



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

Volume 9 • Number 15, 4 September 2009

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

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ISSN 1682-0843

CLIMATE CHANGE

Africa Unites on Climate Change

Recent moves by African leaders suggest the continent is moving toward a consensus on its approach to climate change. The momentum began in July when African leaders at the African Union Summit agreed that Africa should be represented by one delegation in Copenhagen. Ministers from 10 African countries then met on 25 August in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to hammer out a common position on climate change. A special summit of the African Union – held on 31 August in Tripoli, Libya – considered a plan to ask industrialised nations to pay Africa US\$67 billion a year as part of a common negotiating position for December's climate talks in Copenhagen.

And most recently, on 3 September, the African Progress Panel prepared in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) a policy brief as an input to meetings of African Ministers of Finance, of Environment, of AU Heads of State, and international partners. This brief calls for Africa to use the full force of its 54 votes at the UNFCCC on issues beyond carbon finance, such as setting clear emission targets, African carbon offsets and technology transfer.

Some humanitarian organisations are drawing attention to the threat climate change poses to countries in the developing world – particularly Africa – despite the fact that the world's 50 poorest countries contribute less than one percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions. According to a recent study commissioned by the Geneva-based Global Humanitarian Forum, poor nations bear more than 90 percent of the human and economic burden of climate change. Africa is the region most at risk from global warming and is home to 15 of the 20 most vulnerable countries, the study indicated. The study predicts that by

2020 up to 200-million people in Africa could be affected by water stress, precipitous drops in agricultural yields, increased food insecurity, and stress on ecosystems that support people in rural areas. Coastal flooding from rising sea levels would also affect the continent.

“Dismal co-ordination”

The recent moves in Addis Ababa and Tripoli to agree a common negotiating platform for Africa recognise the continent's failure to make its voice heard on the climate change debate. One of the documents prepared for the Addis Ababa meeting refers to the "dismal co-ordination" of the African negotiation process. So far, delegations from individual countries have had limited success in making the case that Africa needs special help to cope with climate change.

The US, China, India, and the EU are expected to have the greatest sway in Copenhagen. But African leaders will be hoping that by speaking with one voice at Copenhagen, their negotiating position can be significantly enhanced.

"One single country will not solve its environmental problems on its own," said Kenya's environment secretary, Alice Kaudia. "It will need partners, and that's why it's very important that there's that unified common position."

At the Addis Ababa meeting, African Union Commission chair Jean Ping insisted that Africa must aggressively engage in climate change negotiations to ensure its interests are met in the designing of global responses. The lack of a coordinated stance on global warming by African governments has placed serious limitations on Africa's ability to negotiate in the past.

The continent's current position

At the most recent climate change negotiations in Bonn, Germany observers called Africa's position unified and strong (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 21 August 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/53375/>). South Africa's chief climate change negotiator Alf Wills remarked that, as a region, Africa was "probably the most unified" at the meeting.

Wills further explains that there is divergence on climate change priorities within Africa. For example, least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) place adaptation to the effects of climate change as their top priority, oil producing countries say response measures were their top priority, and the emerging economies – like South Africa – placed technology transfer at the top of their agenda.

Trade links

South African climate change negotiator Joanne Yawitch noted in Addis Ababa that climate change was far reaching, and also ventured into the areas of trade and trade barriers, as well as competition and protection of industries.

The majority of African countries face significant levels of poverty and increased levels of climate-related threats such as droughts, floods, hurricanes will further increase these pressures. While these countries represent only a small portion of world trade, the UN says they are amongst the most trade-dependent in the world and key trade sectors – such as agriculture, fisheries, and tourism – are among the most susceptible to the impacts of climate change. Many of these countries have struggled and achieved limited success in diversifying their economies.

As trade is a primary driver of economic growth for most countries in the region, and especially for LDCs, Small and Vulnerable Economies (SVEs), and SIDS, trade policy will be an important element in strengthening these countries' resilience to external shocks, including those arising from the impacts of climate change.

Larger African economies will also play a leading role in the enhancement of trade and productive capacities in the region. The interface between trade and climate change has entered the international policy arena, however, much is yet to be explored in terms of deepening the various stakeholders' knowledge on the nature of the links between these two issues and their future sustainable development implications.

Distributing compensation

Reports say that African nations will likely demand US\$67 billion per year from developed countries as ‘compensation’ for the historical responsibility of the industrialised nations for emitting the greenhouse gases that cause climate change. While it seems unlikely at this point that the full amount will be agreed to by developed countries, any transfer of funds from developed countries will be connected with strict conditions.

The African Union says it wants individual countries to use the money to carry out national plans of action, which mostly consist of finding ways to use efficient technologies in the energy, agriculture, and water management sectors, as well as obtaining intellectual property rights for these technologies. Science-guided projects can help with adaptation and mitigation.

This would support research and development, early warning and disaster response systems, the building of emergency response systems and the follow-up response, as well as developing sectoral resilience for slow longer-term changes in climate.

In 2007, the UNDP’s Human Development report made several specific suggestions for spending finance for climate change in Africa. The report urged African governments to expand meteorological monitoring networks to give farmers better information about climate patterns – a major concern facing the continent’s poorest countries. The UNDP also suggested countries improve social insurance to protect farmers and poor urban residents from the worst effects of climate-related disasters. Countries with high rainfall concentrated in a few weeks of the year – such as Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania – were also urged to invest in water-storage or ‘water harvesting’ facilities.

ICTSD Reporting.

FISHERIES

Bluefin Tuna an Endangered Species?

European Ministers are mulling a proposal to add bluefin tuna to a list of endangered species in response to warnings of a fish stocks collapse from scientists. The initiative seeks to add the fish to Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which would automatically implement a temporary ban on all international trade.

Bluefin tuna is prized in Japan where it is used to prepare high-grade sushi. Some 90 percent of Mediterranean tuna is exported to the Japanese market which, in turn, dictates prices.

"From a scientific and technical point of view, the criteria for the listing of Atlantic bluefin tuna [as an endangered species] appear to be met," reads a draft document by the European Commission's environment directorate that was leaked to the Financial Times. "There is no doubt about the link between international trade and overexploitation of the species."

Monaco, the first country in the world to ban the sale of bluefin tuna, spearheaded the current proposal. The microstate’s move was met with approval by several EU members – including France, the UK, the Netherlands, Germany and Austria – which have all publicly indicated their support for the ban.

Overhaul needed for sustainability

Environmentalists insist that a temporary ban is necessary to allow time for stocks to recover and to overhaul the current management system that they say is flawed.

"It would be scandalous if the European Commission were to allow the region’s most emblematic marine species associated with a thousand-year-old fishing tradition to go extinct on its watch," said Tony Long, Director of WWF’s European Policy Office in Brussels. "They must

back the proposal to temporarily ban international trade.”

Some politicians also acknowledged the long history of the industry and pushed for a more sustainable approach to the industry. “It is against this great responsibility that we will be judged by our children and the generations to come,” said French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

But other countries with large fishing fleets— such as Italy, Spain, and Malta – have been less enthusiastic about the initiative. “The scientific data used to arrive at some of the conclusions about the level of exploitation are considered flawed as they are not deriving from scientifically recognised publications,” said Carmelo Agius, who represents the Maltese aquaculture industry. “We believe that the stringent controls introduced since 2002 should ensure the long term sustainability of the fishery,” Agius concluded.

The blufin tuna industry is no stranger to controversy. In November 2008, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas – the international organisation in charge of regulating the bluefin tuna industry – a was slammed by environmentalists when it decided on catch limits higher than the organisation’s own scientists had recommended (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 28 November 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/34718/>).

Illegal fishing important part of puzzle

Many environmentalists say that the actual quotas set by ICCAT would be sustainable if stringent enforcement was possible. According to ICCAT statistics, the total 2007 Mediterranean catch was 61,000 tonnes, more than twice the authorised limit of 29,500 tonnes. The year before that, ICCAT scientists estimated illegal fishing in the same region added about 30 percent onto the official catch figures.

In response to calls to crack down on Illegal, Unregulated, and Underreported (IUU) fishing, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) established an international agreement on 28 August. The new agreement sets minimum fishing standards that are applicable to ports in all states around the world.

Among other requirements, the agreement calls for “prior notification by the flag state to confirm the legality of the catches held onboard before a vessel is granted access to port facilities, procedures for inspection of foreign vessels when at port [and] a legal basis for denying IUU-listed vessels access to port facilities.”

EC acknowledges “enforcement deficiencies”

The European Commission says it welcomes the FAO agreement in light of the fact that it acknowledges that “serious control and enforcement deficiencies” in all member states led to widespread overfishing in 2007.

Temporary bluefin tuna bans were implemented in both 2007 and 2008 following what they called “substantial overfishing by the EU fleet.”

Several meetings on the CITES issue have already taken place, but consensus remains elusive. There was widespread speculation that a decision would be reached on 2 September, but discussions continue to be pushed back.

In order to be considered at CITES next Conference of the Parties, scheduled for 13-25 March 2010 in Doha, Qatar, submissions must be received by 17 October 2009.

“EU considers bluefin tuna protection,” FINANCIAL TIMES, 21 August 2009; “Feeding frenzy risks wiping out species,” FINANCIAL TIMES, 21 August 2009; “EU mulls ban on tuna as stocks near collapse,” EURACTIVE, 1 September 2009; “Government prepares to fight tuna ban,” FIS, 1 September 2009.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Drought Stricken India to Boost Commodities Imports

As drought conditions persist, Indian government officials recently confirmed they will increase commodity imports to help prevent a price spike on items facing shortages. The announcement

comes amid criticism from experts, who are citing reckless water usage to support intensive farming as part of the problem.

“The decision is already there that whichever commodity will be in short supply, to maintain demand-supply mechanism, we will go for imports,” said Pranab Mukherjee, India’s Finance Minister. However, Mukherjee downplayed the degree to which food imports will be necessary, insisting that the country has enough buffer stocks of many essential foodstuffs to cover a shortage for 13 months.

Nevertheless, several analysts are already anticipating higher prices on commodities that are already in low supply, such as sugar and oilseed, as India turns to international markets to meet domestic demand.

The monsoon, which accounts for 75 percent of the country’s annual rainfall, is on track to be the driest in seven years, according to the weather bureau. Forty percent of India’s districts are officially facing drought-like situations – many are among the top rice-producing areas in the country. The subsequent drop in Indian exports has been a boon to countries – such as Vietnam and Thailand – that have moved in to fill the rice void.

With the drought expected to slow Indian efforts to recover from the global economic crisis, Mukherjee acknowledged the impact, saying “drought does not affect only crop production; it has a cascading effect.”

However, agriculture and food security expert, Devinder Sharma, asserts that “India’s vulnerability to drought whenever there is the slightest deviation in the monsoon pattern has grown over the years because of excessive groundwater withdrawal to support intensive farming.”

Rise of Groundwater Use

Farming in India is heavily dependent on the seasonal monsoon rains, which span from June to September. Estimates indicate that only 30 percent of India’s farmland has access to irrigation. However, several states, including

Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana, have increased their agricultural production through irrigation expansion, largely fuelled by groundwater use.

During a period of massive agricultural expansion – known as the Green Revolution – the use of groundwater and expansion of irrigation canals led to changes in India’s cropping pattern, according to Anupam Mishra, head of the environment division at the Gandhi Peace Foundation. As a result, agricultural production of water-intensive crops, such as rice and sugarcane, expanded into the more arid regions of India.

During periods of drought, these areas are now extremely dependent on groundwater resources. India’s Agriculture Ministry says that farmers no longer ask for food grain as in previous droughts; instead, they demand more electricity to pump groundwater.

Groundwater is a valuable resource to people and farmers, as it stores water during wet years and makes it available during the dry years. But according to recent NASA research from the, groundwater is being withdrawn at an unsustainable rate in the states of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana.

Experts say water reform needed

Drought is not uncommon in India – 22 major droughts have occurred in the past century. However, without groundwater reform, the impact of future droughts may include a collapse of agricultural output and severe shortages of potable water, warned Matthew Rodell, a NASA hydrologist.

Established in 1986 to respond to the problem, the Indian Central Ground Water Authority has the ability to regulate groundwater development. However, competing interests along with the reality that aquifer and political boundaries almost never match up have made efforts to implement a coordinated approach difficult.

According to Sharma, a return to traditional forms of water storage and conservation along with cropping patterns linked to water availability could alleviate the pressure on groundwater resources

and increase resilience to unpredictable monsoon rains.

Economic impacts of drought come into focus

From an economic standpoint, the drought is affecting numerous agriculture sectors in India and international markets are responding to current and anticipated impacts.

The Indian government has made efforts to downplay its plans to import food in response to the drought fearing a rise in prices. However, as the world's second largest sugarcane producer, news of the current drought has already caused sugar prices to rise in international markets. India may have to import almost a third of its demand next year, according to estimates from the country's biggest refiner, due to the drought.

The effects are also being seen in the oil seed market. In parts of Andhra Pradesh, the world's second largest peanut growing region, production has contracted by as much as 59 percent. Given that India is the world's biggest user of palm oil after China, analysts are already projecting a surge in global demand.

"The situation is grim," India's Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar acknowledges recently. "Not just for crop sowing and crop health but also for sustaining animal health, providing drinking water, livelihood, and food, particularly for the small and marginal farmers and landless labourers."

More than 700 million people in India depend on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood.

ICTSD Reporting; "India Will Import 30% of Its Sugar Following Drought," BLOOMBERG, 1 September 2009; "Water Recklessness Worsening Drought," IPS, 26 August 2009; "Drought May Pare India Oilseeds Crop, Supporting Palm," BLOOMBERG, 24 August 2009; "Drought-Hit India Will Import Food to Meet Shortage," BUSINESS RECORDER, 22 August 2009; "Satellite-based estimates of groundwater depletion in India," NATURE, 20 August 2009.

IN BRIEF

EU Boosts Imports of Argentine Biodiesel

After slapping anti-dumping and anti-subsidy tariffs on US biodiesel in March, the EU has increased its imports of bargain biodiesel from Argentina, says Switzerland-based biodiesel producer Biopetrol. European biodiesel producers are crying foul and calling for an investigation into cheap biodiesel exports, which they say are edging them out of the market.

"Increasing amounts of indirectly subsidised biodiesel have been coming to Europe from Argentina since the second quarter," Biopetrol said in a statement.

European producers say they suspect biodiesel is being transhipped from the US to nearby countries in order to escape higher duties. According to Eurostat, Europe's statistics database, Argentina's biofuel exports increased by a factor of 20 over the course of a year. This represents a jump to more than 85 thousand tonnes in 2009 from just 4,293 tonnes in April 2008. Domestic biodiesel producers maintain that Argentina, as well as Canada and Mexico, are exporting beyond their production capacity.

Argentina also benefits from being a member of the Generalised List of Preferences, a list of developing countries that is allowed preferential import duties, which European biodiesel producers argue should not be applied to its successful biodiesel industry. These trade benefits will likely remain until 2011, unless there is any evidence that Argentina is selling US biodiesel as its own.

"The EU and the German government are once again called upon to act quickly to give European biodiesel producers the same protection against subsidised imports as in the case of [biodiesel] from the US," said Biopetrol.

In March 2009, European governments imposed temporary anti-dumping and anti-subsidy tariffs to protect their domestic biofuel industries, which

were recently extended to up to five years (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 6 March 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/42454/>). While US biodiesel industries claimed no harm was being done to European industries, the European Biodiesel Board (EBB) alleged that US subsidies were causing their biodiesel to be much cheaper, undercutting European biodiesel.

"Biodiesel prices continued to be under heavy pressure, because large inventories of highly subsidised American [biodiesel] that had been established in Europe were still being sold on the market," Biopetrol said.

In Biopetrol's case, the added complication of the German government's recent tax increase on biodiesel caused a collapse in their sales. Also because of high taxes, Germany's biofuel industry association claims its industry is only working at 20 percent capacity.

ICTSD reporting; "EU Imports More Argentine Biodiesel: Biopetrol," REUTERS, 28 August 2009; "EU biodiesel producers eye strike against Argentine rivals," MLEX, 22 July 2009.

New Research on GM Fish Urges Caution

Because of the threat they pose to the natural environment, transgenic fish should only be bred in closed systems on land, a new study from researchers at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden says.

The study, which looked at the environmental effects of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the fish farming industry, was commissioned by the EU to begin addressing concerns surrounding transgenic fish.

While genetically modified fish have the potential to boost commercial fishing and reduce pressures on overexploited fish stocks, the study raises serious concerns about the ability of natural populations to compete if transgenic fish escape and establish themselves in natural stocks.

By introducing transgenes, or genes from other organisms, researchers have created fish that grow faster and are more resistant to disease. While these characteristics could increase production and yields for commercial fish farming, the Gothenburg study indicates that when these fish escape, they have a much greater effect on the environment than hatchery-reared non-transgenic fish.

A politically sensitive issue for many of its member states, the EU continues to struggle with the issue of GMOs. In the case of transgenic fish, many are worried about the possibility that those that are bred to be resistant to environmental toxins could accumulate and pass the dangerous substances on to consumers. Additionally, questions persist regarding the effects that higher levels of growth hormone in the fish will have on humans when consumed.

Using transgenic salmon and rainbow trout, researchers simulated escapes within an enclosed laboratory. They found that transgenic fish survive better than non-transgenic fish when there is a shortage of food, and benefit more from increasing water temperatures. Researcher Fredrik Sundström says these advantages are due to the greater ability of the genetically modified fish to compete and convert food.

Researchers are quick to point out that simulating natural environments within a laboratory setting is complicated and makes predictions difficult. However, Sundström advised that general international consent should be reached before commercial farming of transgenic species moves forward.

One option, the report says, is to farm the transgenic fish on land making escape impossible. At the very least, Sundström says fertile fish should be kept in a closed system.

Although no country has permitted commercial farming of transgenic fish, several applications for such operations are under consideration by authorities in both the EU and the US.

Transgenic fish are created by transferring genes to fish from other species, including human beings. So far, researchers have genetically

modified some twenty fish species, including carp, salmon and catfish.

ICTSD Reporting.

China Looks to Offset Coal with Natural Gas

Recent moves by China to boost its access to natural gas supplies suggest the country is looking to the industry to help reduce its dependency on coal. The recent signing of a US\$41 billion contract between Exxon Mobil and Petrochina – the world’s two most valuable listed oil companies – to obtain natural gas in Australia, suggests China is looking to more sustainable sources to meet its energy demands.

However, some experts caution that the move will mean an increase in the demand for fuel of at least 93 billion tons by 2020 – an increase of 26 percent. And despite the reduced carbon dioxide emissions of natural gas compared to coal, experts say any increase in the use of conventional fuel sources, like coal and petroleum, has a significant impact on climate change.

At the moment, the Chinese government has major investments in three energy sectors: hydroelectricity, nuclear energy, and natural gas. Focusing on these sectors, the government is looking to lower the use of coal – currently the source of 75 percent of domestic electricity – and oil – which is the source of 10 percent. Of the proposed alternatives, natural gas has garnered the most support from environmentalists, who consider it superior to the other energy sources for its low emissions and relatively reduced impact on the environment caused during extraction.

But despite China’s intended shift, energy demand through economic growth will outstrip new supply of more sustainable energy sources. Coal remains a temptingly cheap source of energy compared to alternatives for countries like China. For example, natural gas is 60 percent more expensive in terms of overhead costs. In order to make natural gas a viable, cost effective alternative to coal, investments in new technologies to increase the efficiency of gas plants will be required. Experts

say the option for ‘clean’ energy sources depends on a full economic and political evaluation that looks at long term projections and expects more modest economic returns.

The recent move suggests that China is upping the ante in order to bring more to the table when countries meet in Copenhagen to hammer out a climate change agreement at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties in December.

Some analysts say the latest move demonstrates how China has been boosting sustainable development spending in recent years while more developed countries, like the US have been lagging behind.

In this context, China may be hoping to avoid a 20 percent cut in emissions, as suggested by the US, in favour of a gradual shift toward more sustainable energy sources as a more economically feasible plan to fight climate change.

ICTSD Reporting; “Exxon, China sign \$41 billion Australian gas deal,” REUTERS, 18 August 2009.

This article has been translated from Pontes Quinzenal.

EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Events

For a more comprehensive list of events for the trade and environment community visit the BioRes online calendar, <http://ictsd.net/news/biores/events/>.

Coming up in the next two weeks (4–18 September)

7-11 September, Yokohama, Japan. SIXTH CITYNET CONGRESS. Under the theme “Harmonious Cities for Our Future,” this event will bring together key policymakers and urban stakeholders to evaluate, define, connect, and forge new alliances in addressing current and emerging urban development issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Over a thousand mayors, urban

managers, practitioners, and international organisation partners are anticipated to attend the event, which aims to help improve the sustainability of human settlements, expand their capacities to effectively meet the emerging challenges of urbanisation, and achieve sustainable cities. For more information, contact the organisers: tel: +81-3-3508-1246; fax: +81-3-3508-1696; email: citynet09reg@convention.co.jp; internet:

http://www.citynet2009yokohama.jp/index_en.html

8-10 September, Boston, US. CLEANTECH FORUM XXIII. In partnership with the New England Clean Energy Council, this forum will promote networking and deal-making among investors, entrepreneurs and large corporations. The event will also include sessions on promising opportunities in energy, carbon, solar, next-generation wind, water, waste management and other innovative technologies. This year's conference theme, 'The Second Cleantech Investment Boom: Aligning Entrepreneurship and Innovation with Government Stimulus,' will examine the impact on the clean technology market of governments as strategic investors. For more information, visit: <http://cleantech.com/cleantechforum/boston09/>

9-11 September, Manila, Philippines. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GREEN INDUSTRIES IN ASIA. This conference, hosted by UNIDO in partnership with UNEP, The Government of the Philippines and ESCAP, will consider the opportunities and challenges of transitioning to resource efficient industries and sustainable production and consumption patterns in Asia. The first day of Ministerial-level deliberations will culminate in the adoption of a non-binding Ministerial Declaration and Plan of Action outlining the steps needed to reduce the resource intensity and carbon emissions of industries and to monitor national efforts. The final two days will focus on how knowledge, technology and finance can improve the resource efficiency of Asian firms in the areas of cleaner production, eco-friendly products and environmental services, as well as growth and competitiveness. For more information, visit: <http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=7781>

10-11 September, London, UK. TRANSATLANTIC REGULATORY COOPERATION: SECURING THE PROMISE OF NANOTECHNOLOGIES. This event will launch a major report on the issues of transatlantic regulatory cooperation produced by experts at the London School of Economics, Environmental Law Institute, Chatham House, and the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Bringing together nanotechnology and regulatory experts from the US and EU, the conference will explore recommendations while generating and considering new ideas to enable greater transatlantic cooperation and convergence on nanotechnology oversight. Participation in the conference is by invitation only. If interested in attending, please contact Carmen Gayoso: email: nanotech@lse.ac.uk; internet: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/1217/>

16-18 September, Stockholm, Sweden. WORLD BIOENERGY - CLEAN VEHICLES & FUELS 2009. Held in association with the Swedish EU Presidency, this conference offers an integrated programme of conference sessions, excursions and networking opportunities that will focus on the practical implementation of bioenergy and sustainable transport systems. Conference sessions will cover a wide-range of topics from the socio-economic drivers in implementing bioenergy projects to establishing a sustainable market for clean vehicles and fuels. Participants will be able to build knowledge and networks based on experiences and perspectives from academia, politicians and industry specialists. For more information, contact the organisers: email: confirmation-sweden@mci-group.com; internet: <http://www.elmia.se/en/wbcvf/>

18 September, Paris, France. OECD CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. This OECD-sponsored event will bring together high level experts, government decision-makers and representatives from civil society to discuss how climate change mitigation and adaptation can best be tackled in an economically efficient manner. Drawing on OECD experience in examining the economics of climate change, this conference will help increase the capacity of countries to identify and

implement cost-efficient policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, guidance on integrating adaptation to climate change into all relevant policy areas will be provided. For more information, contact Irene Sinha: email: Irene.sinnha@oecd.org; internet: http://www.oecd.org/document/41/0,3343,en_2649_34361_43298281_1_1_1_1,00.html

Other Upcoming Events:

23-24 September, Washington DC, US. REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION. This conference will bring together leading industry figures and stakeholders to debate the future of emissions reductions from avoided deforestation and degradation projects. It will be a two day interactive event, co-located with the Carbon Markets USA Conference, examining the current status of forestry carbon markets and how compliance forestry REDD markets could work. For more information, contact the organisers: tel: +44 (0)207 099 0600; email: info@greenpowerconferences.com; internet: <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk/>

1 October, Geneva, Switzerland. DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE RULES. Under the joint platform on Climate Change, Agriculture and Trade: Promoting Policy Coherence, this ICTSD-IPC dialogue will examine the nexus between climate change, climate change policies and WTO rules applicable to food and agricultural trade. The meeting will profile a number of papers prepared by the Platform and seeks to identify key policy questions at the nexus of climate change and international agricultural trade rules that should be addressed by the international community upon the conclusion of a new international climate change framework. For more information, contact Damien Brühlhart: tel: +41 22 917 8792; fax: +41 22 917 8093; email: dbrulhart@ictsd.ch; internet: <http://ictsd.net/>

15-16 October, London, England. IUU FISHING: FIFTH UPDATE AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.

This meeting will provide updates on the latest initiatives, regulations and research in the area of fisheries governance and trade in illegal fish

products. The agenda will contain sessions on the new EU illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing regulation, the economic implications of IUU fishing, addressing IUU fishing in Africa, control and monitoring, and fisheries governance. The meeting is open to all. However, pre-registration is essential and must be received by Friday 2 October to guarantee admission. For more information, visit: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/1218/>

26-30 October, Dakar, Senegal. AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: WBI-IDEP COURSE. Given the role of agricultural trade in African development and poverty reduction, this course will cover key issues of special interest to African decision-makers. Additionally, participants will discuss strategic agricultural trade and export development issues associated with poverty reduction. To keep the discussions interactive and manageable, the number of participants in the course will be limited to 25. For more information, contact the organisers: email: tharcisse@unidep.org or rboumbouya@worldbank.org; internet: <http://go.worldbank.org/2BLFK1K5K0>

27-29 October, Accra, Ghana. ENABLING SUSTAINABLE BIOPOWER, BIOGAS & BIOFUELS DEVELOPMENT IN WEST AFRICA. This inaugural conference and exhibition will bring together key players from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region with global industry experts. The event will provide participants with information on West African bioenergy, policy support and development, expert predictions on future market growth, and opportunities to participate in a series of interactive panel discussions regarding the bioenergy market. For more information, contact the organisers: tel: +44 207 099 0600; email: info@greenpowerconferences.com; internet: <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk/v8-12/Prospectus/Index.php?sEventCode=BF0910GH>

10 November 2009. London, England. 2009 MINISTERS' SUMMIT: ROADMAP FOR RECOVERY - SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN

CHALLENGING TIMES. Jointly organised by the UN World Tourism Organisation and the World Travel Market, this summit will bring together ministers and leading tourism experts to determine the best course of action for the industry given the recent challenges of the economic crisis. Discussions will be organised along the following themes: 1) Tourism: Tackling the Global Economic Crisis – focus on the impact of the current global crisis on tourism demand and innovative solutions; 2) Positioning Travel and Tourism in the Global Agenda – focus on the role tourism can play within the G20 initiative to stimulate the global economy, support poor countries facing the crisis and prepare for a Green Economic transformation; and, 3) The Way Forward: Future Challenges and the Transformation to a Green Economy – focus on the post-crisis industry, relevant structural changes and the need to pursue a green agenda. For more information, contact the organisers: tel: +34-9156-78178; fax: +34-9156-78218; e-mail: comm@unwto.org; internet: http://www.unwto.org/media/news/en/press_detail.php?id=4452&idioma=E

2-4 December, Munich, Germany. EUROPEAN GEOTHERMAL ENERGY COUNCIL. In partnership with the European Geothermal Energy Council (EGEC), this conference will discuss the use of geothermal power from established countries – such as Italy and Iceland – to emerging markets – including Turkey, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Greece. With speakers from across Europe, this international conference will bring together project developers, investors, legislators, utilities, service companies and advisors to discuss the legislative and financial hurdles preventing quicker uptake of geothermal power across the continent. For more information, contact the organisers: email:

laura.brownie@greenpowerconferences.com;

internet:

<http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk/>

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 aaziz@ictsd.ch.

INCENTIVES TO SUSTAIN FOREST ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: A REVIEW OF LESSONS FOR REDD. Ivan Bond, Maryanne Grieg-Gran, Sheila Wertz-Kanounnikoff, Peter Hazlewood, Sven Wunder and Arild Angelsen. International Institute for Environment and Development. 2009. This resource is a summary of ten papers that assess of the utility of payments for ecosystem services as a tool for reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation, or REDD. Given the possibility that REDD payments will be incorporated into a post-Kyoto framework agreement, governments from many industrialised countries are announcing significant new funds to tackle climate change through reducing emissions from land use change. The review finds that payments for ecosystem services can create incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation, but should not be viewed as a universal panacea. Among the most important factors was the presence of strong national and forest governance structures. The review found that where weak governance conditions exist, payments for ecosystem services were less effective. However, rewarding ecosystem service providers in a fair manner increased the likelihood of reducing tropical deforestation and mitigating greenhouse gas production. The review was commissioned by the Norwegian Ministry for the Environment and International Development to inform the International Climate and Forest Initiative. To access a copy of the review, visit: <http://www.iiied.org/pubs/pdfs/13555IIED.pdf>

CLIMATE CHANGE, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. K.Ravi Srinivas. Research and Information System for Developing Countries. April 2009. This paper discusses the efforts of developing countries to continue their economic growth while also gaining access to technologies that will help them transition to a less carbon-intensive economy. The paper asserts that

technology development and transfer issues, a key element of the Bali Action Plan, must not become a barrier to these efforts. Providing patent statistics across a range of specific technologies, the report indicates the important role of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in the development and transfer of technology. Additionally, the study outlines the existing limitations of the TRIPs agreement in harmonising IPRs and improving technology transfer. With developed countries continuing to dominate intellectual property areas, such as patents and expenditures on research and development, the paper concludes that a host of policy measures, incentives and changes to the global IP regime under TRIPS will be needed if the gap in technology development and transfer is to be bridged. Supporting the continued application of the 'common but differentiated responsibility' principle, the report encourages serious consideration of proposals made by developing countries to address these issues. To access the paper, visit: http://www.ris.org.in/dp153_pap.pdf

ANIMAL PRODUCTIVITY AND GENETIC DIVERSITY: CLONED AND TRANSGENIC ANIMALS. Robert Wall, Götz Laible, Elizabeth Maga, George Seidel, Jr., Bruce Whitelaw. Council for Agriculture Science and Technology. August 2009. This paper addresses topics including: the cloning of farm animals for breeding and direct food consumption; disease resistance in transgenic animals; and the use of transgenics for improved food safety and quality, decreased environmental impact, and increased production efficiency. The study found that, while scientific progress has been made in cloning and transgenics, a lack of public acceptance is a significant limitation to further development and use of these technologies. To address this consumer apprehension, the paper argues that regulatory processes that instil consumer confidence and maintain reasonable compliance costs for biotechnology companies will be needed if transgenic technology is to be applied to livestock. To access this paper, visit: <http://www.cast-science.org/displayProductDetails.asp?idProduct=165>