants to the training concepts and assist in developing their learning objectives for the course. The face-to-face training content will be spread over two weeks and include four days of field work in Thailand to gain practical experience and skills. For more information, visit <http://www.recoftc.org/site/index.php?id=697>.

Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, as well as other chemicals-related multilateral environmental agreements. These efforts are enhanced by UNDP's commitment to help draw chemicals management issues more effectively into the national development discourse. For a copy of this report, visit <http://www.energyandenvironment.undp.org/undp/indexAction.cfm?module=Library&action=GetFile&DocumentAttachmentID=2527>.

PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS AND EUROPEAN UNION IMPORTS OF APPLES, PEARS, AND GRAPES: AN APPLICATION OF THE GRAVITY MODEL USING MONTHLY DATA. AgFoodTrade, 2009. The goal of this paper is to assess the impact of preferential trade agreements on European imports of fresh grapes, pears and apples over the period 2001-2004. Monthly rather than yearly data are used in order to take into account the fact that both imports and protection vary seasonally. Furthermore, the authors determine a measure of preferential margins which explicitly takes into account quotas and the entry price system. Finally, in the econometric estimations researchers control for heterogeneity, endogeneity and zero-trade flows. Results show that preferential policies granted by the EU seem to be successful in enhancing European imports of fresh grapes, pears and apples. To download this working paper, please visit: http://www.agfoodtrade.eu/public-working-papers/ploneexfile.2009-02-09.6234373673/attachment_download/file.

Resources

MANAGING CHEMICALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. United Nations Development Programme, April 2009. This publication highlights the UN Development Programme's role as a facilitator of sound chemicals management for sustainable development. It focuses on the work that UNDP, with support from different trust funds and donors, is undertaking in concert with partner countries to meet the aims of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the Stockholm

GLOBAL TRENDS IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INVESTMENT 2009. UN Environment Programme, 2009. The 2009 Global Trends in Sustainable Energy Investment report, considered by many to be the most authoritative appraisal of clean energy investment trends, is being released during one of the worst financial and economic crises for a generation with sharply rising unemployment in many parts of the globe. It also comes less than six months before the crucial UN climate convention meeting taking place in Copenhagen, Denmark. It is the view of the UN Environment Programme and increasingly others that a Green Economy approach to these and other emerging challenges, such as energy

security, resource efficiency and catalysing an innovation-based economy, go hand in hand. Renewable energy, with its low carbon footprint, the relative speed with which it can be deployed into developed and developing communities alike and its ability to generate new kinds of businesses and green jobs, is a key element of that transition. To download this report, visit http://www.unep.org/pdf/Global_trends_report_2009.pdf.