



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

Volume 10 · Number 10, 31 May 2010

Climate Change

Climate Deal in Cancun Unlikely as
Officials Prepare for Bonn..... 1

Biopiracy

Food Giant Nestlé Accused of Biopiracy..... 3

Forests

Landmark Agreement Brings End to
Canadian Timber Boycott 4

In Brief

UNCTAD Looks to Technology to
Bolster Africa's Food Security..... 6

European Debt Crisis Causing Renewable
Energy Companies to Fall Behind..... 6

EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Events..... 7

Resources 9

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

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

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

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

Contributors to this issue were Andrew Aziz, Sofia Alicia Balaño, Trineesh Biswas, Damon Vis-Dunbar, and Ana Maria Kleymeyer.

The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz.

ISSN 1682-0843

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Deal in Cancun Unlikely as Officials Prepare for Bonn

As officials ready themselves for a two week UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Bonn, Germany, most climate observers now say that clinching a deal at the next Conference of the Parties in Cancun, Mexico (COP 16) is unlikely.

The annual mid-year meeting in Bonn, scheduled to get underway on 31 May, has been billed for some months as an opportunity for countries to lay the groundwork for clinching an international climate treaty in Cancun. However, statements from key officials in recent months have led many pundits to call Cancun a pit stop, rather than a destination.

Those conceding that a more realistic goal will be COP 17 in Cape Town, South Africa, include European Commissioner for Climate Action Connie Hedegaard and outgoing UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer. The Bonn meeting will be de Boer's last as UNFCCC chief. He will be replaced by Costa Rican diplomat Christiana Figueres.

"I think developing countries especially would want to see what an agreement would entail for them before they are willing to turn it into a legally-binding treaty," de Boer said last week in a teleconference with journalists. "So I think if we are to get to a treaty, South Africa a year later, is much more realistic."

Despite commitments from officials from the BASIC countries – Brazil, South Africa, India, China – to push for the completion of a legally binding global climate treaty in Cancun, China now appears to have reconsidered. In a statement last week, Xie Zhenhua, one of China's top

climate change officials, confirmed that China has now set its sights on COP 17 for sealing a deal.

An additional blow to Cancun came recently when German news magazine *Der Spiegel* reported that Chancellor Angela Merkel is shying away from her goal of establishing a binding agreement limiting climate change to 2 degrees Celsius. Merkel, formerly a champion of the 2 degree benchmark, is said to have reconsidered based on a lack of support from key developing countries, including India and China.

Bonn: a key barometer

Four major negotiations will be taking place in Bonn: the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA); the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI); the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA).

Observers will be watching the AWG-KP closely as officials work through a new negotiating text to achieve greater clarity on the future of the Kyoto Protocol. The text, which was submitted by the chair of the group, is based on the decisions from COP 15 in Copenhagen – including the previous negotiating text and the Copenhagen Accord.

The status of the Protocol has been a divisive issue in the negotiations thus far. Developing countries insist that any movement away from the Kyoto framework will result in a weaker agreement. Meanwhile, richer nations argue that the Copenhagen Accord it provides a better framework for a binding deal.

Overall, Bonn will be an important barometer for assessing how swiftly parties are willing to move on advancing a legal agreement. Some issues – such as REDD-Plus, the Technology Mechanism, Capacity Building and, to some extent, financing – appear to be coming together faster than others.

“Fast-Start” financing to be scrutinised

Another key issue to watch will be the extent of commitment offered by developed countries

regarding financing agreed to in Copenhagen. De Boer has challenged countries to put their money where their mouths are. But while advancement on financing is likely to improve the general dynamic of the group, current financial turmoil in Europe could dash any hopes for serious commitment.

"The priority for the industrialised countries is to deploy the 30 billion [US\$] they pledged from now until 2012 in short-term finance to kickstart climate action in developing countries," de Boer said. "Now, of course, times are harsh, especially in Europe, but raising 10 billion a year for three years amongst all industrialised countries is not an impossible call."

The so-called fast-start financing was agreed to by parties to the hastily thrown together "Copenhagen Accord." The promise was offered as a token of good faith to developing countries, which are expected to bear the brunt of climate change. However, the details of the financing – how funds will be disbursed and to who – are scant (see Bridges Trade BioRes, [30 April 2010](#)).

Cancun unlikely not impossible

Despite the shroud of pessimism hanging over the talks, experts say that the 44 page text could be ready for Cancun if the political will exists. Still, the political meetings up to now suggest that certain issues will require protracted negotiation. At the top of the heap of these difficult issues are mitigation – and its associated financial and technological support – and adaptation – scaling up support.

Currently, the numbers on the table do not add up to limiting global warming to a maximum 2 degree Celsius temperature rise – which for some countries and communities say is even too much. The mitigation issue will require serious negotiation if there is to be any hope of achieving a viable solution – which could include the incorporation of carbon markets.

More information

To access the schedule of meetings for the mid-year Bonn meeting, click [here](#).

ICTSD Reporting.

BIOPIRACY

Food Giant Nestlé Accused of Biopiracy

Nestlé, the world's largest food company, is facing allegations of biopiracy after it applied for patents involving two plants found in South Africa without having negotiated permission to use them with the South African government.

In what they have dubbed the “rooibos robbery,” the Berne Declaration, a Swiss advocacy organisation, and Natural Justice, a South African environmental group, are accusing Nestlé of having violated South African law and the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD).

At issue are two plants found in South Africa, rooibos and honeybush, both of which are commonly used to make herbal teas. Nestec, a Nestlé subsidiary, filed four international patent applications for using the plants or extracts from them to treat hair and skin conditions such as acne, wrinkles, and hair loss. A fifth application sought patent protection for using rooibos as an anti-inflammatory. It is seeking patent protection in a large number of countries around the world, including South Africa.

Benefit-sharing a key issue

According to Natural Justice and the Berne Declaration, the South African Biodiversity Act -- the country's implementing legislation for the CBD -- requires companies to get a permit from the government if they intend to use South African genetic resources for research or patenting. These permits can only be obtained with a benefit-sharing agreement.

In a press release, Natural Justice and the Berne Declaration said that South Africa's department of environmental affairs told them that Nestlé never received permits to use rooibos and honeybush.

“Based on the information provided,” the groups said, “it is clear the patents of Nestlé and the research on which they are based are in contradiction with South African law and the CBD.”

Although best known for food product brands such as Nescafé, Nespresso, and Gerber, Nestlé is active in the cosmetic industry. It owns over a quarter of L'Oréal, the world's largest cosmetics firm; the two companies together own Laboratoires Innéov, a nutritional cosmetics venture.

“Nestlé builds its new business on illegally accessed material, precluding South Africa of their rightful share of benefits. Such illegal behaviour must no longer be supported by the patent system and tolerated by our governments,” said François Meienberg of the Berne Declaration.

Plants not sourced in South Africa, Nestlé says

Nestlé this week rejected the accusations. According to a [report](#) in the South African newspaper Business Day, company spokesman Ravi Pillay said that Nestlé had neither sourced the plants in South Africa nor done research on them there. South African suppliers had provided rooibos and honeybush extracts and material to two Nestlé research facilities in Switzerland and France, which then used it for basic research on active ingredients.

Following this research, he said, Nestec filed several patents to protect its research results, which showed potential benefits for consumers. “Nestec has not filed any patent relating to the plants themselves, or extracts of the plants. Nestlé has not made any commercial use of these patents, and has no plans to do so in the near future,” he added.

Pillay said that if Nestlé decided to use the patents commercially, it would comply fully with the benefit-sharing provisions in South African law.

However, Johanna von Braun of Natural Justice in Cape Town said that, under South African law, the commercial phase of bioprospecting begins once a patent application has been filed. At this early phase, a permit – which would include a benefit sharing agreement and a material transfer agreement – has to have been submitted regardless of where the research takes place, she said.

Von Braun said that the companies that supplied the rooibos and honeybush to Nestlé had also not secured permits.

International law unclear on “ex-situ” resources

There is a lacuna in international patent law about who owns genetic resources once they have been removed from their country of origin. The Convention on Biological Diversity clearly specifies that genetic resources are under national sovereignty. But it is less clear about Nestlé’s responsibilities vis-a-vis genetic resources from another continent supplied to it in Europe.

South African law, however, is quite clear: it specifies that all indigenous biological resources are those historically from South Africa.

The terms under which the South African suppliers provided the plants to Nestlé mattered, von Braun explained. “If they’re exporting rooibos to make tea, they don’t need a permit. But if they were going to be used for research, the suppliers would have needed an export permit including a bioprospecting application from Nestlé.”

Since 2002, parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have been negotiating an international regime on access and benefit sharing. This would create firmer rules about the use of genetic resources, including so-called “ex situ” resources that are no longer in their country of origin.

“The Nestlé case highlights the urgent need of a new protocol that prevents the misappropriation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge,” said Kabir Bavikatte from Natural Justice. “Only a strong protocol will protect

developing countries from an unlawful exploitation by companies.”

ICTSD reporting; “Nestlé denies ‘Rooibos Robbery,’” BUSINESS DAY, 28 May 2010.

FORESTS

Landmark Agreement Brings End to Canadian Timber Boycott

After two years of negotiations, nine major environmental groups have agreed to end a “Do Not Buy” campaign against Canadian forest products after an agreement was reached with 21 of Canada’s major forestry companies – all members of the Forest Products Association of Canada.

The forestry companies agreed restrict logging in Canada’s boreal forest over a three-year period to provide scientists with an opportunity to assess how the industry affects species in the area. Researchers are also expected to identify lands that may be suitable for sustainable forestry projects in the future.

The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement covers 66 percent of the commercial forests in Canada – an area approximately twice the size of Germany. Companies have agreed to immediately halt logging on forty percent or 303,514 square kilometres of the land in the agreement. Over the upcoming years, participants in the deal will negotiate over what level of restrictions to reply on the remaining land.

Boycott ranged from lumber to pulp and paper products

In return for the moratorium, environmental groups such as Greenpeace, Canopy, and Forest Ethics will end their international “Do Not Buy” campaigns, which – rather than targeting the forestry companies head-on – instead encourage consumers to resist purchasing what they believe are unsustainable products. In their campaigns, the organisations directed their efforts towards the

boycott of products from construction lumber to toilet paper.

For instance, Greenpeace began targeting paper giant Kimberly-Clark in 2004 for buying pulp from logging operations in parts of the Canadian boreal forest. Greenpeace convinced over 700 businesses to stop buying Kimberly-Clark products until, in 2009, the green group won from them a guarantee that Kimberly-Clark would leave non-Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified boreal lands in two years' time.

These conservation groups say they targeted these companies out of concern for the climate change implications of logging, given that the boreal forest stores more than 20 percent of the total carbon stored in the planet's land surface. The Canadian boreal forest is also home to caribou and other endangered species.

ForestEthics, an organisation based in the United States, campaigned against the office supply industry and major companies, such as Victoria's Secret, so that they would stop using paper whose pulp came from boreal trees.

Meanwhile, the Canadian-based organisation Canopy – formerly known as Markets Initiative – focussed on the publishing industry, convincing Scholastic Press to print *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* on FSC-certified paper in 2007. This printing of the popular series was one of the largest single paper orders on record, according to *The Economist*, with an estimated value of \$US 20 million.

Potential for eco-friendly marketing approach

Eighty percent of products from these logging companies are sold to the United States. With the Canadian forestry sector already struggling with the effects of the US housing crisis, signing on to this agreement allows these logging companies – and the producers that buy from them – to market themselves as sustainable and eco-friendly. This strategy could help open up new sectors of the market, both in the US and elsewhere, according to the Associated Press – helping rescue the forestry industry from further economic difficulty.

According to a New York Times blog, Avrim Lazar – president and chief executive of FPAC – praised the agreement as a potential framework that others could adopt when trying to resolve “the hard problems of integrating environment and economy the whole world is facing.”

Lazar was also quoted in the Associated Press as saying that this agreement was “a business strategy for us [...] we're doing it not just because we love the forest, but because this is where the industry is heading.”

However, critics say some concerns remain regarding the agreement's value. One problem is that all of the land in the agreed-upon area is provincial government land, rather than owned directly by the forestry companies and the use of some of the land is controlled by native groups. Because, the agreement itself does not include either party, environmental organisations must now have these two parties on board as well.

ICTSD Reporting; “Forestry companies reach environmental deal,” ASSOCIATED PRESS, 18 May 2010; “Third Place: Kleercut Campaign,” BUSINESS ETHICS NETWORK, 2007; “A Canadian compromise,” THE ECONOMIST, 25 May 2010; “Kimberly-Clark and Greenpeace agree to historic measures to protect forests; KLEERCUT.NET, 5 August 2009; “Agreement halts timber harvest in large swaths of Canadian forest,” LOS ANGELES TIMES, 19 May 2010; “Pact protects Canadian forests,” NATURE, 18 May 2010; “An Entente with the Tree Cutters,” NEW YORK TIMES: GREEN BLOG, 18 May 2010; “Canadian loggers, green groups to protect forests,” PLANET ARK, 19 May 2010; “‘Stunning’ forest-protection deal met with caution in B.C.” THE PROVINCE, 19 May 2010; “170 million acres of Canada's boreal forest to be saved,” USA TODAY, 18 May 2010; “Science Matters: Canada's aboriginal people are the key to boreal agreement's success,” WINNIPEG FREE PRESS, 26 May 2010.

IN BRIEF

UNCTAD Looks to Technology to Bolster Africa's Food Security

A United Nations report released last week said African farmers need improved technology and innovation to reverse a nearly 40-year decline in agricultural output.

Some of the best solutions may involve simple tools and techniques, such as low-cost irrigation systems to catch and conserve water. However more advanced options, like genetically modified (GM) crops, also have a role to play, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

GM crops have become a more viable option for poor farmers thanks to non-proprietary models developed by academic, philanthropic, and private-sector institutions. Socially responsible licensing of GM seeds, such as crop varieties geared specifically to the needs of smallholder farmers, is also becoming more common within the agricultural biotech sector, notes the report.

So far, GM technology has focused primarily on a handful of crops, like maize, soya, and cotton. But UNCTAD stresses that applying biotechnology to other varieties of plants, like grass sorghum, could result in drought and disease-resistant crops.

A lack of investment in farming has taken a heavy toll on productivity in the continent for more than three decades. Agricultural output in Africa was a fifth lower at the turn of the century than in the early 1970s – in Asia and Latin America, production has increased over the same period.

The report emphasises that this decline undermines efforts to improve development in Africa, where 16 percent of the economy and 60 percent of employment is based on the agricultural sector.

UNCTAD also remarks that economic policies undertaken by African countries have largely missed their objectives. “The thirty-year legacy of structural adjustment and trade liberalisation has

turned Africa from a net food-exporting continent to one that predominantly imports,” writes UNCTAD. While African governments have often eliminated price controls, privatised state farms and cut subsidies for inputs like fertilizers, these measures have failed to entice the private sector to fill the void.

“Longstanding policy failures must be reversed,” the report states. “Experience from the most recent crisis also shows that countries that specifically aim to achieve food security can cushion the blows from a cyclical world market. Future trade agreements must ensure that the space to apply such policies is preserved and, indeed, strengthened.”

More information

UNCTAD’s “Technology and Innovation Report 2010: Enhancing Food Security in Africa through Science, Technology and Innovation”, can be accessed [here](#).

ICTSD Reporting.

European Debt Crisis Causing Renewable Energy Companies to Fall Behind

The ongoing debt crisis in Greece, coupled with the larger-scale decline of the euro, is placing considerable pressure on subsidy-dependent renewable energy producers as well as manufacturers. Subsidy cuts are being made to producers as a means of reining in surging budget deficits. However, the move is making it increasingly difficult for such companies to remain profitable.

Along with the expected subsidy cuts, solar sector shares throughout Europe have dropped drastically, as have alternative energy exchange-traded funds that invest in companies involved with wind biofuels, turbines, and solar power.

Renewable energy companies based outside Europe that sell their products in the EU are also suffering due to the euro’s steady decline, which continues to be spurred on by the Greek crisis.

This situation has led at least some of these companies to consider choosing non-EU countries to invest in, such as China or the US.

The Spanish government has suggested it may slash financial support of already existing renewable energy plants, causing many investors to withdraw their support. The expected price cuts from such a measure would undermine the previous expectation that plants built during Spain's earlier solar energy initiative would be subject to guaranteed prices for 25 years.

Other countries, including Italy and Germany, are facing cuts of slightly lesser, though still drastic, scale.

Europe is also looking south as a means to fulfil its pledge to generating 20 percent of its power from renewable sources by the year 2020. The Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP), aims to generate 20 gigawatts of renewable electricity in the countries found on the Mediterranean's southern shore. The MSP's other goal, meant to be fulfilled concurrently, involves building the level of physical infrastructure needed to then transfer such electricity to other parts of Europe.

The infrastructure costs associated with transferring energy around Europe are being scrutinised as well as governments clamp down on spending. Indeed, shifting the focus from energy sources within Europe towards energy sources on the other side of the Mediterranean might still be – at least in the short term – more expensive than the EU can currently handle.

Spain's Secretary of State for Energy, Pedro Marín, cautioned other representatives at a recent MSP meeting that public assistance would have to be limited, given the costliness of such an endeavour. He also suggested that consumers and foreign investors would need to take on more of the burden when it comes to financing alternative energy sources, according to Spanish newspaper El País.

"Greek Crisis and Euro's Drop Snare Clean-Energy Stocks," BLOOMBERG, 20 May 2010; "Mediterranean Solar Bloc Investors Need Clear Rules, EU Says," BLOOMBERG, 11 May 2010; "Europe's solar eclipse," CNN MONEY, 20 May

2010; "El Gobierno pide a los ciudadanos que asuman el coste de la energía," EL PAÍS, 12 May 2010; "Mediterranean Solar Plan," EUROPEAN PHOTOVOLTAIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION; "China beats rich nations in renewable energy race," HINDUSTAN TIMES, 21 May 2010; "Conference in Valencia to discuss Mediterranean Solar Plan," XINHUA NET, 11 May 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 (28 May-11 June)

28 May, Geneva, Switzerland. GENEVA ROUNDTABLE SERIES: EXPLORING STRATEGIES FOR AN ENHANCED DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINED POVERTY REDUCTION IN THE CONTEXT OF TRADE AND CLIMATE CHANGE. This roundtable discussion will focus on the various inter-linkages between trade, poverty, and climate change, with the goal of developing policy proposals in these fields. It will particularly focus on issues of financing, including how to make climate change financing and aid for trade complementary and mutually reinforcing. This event is part of the Geneva Roundtables Series on Climate Change, Trade and Development 2010-2011. To learn more, click [here](#).

29-30 May, Nairobi, Kenya. SECOND EXPERT MEETING FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) will be hosting this event, which will act as a follow-up to the Steering Committee on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity's first meeting in October of last year. This consultative expert meeting will consist of a review of the draft Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for

Development, with special attention on implementation. For more information, visit the [event's website](#).

3 June, Brussels, Belgium. **IMPACT OF WOOD-BASED BIOENERGY ON FORESTS, FOREST DEPENDENT PEOPLE AND THE CLIMATE – A SOUTHERN PERSPECTIVE.** This seminar focuses on the increasing European demand for large-scale wood-based bioenergy on forests, forest-dependent people, and the climate as a whole. The event will feature presentations from civil society organizations, as well as Indigenous People's Organisations, about their perspectives regarding the impact of biofuel usage. Biofuelwatch, Friends of the Earth International, the Global Forest Coalition, and the Global Justice Ecology Project will be co-hosting this seminar at the European Parliament. To register for the event, e-mail [Yolanda Sikking](mailto:Yolanda.Sikking); more details are available at the Global Forest Coalition's [website](#).

4 June, Washington, US. **TRANSPORTATION CARBON FEES: IS KERRY-LIEBERMAN THE ANSWER?** This event, hosted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, will feature a four-person panel discussion regarding the implications of the recently-unveiled Kerry-Lieberman climate bill. Topics discussed will include whether carbon fees can be known outside of the "gas tax" epithet, and whether fights over revenue allocation will ultimately doom the carbon fees suggestion, regardless of what term the concept is known by. This panel's members come from a range of backgrounds, from the Natural Resources Defense Council to Transportation for America. For more information, or to register, refer to the [event's website](#).

8-10 June, Montreal, Canada. **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY (ICBCD): DIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT – DEVELOPMENT FOR DIVERSITY.** The goal of this event is to develop specific recommendations for the creation of development cooperation strategies and programmes that address biological and cultural diversity concerns. The organisers hope to bring together a wide variety of participants, with the goal of expanding the debate to include interested parties that may

not have environmental expertise. This conference is being jointly organised by UN Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation, the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Canada Research Chair in Ethnoecology and Biodiversity (University of Montreal), in partnership with the International Economic Forum of the Americas. More information can be found at the [event's website](#).

28-30 May, Bonn, Germany. **FIRST WORLD CONGRESS ON CITIES AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.** Jointly hosted by Local Governments for Sustainability, the City of Bonn and the World Mayors Council on Climate Change, Resilient Cities 2010 will offer an opportunity for participants to share the latest scientific findings, state-of-the-art approaches and effective programmes on climate change adaptation and resilience-building in cities and urbanised areas. Case examples of local adaptation practice will illustrate approaches and experiences. The conference aims at setting the direction for future planning of and investment in urban infrastructure. For further information, visit the [Congress website](#).

Other Upcoming Events:

15 June, Berlin, Germany. **CLIMATE GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE: ADDRESSING CLIMATE GOVERNANCE RISKS IN A NEW CLIMATE REGIME: KNOWLEDGE, ECONOMY AND EQUITY PARADIGMS.** The Centre for Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics of InWEnt – Capacity Building International, Germany, and Transparency International are co-hosting this conference, which aims to provide an international forum for experts and decision-makers of the development and climate community, along with interested members of the general public. Having such a forum, conference organisers say, will be an opportunity to bring together a variety of perspectives on climate governance, especially given the upcoming COP 16 in Cancun. For further information, or to register, visit the [conference website](#).

24-25 June, London, UK. **ILLEGAL LOGGING UPDATE AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION NUMBER 16.** This meeting, one of a series organised by Chatham House, is open to all interested members of the public. The event's preliminary agenda includes updates on the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative, progress with Voluntary Partnership Agreements in central Africa, Ghana, and Indonesia, and research, country, and private sector updates, among other topics. For more information, or to register, see the [meeting's website](#).

23-24 September, London, UK. **CLIMATE CHANGE 2010: THE WAY FORWARD IN A POST-COPENHAGEN WORLD.** This conference, organised by Chatham House, will ask whether an international agreement on climate will be reached in 2010-11, and if that appears unlikely, what alternative forms of governance will emerge and what governments and the business sector can do to respond. Organisers hope to bring together political leaders, chief negotiators, experts, analysts, and heads of business from both developed and developing nations to discuss issues such as the prospects for long term finance of adaptation, mitigation, and forests, along with how national policy can create conditions to stimulate investment, among other topics. To learn more, or to register, visit the [event website](#).

5-8 October, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. **SECOND INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.** This meeting is a follow-up on a mandate from the Heads of State and Government of the Americas from the Fifth Summit of the Americas in January of this year. The goal of this upcoming event is to build upon the prior agenda inspired by the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and the Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development, and address emerging environmental concerns. To learn more, visit the [OAS website](#).

25-27 October, Mechelen, Belgium. **ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) GLOBAL FORUM ON ENVIRONMENT: SUSTAINABLE**

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT. The Public Waste Agency of Flanders will be hosting a forum, organised by the OECD, to discuss new sustainable materials management (SSM) practices, policies for implementing these practices, to follow-up on reports from two prior SSM workshops that were also held by the OECD. Participation is open to OECD countries, delegates from invited non-member economies, and other invited experts. The organisers are also inviting the UN Resource panel, along with representatives from the business and NGO communities. For more information, including a preliminary agenda, refer to the [event website](#).

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.

ENHANCING CUSTOMS COLLABORATION TO COMBAT THE TRADE IN ILLEGAL TIMBER. By Henry Scheyvens and Federico Casero Lopez (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies and The Nature Conservancy, 2010). This report presents the results of a study and peer review workshop on options for enhanced collaboration between Customs authorities to combat trade in illegal wood products. It builds upon prior initiatives of the Asia Forest Partnership and East Asia and Pacific Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) that were geared towards that same end. The report aims to assist Customs and timber trade regulating agencies in their attempts to better manage the international tropical timber trade, thus minimising illegal logging and improving the development of sustainable forests.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS IN A CHANGING WORLD. Edited by Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz and Pedro Roffe (ICTSD, 2010). This book reviews a series of new and emerging intellectual property (IP) issues from a development perspective. It uses case studies from

Africa, Asia, and Latin America to examine the impact of IP on the pharmaceutical sector, geographical indications, the protection of life forms and traditional knowledge, and other areas of concern. This book also pays special attention to the IP challenges specific to developing countries, given the establishment of the TRIPS-Plus patent obligations. The overall findings show that there is no universal mode of IP protection.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD). The Convention on Biological Diversity's revamped website was launched earlier this week to mark the annual celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity. The website is available in all six United Nations languages, and aims to be more user-friendly; CBD has also launched [a separate website](#) dedicated to the International Year of Biodiversity, and built a [Facebook page](#) around the event in order to develop an increased online presence through social networking. These new initiatives are all part of an effort to improve the dissemination of information from biodiversity stakeholders to a wider community.

GREEN, FAIR AND PRODUCTIVE: HOW THE 2012 RIO CONFERENCE CAN MOVE THE WORLD TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY. (Green Economy Coalition, 2010). In anticipation of this week's UN meeting to plan the 2012 conference meant to mark the 20th anniversary of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the Green Coalition released a paper calling for a redesign of the conference's planned agenda. The coalition cites concerns over the slow progress towards the goals set out in the first Rio Summit, and the need to move towards sustainability. Nearly a third of the world's population are living on less than US\$2 a day, while people in wealthier countries have consumption and lifestyle patterns that create a carbon footprint far greater than what the Earth is believed to be able to withstand. Green jobs are among the many areas where there is room for substantial improvement. The coalition calls upon the conference to take a stronger approach towards attaining a more sustainable world economy.