



# Bridges Trade BioRes

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

Volume 10 • Number 1, 22 January 2010

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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

## FISHERIES

### Native Group Launches Legal Action over Seal Ban

A coalition of native groups in Canada and Greenland is taking the EU to court over its controversial ban on seal product imports. The Inuit groups say the ban is not based on accurate information regarding conservation or animal welfare.

The coalition's lawyer, Hendrik Viaene, says the documents were filed on 11 January at the Luxembourg-based European General Court, which deals largely with complaints about EU regulations.

The EU ban – most of which came into effect in September 2009 - has triggered much debate over appropriate grounds for impeding trade. The ban is meant to block trade in seal products from commercial sealing operations which the EU says is “inherently cruel” and “inhumane.” But sealing nations – such as Canada, Greenland, and Norway – insist that this is not the case and that the EU has formulated policy based on inaccurate information supplied by the anti-sealing lobby.

### Inuit not impressed by exemption

While the EU ban has included an exemption for “traditional hunting by indigenous communities which contribute to their subsistence,” the coalition says Inuit communities will still be negatively affected as the global seal market contracts. Full implementation of the trade ban will not occur until 20 August 2010 as regulators seek to clarify the meaning of the term “traditional hunting.” But despite the delay in implementing Article 3 of the regulation, the trade ban has already led to a sharp drop in market prices.

Aboriginal groups say the seal market contraction has reduced opportunities in a part of the world already compromised by economic hardship. “Our communities depend on any economic initiative that is available to us,” said Mary Simon, president of the Canadian Inuit group.

A further exemption is offered in two specific circumstances. The first instance is when the import of seal products is “of an occasional nature” and is for the personal use of “travellers or their families.” The second additional exemption allows seal products to enter the EU marketplace when it is the by-product of regulated hunting for the “sole purpose of the sustainable management of marine resources.” This exemption cannot be used if it is perceived to be of a commercial nature.

Simon has been outspoken on the trade ban, arguing that it reflects a European lack of cultural understanding for aboriginal groups in the Far North. “It is bitterly ironic that the EU, which seems entirely at home with promoting massive levels of agri-business and the raising and slaughtering of animals in highly industrialised conditions, seeks to preach some kind of selective elevated morality to Inuit,” Simon said. “At best, this is cultural bias.”

Meanwhile, Inuit groups in Greenland say they do not want their way of life compromised by bureaucrats in Brussels. “They want to decide what kind of traditional hunting we do and who should be allowed to eat seal meat,” said Aqqaluk Lynge, president of Inuit Circumpolar Council in Greenland, adding that EU officials wanted the Inuit to live as they did 300 years ago.

### WTO consultations

The basis for the ban has been the subject of controversy and will be scrutinised when WTO consultations between Canada and the EU get underway (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 13 November 2009, <http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/59391/>). The EU will support its reason for the ban under Article XX of the 1947 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades (GATT), which provided the possible exceptions that allow a state to impede trade.

While an obvious exception to WTO rules regarding trade in animal products pertains to conservation measures, seal populations are not in danger and are, in fact, on the rise. This leaves Brussels with the rarely invoked “protection of public morals” GATT exception. The most recent use of the public morals clause was used by China in an attempt to gain control over the distribution of imported audiovisual material (see Bridges Weekly, 9 September 2009, <http://ictsd.org/i/news/bridgesweekly/54713/>).

Ottawa is actively looking for new markets for seal products to fill the void left by the EU. Gail Shea, Canada’s Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, recently attended a leather and fur exhibition in Beijing in an effort to promote Canadian seal oil, meat, and fur in Asia.

### Additional information

A pdf copy of the EU ban can be accessed here: [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2009/november/tradoc\\_145264.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2009/november/tradoc_145264.pdf)

ICTSD Reporting; “Inuit take European Union to court over ban on imports of seal products,” THE CANADIAN PRESS, 15 January 2010; “Seal hunters face battle with EU over trade,” TIMES ONLINE, 18 January 2010.

## BIODIVERSITY

### International Year of Biodiversity Kicks off in Berlin

The International Year of Biodiversity was formally launched on 11 January at Berlin’s Museum of Natural History. There are several major events planned throughout 2010 in an effort to increase awareness of an unprecedented loss of species and its adverse effects on the world’s human population. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was joined in a prepared video message by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, as she urged strong and decisive action to protect Earth’s biological diversity.

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity to coincide with a deadline adopted by governments in April 2002 at the 6th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-6). Under this agreement, with 191 participating countries, nations committed themselves by 2010 to significantly reduce the loss of biodiversity on global, regional, and national scales, as a means of alleviating poverty and benefiting all life on Earth.

According to Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the group organising the International Year of Biodiversity, the CBD is unique because it aims not only to increase biodiversity, but also to allow for its sustainable use. In order to monitor progress towards that goal, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) was established in 2006 to monitor biodiversity trends and to assess progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target of the CBD.

### **Merkel calls for urgent “trend reversal”**

Addressing an audience of more than 400, including scientists, members of the diplomatic corps, civil society, government, international organisations, media, and business community, Merkel said, “the conservation of biodiversity has the same dimension as climate protection. We need a trend reversal—not at some point in the future, but immediately.” Merkel then called on the international community to invest far more in the protection of species through the establishment of an international network of wildlife protection areas. She also urged the creation of a new international scientific body, similar to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), to deal specifically with the science behind biodiversity.

“A wide variety of environmental goods and services that we take for granted are under threat,” Ban said prior to the ceremony. “In this International Year, we must counter the perception that people are disconnected from our natural environment...in 2010, I call on every country and each citizen of our planet to engage in a global alliance to protect life on Earth.”

### **Little optimism in light of biodiversity reality**

At the start of 2010, however, it is clear that none of the signatories have met their commitments to the CBD, or the goals of the more ambitious commitment among 27 European leaders, initiated in Gothenburg, Sweden in 2001, and reaffirmed several times since. While the 2010 Biodiversity Target sought a significant reduction in the global loss of biodiversity by 2010, the Gothenburg Commitment aimed for a complete halt to biodiversity loss in Europe in the same time frame.

The International Year of Biodiversity comes as many scientists believe that the current extinction rate, due to human activities, is 1,000 times higher than historical levels. Indeed, two thirds of Earth’s ecosystems are in a serious state of degradation, and many scientists are referring to the present phenomenon as a sixth global mass extinction.

Currently, over 8,400 species are threatened with extinction, including 1,200 bird species. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), one third of the world’s amphibian species, one fourth of its mammal species, and one eighth of all bird species are endangered.

“The world’s biodiversity and ecosystems might seem abstract and remote to many people,” said the head of the UN Environment Programme, Achim Steiner. “But there is nothing abstract about their role in economies and in the lives of billions of people.” Illustrating the ways in which biodiversity and economics are interdependent, deforestation alone costs US\$2.5 trillion annually to the global economy.

Tropical rainforests, which account for 80 percent of Earth’s biodiversity, are disappearing at a rate of 13 million hectares annually. Numerous UN reports also illustrate the link between biodiversity and economics. As wetlands, forests, and other natural systems are harmed, natural processes, including the purification of water and air, are depleted.

## Major biodiversity events in 2010

Many events are scheduled throughout this year to assess biodiversity indicators and to further raise awareness of biodiversity's importance. From 24-26 February, delegates will gather at the 11th Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Bali, Indonesia. In September, for the first time in the history of the United Nations, a high-level segment of the General Assembly on "Biodiversity: Challenges and Responses" will meet in New York.

The major events will culminate in October in Nagoya, Japan, with the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-10). This summit aims to create a new vision for 2050 and to develop a renewed strategy for addressing biodiversity loss.

ICTSD Reporting; "Ban Ki-moon announces Year of Biodiversity," UPI ASIA, 11 January 2010; "2010 is International Year of Biodiversity," THE INDEPENDENT, 10 January 2010; "UN to kick off Year of Biodiversity," 11 January 2010.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### US Climate Plans Less Clear Following Republican Victory

Following the election of Republican Scott Brown to replace Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy – who passed away this past December – many are asking what the effect will be on President Obama's top-priority national reforms and international agenda, including climate change. Brown's victory is a major upset for the Democratic Party who, as a result of the forfeit of this Senate seat, has lost their filibuster-proof 60-40 majority in the Senate.

Yet as the bipartisan country's two parties have increasingly straddled the traditional line between conservative and liberal positions on issues ranging from education to civil rights and economic reform, speculation runs rampant but no one can guarantee whether the victory will

mean an automatic 'no' on issues critical to the president.

### Brown opposed to national cap-and-trade

While Brown has cast himself as a climate critic during his recent campaign, when he was state senator for Massachusetts he voted for a regional cap-and-trade regime, similar to the approach taken in the current climate bill, which eventually was passed in the New England states. Nonetheless, on his campaign website, Brown included a statement that he opposes a national cap-and-trade program "because of the higher costs that families and businesses would incur."

He instead supports the "development of alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, nuclear, geothermal, and improved hydroelectric facilities... in order to reduce [US] dependence on foreign oil." This position reflects a common Republican approach to the climate bill and indicates a potential area of tradeoffs likely to result in order to successfully pass the bill through the Congress.

### Health care debate may water down climate legislation

The doubt over the viability of the climate bill is not exclusive to climate-sceptics and Republicans. Although Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has clearly stated that the Senate would take up a climate change bill this spring, since Brown's election there is increased doubt about the possibility of passing the climate change legislation this year.

Democratic senator Byron Dorgan said in a recent interview that the Senate is unlikely to pass climate change legislation this year after going through the contentious health care debate, and will focus on a separate energy bill that has more bipartisan support. "My own sense is that in the aftermath of a very, very heavy lift on health care, I think it is unlikely that the Senate will turn next to the very complicated and very controversial subject of cap-and-trade, climate change kind of legislation," Dorgan said.

That legislation would require more US electricity supplies to be generated from renewable sources

like wind and solar, and expand offshore drilling into the eastern Gulf of Mexico, which holds almost 4 billion barrels of oil.

### **Business, NGOs push for unity of climate change**

On the flipside, the same week of the election, a diverse group of nearly 90 leading businesses, environmental organisations, national security experts, veterans' organisations, labour unions and faith-based groups ranging from General Motors and GE to the World Resources Institute and Pepsico posted an advertisement in the Wall Street Journal calling for "Democrats and Republicans to unite behind bi-partisan, national energy and climate legislation that increases our security and limits emissions, as it preserves and creates jobs." The gesture indicates an optimism and dedication among leading private and non-governmental groups in the United States who are forging ahead with their support for the climate legislation.

Speculation of the impact that the passage of the US healthcare reform bill might have on the outcome of the climate legislation is uncertain. While some consider that a victory with the healthcare bill will boost spirits and confidence in the presidentially-led legislation, others say a defeat of the healthcare reform might actually be more beneficial to the climate legislation as it will push Democrats and other supports to put more energy and dedication to getting the bill passed, particularly in light of the 2010 mid-term elections. So, it is heads or tails whether the precarious legislation makes it onto the congressional decision-making docket for this year.

ICTSD Reporting; "Reflections on a hugely changed climate," BBC NEWS, 22 January 2010; "Senate not seen passing climate bill in 2010," REUTERS, 19 January 2010; "A Question of American Leadership," PEW CENTER, 21 January 2010.

## **IN BRIEF**

### **African Countries at Odds over Ivory Trade**

Kenya and Mali are leading an effort to block a proposal by Tanzania and Zambia to change the endangered species status of elephants and sell off stockpiles of ivory.

At a six-day meeting, kicked off today in Brussels, Kenya and Mali will try to convince some 27 CITES member countries to vote against the proposal.

Tanzania and Zambia followed official procedures when they issued their proposal for consideration at the Fifteenth Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Conference of the Parties in March. But Kenya and Rwanda say that because Tanzania proposed the one-off ivory sale without consulting neighbouring countries that share elephant populations, they have betrayed the 'spirit' of conservation in the region.

The proposal, which was filed on 17 November 2009, seeks to "transfer the population of the African elephant, *Loxodonta africana*, from Appendix I to Appendix II" of CITES. Because Appendix I species are considered to be "threatened with extinction," trade is only permitted in exceptional circumstances. However, if the African elephant is moved to Appendix II – species that are not necessarily threatened with extinction, but could be if trade is not controlled – avenues for trade will likely be opened up.

China and Japan would likely be the sole bidding countries if the ivory goes to auction, as the two countries have convinced CITES that their domestic regulations are capable of ensuring the ivory is not re-exported. These terms are similar to those that were used during a rare 2008 CITES sanctioned ivory auction by Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 31 October 2008, <http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/32508/>).



When Parties to CITES agreed to the 2008 auction at COP 14 in June 2007, a nine-year moratorium on future ivory auctions was included in the deal. Thus, several African countries – including Kenya, Rwanda, Congo, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, and Sierra Leone – say the current proposal should not be considered.

But Tanzania and Zambia are taking advantage of a loophole in the text, which appears to bar only countries that have already participated in a one-off ivory auction. In addition to the 2008 auction, an experimental sale of 67 tonnes of ivory by Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa to Japan took place in 2007. Tanzania is proposing to sell 90 tonnes of government stockpiles originating in Tanzania, while Zambia would like to sell 22 tonnes.

The African Elephant Coalition, a group of 21 member states opposed to the ivory trade, is arguing that the CITES panel charged with assessing the risk posed to elephants is downplaying the fact that auctions such as these can lead to increases in poaching.

The CITES secretariat is required to select an independent team of experts drawn from fields such as elephant biology, wildlife trade, and law enforcement to sit on the panel. However, the Coalition has been critical of CITES's selection process.

CITES COP 15 will take place from 13-25 March in Doha, Qatar.

ICTSD Reporting; "East African battle on sale of ivory to take centre stage at Brussels forum," DAILY NATION; 18 January 2010; "Kenya angry with CITES over sale of ivory, 'partisan' secretariat," THE EAST AFRICAN, 17 January 2010.

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### **Monsanto Accused of Unfair Business Practices**

Multinational giant DuPont submitted a report to US regulators earlier this month, calling for close scrutiny into the practices of its chief agribusiness rival and seed industry leader Monsanto. In the 18

page document – submitted on 8 January to the US Departments of Justice and Agriculture – DuPont, which owns Pioneer Hi-Bred International, claimed Monsanto is using monopoly powers to thwart competition, raise prices, and undercut innovation.

DuPont argues that Monsanto has a monopoly in corn and soybean traits that helps crops ward off pests and withstand applications of weed-killing agents, like Monsanto's RoundUp. Last year, it is estimated that 93 percent of US soybean plantings involved seeds with the RoundUp Ready trait. Additionally, DuPont says Monsanto controls 79 percent of the corn market and 60 percent of the corn and soy germplasm licensed in the US "The ag biotech trait market is firmly in the grip of a single supplier, acting as a bottleneck to treatments, competition, and choice," the DuPont report reads.

Monsanto maintains that "no single company has a dominant share of seed sales in corn, soybean or cotton." Monsanto's own report filed last month stated: "We're confident an objective review will reveal competition is alive and flourishing in the seed market". Monsanto has said that it is cooperating with the ongoing investigation by the US Department of Justice by providing "millions of pages of documents."

DuPont's recent allegations come as the latest round of tensions between the two competitors, after Monsanto last May sued DuPont for combining specific genetic traits developed by Monsanto with its own product. As recently as 19 January 2010, Monsanto received a favourable ruling when a US federal court found DuPont in violation of its licensing agreement. However, DuPont, which counter-sued Monsanto last June, claimed its rival was illegally quashing competition, said the rulings were "narrow," and vowed to press on with its anti-trust allegations.

"We're going to move ahead because the case isn't over yet," stated DuPont spokesman Doyle Karr. Top officials at DuPont emphasised that the ruling does not affect the related ongoing formal antitrust investigation against Monsanto by the US Department of Justice.

As of late last week, the US Justice Department was formally requesting information about Monsanto's soybean genetic traits business. Some rivals and seed distributors have complained recently that the company is limiting access to its first generation, lower-priced RoundUp Ready beans in order to push its newer RoundUp Ready 2 Yield soybeans. The investigation was seeking confirmation on whether the initial generation of RoundUp Ready beans would be available to other seed makers to make generic versions.

The US Department of Justice declined to comment on the ongoing case, saying only that it "is investigating the possibility of anticompetitive practices in the seed industry".

The allegations submitted by DuPont come ahead of a public hearing this March on competition and antitrust in the seed industry.

ICTSD Reporting; "DuPont urges U.S. to curb Monsanto seed monopoly," REUTERS, 8 January 2010; "Monsanto says DOJ wants seed access details," REUTERS, 14 January 2010; "Antitrust Questions for Monsanto," NEW YORK TIMES, 14 January 2010; "Monsanto claims victory in seed fight with DuPont," REUTERS, 19 January 2010; "Monsanto's Legal Wins Are Just the Beginning," THE MOTLEY FOOL, 19 January 2010.

## Efforts to Stem Bird Flu to Target Illegal Poultry Trade in SE Asia

While swine flu has captured the limelight of the global health agenda, bird flu (H5N1) remains a serious threat, particularly in Southeast Asia.

The illegal trade in poultry and poultry products across borders in this part of the world represents one pathway that the highly lethal disease is spread. "In Cambodia, illegal or informal trade occurs along its long border with Thailand and Vietnam," says Khieu Borin, director of Cambodia's Center for Livestock and Agriculture Department. "There is that informal trade, not just in birds, but eggs and other poultry products, smuggling." Researchers from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam have therefore discussed how to better track and stem the trade.

At the fifth regional meeting of the Asian Partnership on Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (APEIR), Chinese scientists also highlighted new evidence they had found of the spread of bird flu in the pathways of migratory birds. The migrating birds may spread the disease to local wild birds, which can then transmit it to poultry bread by humans, according to the researchers.

In related news, India discovered a new outbreak of bird flu in mid-January in its Murshidabad district, after being disease free for eight months and having declared itself officially free of the disease two months ago. Authorities have deployed response teams to contain the outbreak, including through culling tens of thousands of chickens. Public authorities say they fear a worst case scenario that would have bird and swine flu viruses mix and create a new, highly contagious and lethal disease.

"SEAsia To Crack Down On Poultry Smuggling To Fight H5N1," REUTERS, 19 January 2010; "Bird flu makes a return, dead birds test positive in Murshidabad," TIMES OF INDIA, 15 January 2010; "AI outbreak closely related to bird migration 18 Jan 2010," WORLDPOULTRY.NET, 18 January 2010.

## 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 (22 January-5 February)

27-28 January, London, UK. INTRODUCTION TO RENEWABLES: A 2-DAY COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGIES, AND MARKETS. This training course will educate participants on the economic factors and technologies that drive the renewable energy/power industries. It also aims to

evaluate renewable energy resources and the market conditions and economic cases that may argue for or against them. The different technologies available to gather and store renewable energy will also be explored. Varying types of renewable energy - including solar, biofuels, wind, and geothermal - will be discussed along with their capacity to contribute to current energy needs. For more information, contact the organisers: tel: +44-(0)207-099-0600; email: [info@greenpowerconferences.com](mailto:info@greenpowerconferences.com); internet: <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk/v8-12/Prospectus/Index.php?sEventCode=TRE1001UK>

28-29 January, London, UK. ADVANCED MARKET COMMITMENTS FOR LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGY: CREATING DEMAND IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. This meeting will delve into the ways in which advanced market commitments (AMCs), a type of market creation mechanism, can provide sufficient returns on investment by the private sector, while enhancing opportunities for low carbon growth in developing countries. Delegates will be given the opportunity to offer their thoughts on the AMC concept. For more information, contact the organisers: tel: +44-020-7957-5753; fax: +44-020-7321-2045; email: [conferences@chathamhouse.org.uk](mailto:conferences@chathamhouse.org.uk); internet: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/1408/>

1 February, New York, US. MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This first Multi-stakeholder dialogue will focus on the decisions of the CSD-17 and its implementation by all interested stakeholders, with the goal of ensuring that implementation is done in a harmonised and systematic way. The multi-stakeholder dialogue has been established by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) Secretariat to ensure a more effective and coordinated implementation of the global policy on sustainable development. For more information contact: Irena Zubcevic, Division for Sustainable Development; tel: +1 212 963 4528; e-mail: [zubcevic@un.org](mailto:zubcevic@un.org); internet: [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_csd17\\_followup.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd17_followup.shtml)

1-2 February, London, UK. PROSPECTS FOR MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA ENERGY. This conference will explore the changing dynamics in North Africa and Middle East energy developments and discuss the impact of the recession on the regions. Participants at this event will have an opportunity to examine the current economic state of affairs in the leading oil and gas producing countries of North Africa and the Middle East, issues surrounding consumption and provision of energy for domestic development and energy for export, and prospects for domestic and foreign investment in the regions. For more information, contact the organisers: tel: +44-020-7957-5753; fax: +44-020-7321-2045; email: [conferences@chathamhouse.org.uk](mailto:conferences@chathamhouse.org.uk); internet: [http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/mena\\_energy/](http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/mena_energy/)

1-4 February, Amman, Jordan. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN DRY AREAS. At this conference, participants will discuss the current status of climate change in dry areas and how it affects food security. The impacts of climate change on the availability of natural resources (particularly water), environmental degradation in dry areas, and agricultural production systems will also be explored. Another major theme will be identifying economic/policy options, development priorities, and technologies in certain regions to cope with climate change through the implementation of strategies for adaptation, mitigation, and ecosystem resilience. There will also be a chance to exchange experiences with national and international experts on food security issues expected to be affected by climate change, especially in dry areas. For more information, contact Nasri Haddad: fax: +926-6-552-5930; email: [n.haddad@cgiar.org](mailto:n.haddad@cgiar.org); internet: [http://www.icarda.cgiar.org/Announcement/2009/IntlConfnc\\_FoodSecurity/FoodSecurityAndClimateChangeInDryAreas\\_2009.htm](http://www.icarda.cgiar.org/Announcement/2009/IntlConfnc_FoodSecurity/FoodSecurityAndClimateChangeInDryAreas_2009.htm)

5-7 February, New Delhi, India. DELHI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT (DSDS 2010): BEYOND COPENHAGEN: NEW PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This global forum will be one of the first major gatherings of leaders from various regions of the world after the Copenhagen



Conference of the Parties in December 2009. DSDS 2010 will focus on the formulation and delineation of strategies to move the sustainable development agenda forward. Major themes include: accelerating socio-economic development as a key to adaptation, role of technology, building institutions for effective climate governance, and financing opportunities post Copenhagen. For more information, contact the Summit Secretariat: tel: +91-11-2468-2100; fax: +91-11-2468-2144; email: [dsds@teri.res.in](mailto:dsds@teri.res.in); internet: <http://dsds.teriin.org/2010/index.php>

### Other Upcoming Events:

23 February, New York, US. CSD-18 THEMATIC SEMINAR SERIES: CHEMICALS. The CSD Secretariat is launching a Thematic Seminar Series that will present scientific and technical information on the issues under review by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its 18th and 19th sessions. For more information contact: Tonya Vaturi, Division for Sustainable Development; tel: ++1-212-963-4704; e-mail: [vaturi@un.org](mailto:vaturi@un.org); internet: [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_csd18\\_seminar\\_series.shtm](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_seminar_series.shtm)

1-2 March, London, UK. POWERING THE LOW CARBON ECONOMY. This conference will explore the steps needed to rapidly decarbonise the production of electricity in order to meet emissions reductions targets in 2020 and 2050. Sessions will focus on the prospects of achieving these goals in the post-Copenhagen landscape, new energy technologies, what an ideal power sector would look like, the role of policymakers and government, and the involvement of the private sector. For more information contact the organisers: tel: +44-020-7957-5753; fax: +44-020-7321-2045; email: [conferences@chathamhouse.org.uk](mailto:conferences@chathamhouse.org.uk); internet: [http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/mena\\_energy/](http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/mena_energy/)

7-11 March 2011, Bali, Indonesia. FOURTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY TO THE ITPGR. The fourth session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will address, among other issues, compliance, implementation issues regarding the Treaty's

Multilateral System, and the outstanding financial rules. For more information contact the organisers : tel: +39 (0)6 570 53441 fax: +39 (0)6 570 56347 e-mail: [pgafa-treaty@fao.org](mailto:pgafa-treaty@fao.org); internet: [http://www.planttreaty.org/gbnex\\_en.htm](http://www.planttreaty.org/gbnex_en.htm)

12 March, Doha, Qatar. FIFTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES). This meeting is organised by the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). CITES is an international agreement between governments, with the stated purpose of ensuring that the international trade in specimens of wild plants and animals does not threaten their survival. For more information contact: tel: +41-(0)22-917-8139/40; fax: +41-(0)22-797-3417; e-mail: [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org); internet: <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/59/index.shtml>

16-17 March, Seoul, Republic of Korea. INTERNATIONAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING: UN FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION, FUEL EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSPORT. This meeting will seek to contribute to global efforts to enhance sustainable development of the transport sector and to help curb the global growth of greenhouse gases and other emissions emanating from motor vehicles, in particular in rapidly growing urban areas. It will serve as an intersessional meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). For more information contact: Division for Sustainable Development; tel: +1 212 963 9883 ; e-mail: [UN\\_Urban\\_Transport\\_Forum\\_Seoul@un.org](mailto:UN_Urban_Transport_Forum_Seoul@un.org); internet: [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt\\_tran\\_egm0310.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_tran_egm0310.shtml)

## 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 BioRes staff to Andrew Aziz at [aaziz@ictsd.ch](mailto:aaziz@ictsd.ch).

COMBATING ILLEGAL FISHING IN THE EU: INTERACTION WITH WTO RULES. By Heike Baumüller (Chatham House). January 2010. This paper comes in response to two EU regulations, effective at the start of this year, which seek to establish a comprehensive system to close the European market to imports of illegally caught fish and to stop illegal activities by EU vessels. However, questions arise over compatibility of parts of the legislation with WTO rules. Potential areas of conflict include trade sanctions against foreign vessels and countries and the application of different rules to EU and foreign operations. The authors posit that the policies must be implemented in a fair, transparent manner in order to prevent a WTO challenge and to ensure that the regulations meet their objectives. To access this article, visit: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/publications/papers/view/-/id/826>.

THE BIOFUELS MARKET: CURRENT SITUATION AND ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS. United Nations Conference on Trade and Sustainable Development (UNCTAD). 12 July, 2009. As the biofuels industry continues to experience turmoil, whether the sector will emerge from the deadlock will depend on policies and strategies adopted by different countries. This publication seeks to examine whether the biofuels sector can meet its expectations as a potential means of addressing climate change, energy security, and rural development issues. The new UNCTAD report discusses "alternative decision paths" that governments may consider in relation to biofuels. It provides insights on the global repercussions that those different choices may imply. Several issues are discussed at length, including: government targets and their role in biofuel use, links between biofuels and the greenhouse gas markets, trade potential for developing countries, the prospects offered by new biofuel technologies and their related

intellectual property rights issues, and potential changes in production and trade patterns, should biofuel feedstocks become more commercially widespread. To access this publication, visit: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=12454&intItemID=3830&lang=1&mode=downloads>.

A RENEWABLE WORLD: ENERGY, ECOLOGY, EQUALITY. By Herbert Girardet and Miguel Mendonça (The World Future Council). September 2009. In the absence of an international agreement following the Copenhagen summit last December, this report examines the prospects of addressing global climate change. Specifically, what steps can be taken nationally, regionally and locally to reduce both carbon emissions and atmospheric carbon concentrations? This book argues that the former can be achieved through a transformation in energy production, saving and use, and the latter through biological carbon sequestration. Examples of these strategies are examined throughout the world. In addition, the question of the active participation of all sectors of society in this transformation is considered through examples of existing initiatives, and the wider issue of democratic reform. In addition, the topics of agriculture and food, green collar jobs, cities, and transportation are discussed. To access this publication, visit: [http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/a\\_renewable\\_world.html](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/a_renewable_world.html).

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION: A HIDDEN RISK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. United Nations Department on Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). December 2009. This policy brief was prepared by the UNDESA Division for Sustainable Development, and reviews the topic of ocean acidification and current UN actors that are considering oceans issues. It also presents policy options related to: international action on mitigating carbon dioxide emissions, information generation and dissemination, improving capacities in developing countries, and raising awareness. To access this policy brief, visit: [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res\\_pdfs/publications/sdt\\_cc/cop15\\_policy\\_brief\\_1.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_pdfs/publications/sdt_cc/cop15_policy_brief_1.pdf).

CLIMATE CHANGE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO). December 2009. This collection of three technical papers addresses: the physical and ecological consequences of climate change on marine and freshwater environments; impacts on fisheries and local communities with a focus on adaptation and mitigation measures; and impacts on aquaculture with a review of potential adaptation and mitigation measures. The studies highlight that fisheries and aquaculture make a minor, but still significant contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions throughout the sectors' supply chain. The report notes that ecosystem approaches to aquaculture and fisheries, as well as precautionary management, can help improve the resilience of the sectors. It calls for the integration of fisheries and aquaculture into national climate change and food security policies. To access this resource, visit: [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/newsroom/docs/i0994e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/newsroom/docs/i0994e.pdf).