



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Bangkok Climate Talks See Little Progress as December Deadline Nears

The most recent round of multilateral negotiations on climate change concluded last week in Bangkok, Thailand.

A stone's throw away, tropical storm Ketsana hit the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos; a tsunami rocked the foundations of Samoa; a 7.6 magnitude earthquake shook Indonesia; and a second typhoon collided into Parma, in the Philippines. Tens of thousands of lives were devastated in this cluster of developing countries as negotiators and observers discussed how to avoid the impact of disasters similar to these caused by the imminent - or perhaps not so - effects of climate change.

The two weeks of talks carried forward work initiated last month in Bonn, Germany where parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) focused on two main tracks of negotiations: Kyoto Protocol discussions (AWG-KP) and a new climate deal (called the Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action or AWG-LCA). The latter is expected to generate a new international agreement under the UNFCCC to strengthen previously inadequate global efforts to address climate change.

Among the most contentious issues at the meetings in Bangkok was the question of the future of the Kyoto Protocol, the agreement that first established concrete targets for emissions reductions in industrialised countries. A number of developed country parties have pushed for the Kyoto Protocol to be terminated after its first commitment period comes to an end in 2012. However, the agreement leaves open the possibility of subsequent commitment periods,

and the parties have spent the last year negotiating the details for a second such round of emission-cutting obligations.

Developing countries push for Kyoto extension

But some developing countries are loudly protesting the potential end of Kyoto. These pro-protocol countries argue that the treaty should be continued because it represents the only concrete commitment that reflects the equitable responsibility of those parties to take the lead on climate mitigation. In these countries' view, a new agreement should simply complement the Kyoto Protocol by bringing the US on board and enhancing mitigation actions from developing countries through the provision of technology and financial support, as agreed under the UNFCCC.

"Please," requested the delegate of the Maldives, "do not kill Kyoto." His plea was joined by dozens of others. But another delegate reportedly noted that, considering the lack of progress in these meetings, the Kyoto Protocol already has one foot in the grave.

Those wishing to dispatch with Kyoto say that there is too much overlap between the two tracks and underline the need for more efficiency. They argue that the old agreement is inadequate as it does not include major economies like the US, China, and India.

This complex and heated debate - so fundamental to the international community's next step on climate change - has slowed the pace of the negotiations at a critical juncture in the talks: fewer than a dozen negotiating days remain before officials meet in Copenhagen to make a final push for a deal. Not all countries are ready to show their cards, which means that the negotiations have tended to focus less on how much countries will do and more on how the international system can help.

Broadly speaking, the eventual agreement will include a three-part package: a political framework, a financing package, and a series of practical steps announced by all major regions to begin cutting emissions. The political framework comprises a stronger commitment for developed

countries to cut their emissions sharply, complemented by some kind of agreement from developing countries to significantly increase their mitigation actions at home. The mitigation push will require a dramatic increase in the transfer and sharing of climate-friendly technology between developed and developing nations, including a robust financing arrangement.

Trade issues keep a low profile

Several trade-related issues surfaced during the Bangkok talks, but on the whole they did not feature as prominently as they have in previous negotiating rounds. For the most part, the issues remained on the table without dramatic change. These include: the treatment of intellectual property rights (IPRs), as related to climate-friendly technologies; national measures, such as border tax adjustments; and sectoral approaches to addressing climate mitigation and adaptation, especially in the agricultural and energy sectors.

On the question of IPRs, a group of developing countries is asking rich nations to exempt clean technology from intellectual property rights so that developing countries can use such technology to cope with the adverse effects of climate change. They proposed the "use of the full flexibilities" in the World Trade Organization's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement, including compulsory licensing, which some developing countries have applied to override patent-holders of life-saving drugs. But defenders of IPRs, including many developed countries and stakeholders from the private sector, argue that intellectual property rights are absolutely necessary for developing clean technology and maintaining a competitive environment in the sector.

In the negotiations on sectoral approaches, developed and developing nations continued to find common ground on agriculture. A small drafting group led by Uruguay and New Zealand put together some language that was annexed to the negotiating text and survived the final session.

A similar drafting group on bunker fuels - dirty fuel used in the shipping industry - facilitated by Egypt and Canada had a much rockier road. Critics of the initiative say that caps on bunker

fuels could undermine trade and tourism in developing countries, especially small island states. But bunker fuels are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, and most countries agree that they require special treatment. Along similar lines, some countries have proposed a global agreement to address emissions from international aviation and maritime transport. Parties will continue to work on all sectoral approach issues at the next session.

The negotiating group that addresses cost-effective ways to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions is a key fault line in the negotiations. The group's discussions have been dominated by proposals for a global carbon market and sectoral crediting mechanisms tied to 'nationally appropriate mitigation actions' (NAMAs) for developing countries. Many industrialised nations, particularly the European Union, assert that a robust carbon market would be an efficient means to reduce carbon emissions. They further argue that the market is the best way to finance mitigation and adaptation in developing countries, as the amount of funds required for both far exceed what is available in public coffers.

Broad discussions on financing continue to evolve as parties attempt to shape a possible architecture for global climate finance. Opinions in this debate are divided over whether there will be a financing mechanism that consolidates governance under one institutional framework, or if the UNFCCC will help to coordinate and report on financing that takes place through various national, regional and international financial institutions worldwide.

The financing debates are vital to the success of the talks: until there is more clarity on how much developed countries are willing to contribute, there will not be significant movement from the major and other developing countries to agree to mitigation in any form. But instead of clarifying quantity or source, most industrialised countries are debating the governance and monitoring of eventual finance.

Donor countries repeatedly indicate that they wish to be able to direct their funding towards the issues of their choice. One particularly sensitive issue in this debate is whether developing countries will be required, expected, or allowed to

contribute finances voluntarily to whatever funds are provided

Border tax adjustments (BTAs), which emerged as a major issue of contention in the previous climate talks, were left almost untouched this session (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 21 August 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/53375/>).

The next meeting of the UNFCCC, set to take place in Barcelona from 2 to 6 November, will be the last chance for parties to carve out further consensus before the Conference of the Parties (COP) convenes in Copenhagen in December.

ICTSD reporting.

FISHERIES

Bluefin Tuna, Shark Species to be Considered at CITES COP

Just before a 14 October deadline expired, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) received proposals for the organisation to consider imposing trade restrictions on bluefin tuna and eight shark species at its next Conference of the Parties.

Some environmentalists continued to pan the lack of international support for the bluefin tuna initiative, while others applauded efforts by the US and EU to tackle problems with overfishing in the shark industry.

After failing to gain consensus from EU member states to move ahead as a bloc on the Mediterranean bluefin tuna issue, the Principality of Monaco had no choice but to take action unilaterally (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 5 October 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/56863/>). If the microstate is successful in its effort to have the fish added to CITES Appendix I, it will result in a temporary trade ban.

The proposals targeting sharks seek to add the eight threatened species to CITES Appendix II, which would limit trade to sustainable levels by

requiring export permits, thus protecting the future health of populations. Species such as polar bears, wolves, and the American black bear are currently listed under Appendix II.

Monaco goes it alone on bluefin tuna

Monaco spearheaded the initiative to have bluefin tuna classified as an endangered species under CITES earlier this year (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 4 September 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/54180/>). The initiative quickly gained support from several other EU countries - including France, the UK, the Netherlands, Germany and Austria - but resistance from Mediterranean countries was enough to block EU consensus on the issue.

Last week a meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) - the international organisation in charge of regulating the bluefin tuna industry - confirmed that illegal and underreported fishing has caused Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks to decline dramatically since the 1990s.

The issue of illegal bluefin tuna fishing came into the spotlight recently as nine people - including the General Secretary and the Director of the Algerian Ministry of Fisheries - were charged with illegal fishing activities during the 2009 fishing season. The purported crimes include the capture and laundering of 210 tonnes of Atlantic bluefin tuna.

The accused members of the Algerian Ministry of Fisheries were allegedly bribed to turn a blind eye to illegal fishing for bluefin tuna by a Turkish fishing boat.

Cases such as these have caused environmental groups to repeatedly slam ICCAT for failing to adequately protect bluefin tuna stocks. They say that the international commercial trade ban that would be established by adding the tuna to CITES Appendix I would be an effective way of allowing stocks to return to normal levels.

"The current management regime is a total failure and is inadequate to guarantee the recovery of this iconic species - only a stop to global trade can give bluefin tuna the breather it so desperately needs,"

said Sergi Tudela, head of fisheries at WWF Mediterranean, following Monaco's submission. "WWF applauds Monaco for officially proposing today a halt to international trade in this endangered and alarmingly overexploited species - an act that would cut the main driver of decline."

Environmental groups in the United States - where Atlantic bluefin tuna spawn - lauded Monaco's initiative and criticised their government for failing to co-sponsor the proposal.

"This is a lost opportunity," said Joshua Reichert, managing director of the Pew Environment Group. "The Obama administration veered drastically off its 'use science to guide decision making' course by not backing this proposal to protect Atlantic bluefin tuna. As a result, the common sense conservation measures that would help stave off commercial extinction for this species are even further from becoming a reality."

Reichert said that up to 30 percent of bluefin tuna are taken illegally and never reported, making the need for action immediate. "CITES is the only global treaty that has the authority to regulate and enforce trade measures to protect those species threatened by international trade," he said.

EU, US look to ease pressure on shark populations

Submissions to CITES to consider adding eight species of shark to Appendix II were launched in response to recent increases in global trade of shark products - particularly fins, which can fetch a high price as a Chinese delicacy.

Six of the submissions - targeting oceanic whitetip; dusky; sandbar; and great, scalloped, and smooth hammerheads - came from the United States. The other two submissions for porbeagle (or lamna nasus) and spiny dogfish sharks came from the EU.

Environmentalists say pressure on shark populations has now come to a point where immediate action is required to keep them protected. "Shark fins are today's ivory tusks," said Courtney Sakai, senior campaign director at Oceana. "Like elephants, the world is realising that sharks are more valuable alive than dead."

Sakai says that CITES offers an effective means to keep international trade at acceptable levels. "This could be the turning point for sharks," she said. "If countries join together now we can promote the sustainable trade of sharks worldwide."

In addition to fisheries submissions, Tanzania and Zambia are calling on CITES to downgrade the African elephant from the list of most endangered species to Appendix II, which would lift a ban on ivory trade.

All proposals will be considered when the Convention's 175 member states meet at the CITES COP, which is being held from 13-25 March 2010 in Doha, Qatar. Proposals must be approved by a two-thirds majority.

ICTSD Reporting; "Ban on bluefin tuna trade," AFP, 15 October 2009.

ENVIRONMENT AT THE WTO

CTE: Chair Calls for Members to Submit Specific 'Environmental Goods'

Trade officials made slow progress toward liberalising trade in 'environmental goods' at the most recent meeting of the WTO's Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE).

At the informal special (negotiating) sessions of the CTE, which took place on 24 and 25 September, the Committee chair, Ambassador Manuel Teehankee of the Philippines, invited WTO members to table submissions on specific environmental goods before the next round of CTE special sessions scheduled for two or three days during the week of 16 November, including those that would be targeted as part of a 'request-offer' process.

Members were also invited to submit concrete proposals on how the committee might address cross-cutting or development-related issues, such as technology transfer, special and differential treatment, and technical assistance and capacity building. On Paragraphs 31 (i) and (ii) - the

sections of the Doha Declaration that deal with the relationship between WTO rules and multilateral environmental agreements - the chair also suggested that members should start preparing for text-based negotiations in upcoming meetings in November and in February of next year. The chair proposed to continue consultations and discussions on environmental goods liberalisation (Paragraph 31 (iii)) in the upcoming meetings. The secretariat will start preparing a compilation document based on the submissions received from WTO members.

But according to a developing country trade delegate, not all WTO members appeared ready or willing to start tabling product-specific proposals. Argentina and India pointed out that besides the 'list' and 'request-offer' approaches, other proposals, such as the project-integrated approach were still very much on the table. But the chair reportedly clarified that the process he had suggested did not rule out alternative approaches to liberalisation.

A number of developing countries, including China, stressed that the CTE should also focus on the development aspect of the negotiations, in addition to questions regarding market access environmental issues, and technology transfer. Japan reportedly submitted a list for the November meeting that includes products such as electric cars and energy-efficient photocopiers. According to a trade delegate from the 'Friends of Environmental Goods' group — which is made up of Canada, the European Union, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United States — the 'Friends' will shortly submit a convergence list of 153 environmental goods to be liberalised (the list had previously been submitted informally).

Brazil pins progress in environmental goods to other areas of talks

Brazil also pledged to submit further details on how it thinks the 'request-offer' process would operate. A Brazilian delegate reiterated that the reduction of tariffs and non-tariff barriers on environmental goods would largely hinge on progress in the negotiations on agriculture and industrial goods. Given the lack of closure in those two areas of the Doha Round talks, Brazil

reportedly stated that, at this point, it is not ready to subscribe to any deadlines for the environmental goods negotiations.

Additional liberalisation in environmental goods would be a positive step in the global fight against climate change and it would also support the development goals of the Doha Round of trade talks, a Brazilian delegate said. The outcome of negotiations on environmental goods would have to allow sufficient policy space for developing countries to set up policies to create or enhance their environmental industries, the delegate added.

Last week, Brazil circulated a 'non-paper' outlining a procedure for the request and offer in environmental goods. It consisted of a nine-step process including presentation of initial requests, presentation of initial offers, a two-week period of negotiations following presentation of initial offers a collective evaluation meeting, and a presentation of final schedules.

ICTSD reporting.

IN BRIEF

Scientists Raise Alarm as Biodiversity Loss Surges

An alarming increase in the extinction of animal species has made it unlikely that UN targets to stem biodiversity loss will be achieved, according to scientists attending a biodiversity conference in South Africa.

The targets – which aimed to achieve “a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss” by 2010 – were set at the 2003 Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. But experts attending last week's Open Science Forum, hosted by the Paris-based biodiversity organisation DIVERSITAS, said that world leaders have failed to stop threats posed by pollution, climate change, and urban sprawl that are threatening biodiversity.

The worst affected species, according to the scientists, are those that are dependent upon

freshwater sources, such as fish, turtles, frogs, and crocodiles. These species are six times more likely to become extinct than other animals.

"There is clear and growing scientific evidence that we are on the verge of a major freshwater biodiversity crisis," says Klement Tockner of the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries in Berlin. "However, few are aware of the catastrophic decline in freshwater biodiversity at both local and global scale. Threats to freshwater biodiversity have now grown to a global scale."

Experts from the UN Environment Programme's The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity – or TEEB – initiative also drew attention to the broader economic impacts associated with the loss of biodiversity in threatened ecosystems, such as forests and coral reefs.

Pavan Sukhdev, who heads up TEEB, said a single hectare of coral reef provides an average of US\$130,000 in annual services to humans – adding that the number could go as high as US\$1.2 million. Taken together, coral reef services worldwide have an average annual value estimated at US\$172 billion. "Investment in protected areas holds exceptional high returns," Sukhdev said.

As the 13-16 October meeting came to a close, some 600 scientists in attendance issued a concluding statement. "As we approach the 2010 Year of Biodiversity...the fabric out of which the Earth system is woven is unravelling at an accelerating rate," the statement reads. "It is clear that biodiversity loss erodes the integrity of ecosystems and their capacity to adapt in a changing world. It represents a serious risk to human wellbeing and a squandering of current assets and future opportunities."

The goal of the Cape Town Forum is to help establish new goals to curtail extinction rates, which the scientists say are much higher than had been predicted only a few years ago.

ICTSD Reporting; "New fears for species extinctions," BBC NEWS, 11 October 2009; "Biodiversity Loss Accelerating, UN Target Will Be Missed," ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 13 October 2009.

Deadlock in UN Climate Talks Leaves Bunker Fuel Decision in the Air

As the latest round of UN climate negotiations got underway earlier this month in Bangkok, Thailand many member nations were anxious to see where the issue of bunker fuels – dirty fuel used in shipping and aviation – would lead. Although several sources agree that the participants in the climate negotiations are adamant about reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to a specified level, there seems to be a standstill between developed and developing countries concerning their roles in this process (see related article, this issue).

The release of carbon dioxide from aircraft and shipping industries worldwide accounts for a considerable percentage of GHG released into the atmosphere. These talks also represent the world's dissatisfaction with the lack of action from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to manage bunker fuel emissions, a task delegated to these two groups by the Kyoto Protocol. Peter Lockley, head of transport policy at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) stated that “in the 12 years since the Kyoto Protocol gave these emissions to the ICAO and IMO to manage, they have failed to pass a single binding measure.” Numerous NGOs are now pushing for bunker emissions to have a greater role in the Copenhagen Protocol, believing that more stringent global policies on aviation and shipping emissions will help countries reach their goal of reducing the overall release of GHG into the atmosphere.

Two informal drafting groups, facilitated by Egypt and Canada, convened on international maritime shipping and aviation. Mexico, Singapore, Canada, and the US proposed that the IMO and ICAO take the lead in addressing bunker fuels. The EU had gone one step further by calling for global targets on bunker fuel emissions, which would be set by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and implemented through the IMO and ICAO. The Federated States of Micronesia, Tuvalu, Venezuela, and others underlined that the UNFCCC's guidance is

needed for the IMO and ICAO. In addition, Norway made a proposal for emissions trading or carbon taxes for bunker fuels used in international shipping. Despite this progress, however, environmental groups said they were frustrated that negotiators in Bangkok could not move forward on “significant issues.”

Among the fears that nothing will emerge from the Copenhagen climate conference and that bunker fuel emissions will not be sufficiently dealt with, several UN representatives and NGOs have asserted that the world must agree on the following points if anything is to be done concerning global climate change: emission reduction targets for developed countries, nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries, financial assistance to developing countries, and technology cooperation. Many still say they hope the standstill between developed and developing countries can be overcome during the last negotiating session before Copenhagen in Barcelona, Spain from 2-6 November.

ICTSD Reporting; “Climate Talks Stall on Developed Countries' Weak Commitments,” ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 7 October 2009; “Bangkok Climate Talks Fail to Resolve Core Issues,” ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 9 October 2009; “Aircraft and shipping emissions on course for Copenhagen,” WWF, 6 October 2009.

Climate Change High on Agenda at Desertification COP

Issues related to climate change took centre stage when representatives from 193 countries met in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 21 September to 2 October for the Ninth Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Among the 36 resolutions drawn up during the conference, there was a notable proposal to establish a scientific body to monitor the phenomenon of desertification. The initiative is part of a series of projects, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(IPCC), which are aimed at creating a worldwide network of control over environmental degradation, as well as combining efforts to improve land use - themes that will also appear on the Copenhagen agenda.

Desertification affects more than 1.2 billion people and raises concerns not only about food security but also climate change. Experts say degraded soils are major emitters of carbon dioxide (CO₂), accounting for some 20 percent of total carbon emissions.

The Executive Secretary of UNCCD, Luc Gnacadja, points out that the potential for carbon sequestration - even in areas undergoing desertification - should be explored through sustainable land management. Thus, practices such as preserving the soil and reversing its depletion should be encouraged.

It should also be noted that sequestration is not being pitched solely as an effort to prevent desertification, but also to curb the deterioration of naturally arid soil in some regions. Through exploitation of these areas, CO₂ is released by both the destruction of the scant vegetation layer and erosion, which reduces productivity and therefore the number of plants absorbing this pollutant from the atmosphere.

Currently, according to official documents, the world's most arid climate areas retain 27 percent of worldwide carbon stocks - with Asia, Africa and Latin America representing a majority of that percentage. The coexistence of naturally arid areas and dense forest, common in these parts of the planet, makes the balancing of these contrasting biomes more complex. Experts acknowledge that the potential for carbon sequestration in vegetation should be explored as a strategy for mitigating climate change.

The next meeting of the UNCCD, which will assess compliance with the commitments made at COP 9, will occur in South Korea in October 2011.

This article is based on a story that appeared in 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 (16-30 October)

18-23 October, Buenos Aires, Argentina. 13TH WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS: FORESTS IN DEVELOPMENT: A VITAL BALANCE. With over 6,000 participants from governments, industries, and non-governmental organizations from over 160 countries, this week-long conference will cover such issues as forests and biodiversity, forest products trade, sustainability and economic viability, and forests and climate change. One of the foremost objectives of the Congress, as an advisory organisation, is to collect knowledge and experience in order to advise governments, civil society, and the private sector on the formulation and implementation of environmentally friendly forest policies. This forum also provides the opportunity to discern trends, adapt policies and raise awareness among decision and policy makers, the public, and other stakeholders. For more information, contact the organisers: tel: +54-11-4349-2104; email: info@cfm2009.org; internet: <http://www.cfm2009.org/en/index.asp>

19-21 October, London, UK. THE CABI GLOBAL SUMMIT. Bringing together environment and agriculture ministers and other senior government officials from around the world, this event aims to allow participants to: hear from world-leading experts on the challenges of food security; share these challenges with representatives from international governments, major funding organisations and international development organisations; network with colleagues from around the world; meet representatives from major donors and potential partners; and gain commitment on addressing issues relating to food security. For more information, contact the organisers: phone: +44-7881-892-656; email:

admin@cabiglobalsummit.com; internet:
<http://www.cfm2009.org/en/subseccion.asp?IdSeccion=93&IdSubseccion=43>

22-23 October, New Delhi, India. HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE: TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER. This high-level conference, jointly organised by the Government of India and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), will bring together governments, experts, industry representatives, and civil society to help formulate a roadmap for technology in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation. The event seeks to support the UNFCCC process by advancing understanding on key actions needed to accelerate technology development and transfer in all countries in accordance with their national needs. For more information, contact organisers: e-mail: DelhiConference@un.org; fax: +1 212-963-1267/9883; internet: http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_cofnf1009.shtml

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>

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 Centre 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. For more information, visit: <http://www.recoftc.org/site/index.php?id=697>

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>

28-30 October, Beijing, China. TRADE, URBANISATION, AND THE ENVIRONMENT. This conference aims to be a platform for in-depth intellectual exchange between senior academia members, decision makers and practitioners in the field of trade, urbanisation, environment, and sustainable development. It will explore the interactions of both trade and urbanisation processes with environmental protection imperatives with a particular focus on the case of China. Governments, scientific experts, multi-lateral agencies, and civil society organisations will discuss topics such as environmental protection, clean trade, and environment friendly management of cities. For more information, contact the organisers: tel: +86-10-5887-6347; fax: +86-10-5887-6343; email: public@cheds.pku.cn; internet: <http://www.tradeurbanizationenvironment.com>

Other Upcoming Events:

2-4 November, Lisbon, Portugal. OCEAN POWER: ACCELERATING INNOVATION IN OCEAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS.

Ocean energy technologies are still in their infancy in comparison to other alternative energy sources, yet the rate of development is rapidly increasing. This conference aims to bring together leading international regulatory officials, industry experts, and project developers to discuss the key challenges in developing ocean energy projects, effective policies to encourage development, creating industry standards, improving collaboration between the public and private sectors, and the continued development of new and reliable technologies. For more information, contact Ben Leighton: tel: +971-4813-5211; fax: +44-207-900-1853; email: ben.leighton@greenpowerconferences.com; internet: <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk/v8-12/Prospectus/Index.php?sEventCode=OP0911PT>

18-20 November, Singapore. CLEAN ENERGY EXPO ASIA 2009. Clean Energy Expo Asia (CEEA) sells itself as a unique trading and knowledge-sharing platform bringing together the leading players in the technology, services, finance and government sectors to address key issues in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region. The conference program, developed in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore (SEAS), will cover financing opportunities and market trends, legislation and policies, and technological innovation. For more information, contact Samuel Tumiwa: tel: +632-632-6624; fax: +632-636-2198; email: stumiwa@adb.org; internet: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2009/Clean-Energy-Expo-Asia-2009/default.asp>

24-25 November, Berlin, Germany. 4TH INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY STORAGE CONFERENCE (IRES) 2009. This annual event presents new perspectives, the state of technology, and especially the resulting energy storage applications that open up ground-breaking opportunities for the dynamic exploitation of electricity and heat from renewable sources. This conference series brings together stakeholders from the regenerative and conventional energy industries, from research and development, and from various areas of politics. It aims to act as a

stimulus for their strategies to enhance the entry of renewable energy. For more information, contact the organisers: tel: +49-0228-362-373; fax: +49-0228-361-279; email: info@eurosolar.org; internet:

http://www.eurosolar.de/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=362&Itemid=105

15-17 June 2010, Belfast, UK. SUSTAINABLE OCEAN SUMMIT. The World Ocean Council, an international business leadership alliance on ocean sustainability and stewardship, has created the Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) in order to catalyse the growing interest among ocean businesses for more effective leadership and collaboration in addressing ocean environmental challenges. It will bring together a wide range of international industries that use marine space and resources to consider major ocean policy developments and sustainability challenges affecting the future of responsible commercial activities in the seas. For more information, contact Paul Holthus: tel: +1-808-277-9008; email: paul.holthus@oceancouncil.org; internet: <http://www.oceancouncil.org/site/index.php>

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.

KEEPING ILLEGAL FISH AND TIMBER OFF THE MARKET: A COMPARISON OF EU REGULATIONS. By Heike Baumüller, Duncan Brack, and Katharina Umpfenbach. Chatham House, October 2009. With the belief that the international community has failed to effectively address the global problem of illegal logging and fishing, the EU has moved to tighten its own regulations. This paper examines how EU regulation to combat illegal fishing introduces comprehensive certification and traceability requirements for anyone wishing to import fish products into the EU, and how it provides for extensive enforcement measures that can be used by European authorities to ensure compliance with the regulation. The authors argue that the

broad scope of the illegal fishing regulation, in terms of its geographical reach and its emphasis on enforcement is, at least in part, motivated by the 'common property' nature of global fisheries resources, which makes it difficult to address the impacts of illegal fishing at the national level. The EU regulation on illegal logging establishes a licensing system with countries that have entered into voluntary partnership agreements (VPA) with the EU. This bilateral VPA process recognises the national character of forest governance. While slow in their implementation, the authors argue that the VPAs - with their emphasis on capacity-building and stakeholder engagement - have the potential to trigger long-lasting governance reforms. To access this paper, visit: http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/14974_b_p1009_fishandtimber.pdf

CONSERVATION FOR A NEW ERA. By Jeffrey A. McNeely and Susan A. Mainka. International Union for Conservation of Nature. September 2009. This book outlines critical issues taken up during the World Conservation Congress held in Barcelona in October 2008. While trying to inspire today's scientists, managers, and politicians, the authors consider the state of global natural resources, as well as current trends. This book reports a consensus at the Congress that work on ecosystems, species and protected areas will increasingly become a critical element in any societal strategy capable of bringing about a sustainable future. With the intention of generating further discussion and research, the authors cover topics such as: ecosystem services; climate change and biodiversity; protected areas; challenges related to species conservation; armed conflict and post-disaster recovery; human health and biodiversity; the green economy; and forest, marine, dryland, freshwater, agricultural, and urban systems. To access this book, visit: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2009-026.pdf>

AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES IN THE WTO GREEN BOX: ENSURING COHERENCE WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS. The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, October 2009. Current WTO requirements set no ceiling on the amount of green box subsidies that governments can provide, on the basis that these payments cause

only minimal trade distortion. Governments are thus increasingly shifting their subsidy spending into this category, as they come under pressure to reduce subsidies that are more directly linked to production. However, evidence suggests that green box payments can affect production and trade, harm farmers in developing countries and cause environmental damage. This information note summarises some of the findings of the forthcoming ICTSD book "Agricultural Subsidies in the WTO Green Box: Ensuring Coherence with Sustainable Development Goals", eds. Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Christophe Bellmann and Jonathan Hepburn. To download the paper, please visit <http://ictsd.net/i/publications/56284/>.

COMPETITIVENESS, TRADE AND CLIMATE CHANGE LINKAGES: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' PERSPECTIVE. South Centre: South Bulletin (40), September 2009. By Vincente Paolo Yu. The central topic in this article is how developing countries view the linkages between trade competitiveness and climate change policy and how these connections affect their development prospects. Referring to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the World Trade Organization, the author argues that from the perspective of developing countries, trade measures are not suitable for addressing climate change. Restricting the international market access of developing countries may, in turn, be the true consequence of using trade measures in developing countries to tackle climate change. Stemming from this, the author contends that such international policy initiatives would lead to technology-dependency on developed countries and a decrease in the competitive nature of goods from developing countries. This article concludes that the primary priority for developing countries should be economic and social development and poverty eradication. To access this article, visit: http://www.southcentre.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1085&Itemid=279