



# Bridges Trade BioRes

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

Volume 10 • Number 5, 19 March 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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This edition of Bridges Trade BioRes was edited by Andrew Aziz, [aaziz@ictsd.ch](mailto:aaziz@ictsd.ch).

Contributors to this issue were Andrew Aziz, Bonnie Magnuson, and Sarah Worden.

The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz.

ISSN 1682-0843

## FISHERIES

### CITES Member Countries Strike Down Bluefin Tuna Ban

Less than a week into the much anticipated 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), member states have voted down a proposal to classify bluefin tuna as an endangered species.

With the momentum triggered by the EU and US support for an Appendix I listing – which would result in an effective trade ban – in the lead-up to the COP, many observers were stunned to see a vote striking down the ban come so early in the two week conference.

Monaco, which spearheaded the campaign, officially tabled its proposal for an immediate listing of bluefin Appendix I on Thursday. Shortly thereafter, the EU tabled a compromise proposal that would have delayed the implementation of a trade ban until May 2011 to conduct scientific testing to confirm whether bluefin tuna stocks are, in fact, at dangerously low levels.

But rather than opening the proposals up to debate, Libya called for an immediate vote. The Monaco proposal was voted down 20 to 68, with 30 abstentions and the EU proposal fell by 43 to 72 with 14 abstentions. CITES proposals require a two-thirds majority to pass.

### Momentum stalled early in talks

Shortly before the start of the COP the EU had surprised many observers by announcing its 27 member states had reached a consensus and would vote for a ban at the Doha, Qatar meeting. Because the EU holds more than 50 percent of the total bluefin catch quota and European countries along the Mediterranean play a major

role in the industry, a collective position supporting the ban was seen as unlikely by many observers.

The EU decision built on the momentum of an earlier US announcement that it would also push for an Appendix I listing for the fish. Species listed on Appendix I of CITES are considered to be “threatened with extinction,” and are banned from trade among the 175 countries that are CITES members.

Shortly following the US announcement, Japan – the world’s largest importer of bluefin – went on the offensive, warning that it may not comply with CITES if the treaty blocks the country’s access to the fish. Japan had reportedly managed to muster support for its decision in Doha from China and “several Arab countries” in the early days of the meeting.

Those aligning themselves with Japan said the trade ban would be damaging to poor fishing nations and asserted that the proposal is not backed by sound science. Some 80 percent of the global bluefin tuna catch is exported to Japan, where it is sold as a premium dish in restaurants.

In the wake of the vote, it is unclear where alliances were ultimately placed due to a request from Iceland that countries’ votes be kept secret.

### **Harsh reaction from green groups**

With the bluefin tuna issue – the proposal with top billing in Doha – so quickly defeated, reaction by environmental groups appeared to be one of genuine surprise. Once groups such as WWF and Oceana – which had campaigned strongly in the months leading up to COP – had digested the news, their criticism was harsh.

Dave Allison, senior campaign director of Washington-based Oceana called the vote “a clear win by short-term economic interest over the long-term health of the ocean and the rebuilding of Atlantic bluefin tuna populations and fishery.”

Allison also criticised the procedures followed in Doha, calling the secret voting process an “attack on transparency” and arguing that the timing of the vote stifled debate. “Although there were

repeated calls from delegates from the EU, US, and Monaco to allow time for parties to meet and arrive at a compromise position, the Libya delegate forced a preemptory vote.” Allison said in a statement.

Sergi Tudela, head of fisheries at WWF Mediterranean concurred, saying “it is scandalous that governments did not even get the chance to engage in meaningful debate about the international trade ban proposal.”

### **Back to ICCAT**

With the defeat of the bluefin proposal at CITES, management for the fishery remains in the hands of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). However, conservationists have argued for years that the regulatory body is incapable of adequately managing the industry.

ICCAT has attempted to help make the bluefin fishery more sustainable in recent years – most recently reeling in catch quotas from 22,000 tonnes in 2009 to 13,500 tonnes for 2010 and decreasing the purse seiner fishing season by one month – but critics argue that the organisation has not done enough to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Proponents of the Appendix I CITES listing argued that regulations governing trade would be more effective than attempting to regulate fishing fleets. By ICCAT’s own numbers, more bluefin tuna was exported to Japan alone than the total allowable catch for 2007.

“ICCAT...has repeatedly failed to sustainably manage this fishery,” said WWF’s Tudela. “ICCAT has so far failed miserably in this duty so every pressure at the highest level must come to bear to ensure it does what it should.”

For its part, Japan says it acknowledges that bluefin tuna stocks are under threat, but it argues that reduced catch limits accompanied by stricter enforcement would be a more sensible way to deal with the problem.

"We will intensify our efforts to control these resources and prevent illegal harvesting of these fish," Japan's agriculture minister Hirotaka Akamatsu told reporters Friday. "We believe we have the responsibility to show leadership in control over these resources."

Environmental groups are now hoping to convince consumers to boycott the fish as an improvised means to help reduce demand. "It is now more important than ever for people to do what the politicians failed to do – stop consuming bluefin tuna," Tudela said.

### **Other species under the microscope in Doha**

The bluefin tuna defeat was the first of two major defeats for conservationists on Tuesday. A US led proposal that would stop international trophy hunting of polar bears was also struck down at the meeting. Polar bear habitat is under threat from climate change, which is rapidly melting sea ice.

"While we are disappointed with the votes today ... we are heartened by the support around world to up-list the polar bear and bluefin tuna," Tom Strickland, assistant secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks told reporters following Thursday's vote.

Other proposals waiting for a vote at the CITES COP include the addition of eight shark species to Appendix II – where trade is heavily regulated, but not banned – and measures regulating dozens of coral species.

ICTSD Reporting; "Japanese Fish Dealers Welcome Tuna Ban Rejection," ABC NEWS, 19 March 2010; "U.N. Rejects Export Ban on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna," THE NEW YORK TIMES, 18 March 2010; "Conference rejects protection for polar bears," CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, 19 March 2010; "Global conference rejects bans on trade in bluefin tuna, polar bear," THE WASHINGTON POST, 19 March 2010.

## **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

### **EU Approves Controversial GM Potato**

In a departure from traditional policy, the EU has approved German chemical company BASF's genetically modified (GM) Amflora potato for industrial cultivation. The move has sparked controversy over the crop's antibiotic resistant properties, which critics say could impact antimicrobials - substances that help destroy or resist disease-causing microorganisms.

The decision to approve the GM crop for cultivation is the first in over a decade-the last being Monsanto's MON 810 insect-repellent corn in 1998. The move is pivotal on two accounts: not only does it represent a change in policy of the traditionally GM-resistant EU, it also marks a departure from the collective decision-making tendencies of the body by deferring specific decisions on whether to grow the GM products to member countries themselves.

The GM Amflora potatoes are intended for industrial purposes, with the modification allowing the tuber to produce significantly more starch when manufacturing products such as paper and textiles. Conventional potatoes produce two types of starch; the Amflora consists nearly entirely of the type ideal for technical applications, reducing by-product and waste and optimising the use of potatoes for starch. These starch potatoes, the kind specifically used for industrial purposes, are most commonly grown and processed in Germany, the Netherlands, France, Denmark, and Poland. Already, BASF intends to plant the crop in Germany and the Czech Republic, with Sweden and the Netherlands expected to begin cultivating the crop shortly after.

### **Safeguarding measures**

Controversy over the approval of the Amflora potatoes centred on the use of an antibiotic-resistant gene that serves as a marker for the efficacy of the modifications.

A memo released by the European Commission states that the use of the Antibiotic Resistant Marker (ARM) gene in the potato received high scrutiny in the decision making process and assures European citizens that the EU will implement stringent regulations to ensure that the crop does not propagate or disperse the controversial gene into the environment. In 2007, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) acknowledged the importance of guaranteeing that the antibiotic-resistant crop does not interfere with the therapeutic properties of medicinal antibiotics. However, the body now says that the ARM is safe and that it will have no harmful effect.

In addition to the decision regarding the cultivation of the Amflora potato, the European Commission also adopted decisions allowing the import and processing of three Monsanto types of GM maize for food and feed.

### Reactions to the move

Some European manufacturers have claimed that the EU's hesitation to approve the cultivation of GM crops has hurt the competitiveness of European farmers and biotech companies, and compromised the bloc's long-term food security. Nevertheless, several member states continue to express significant concern over GM foods, despite scientific research that the modifications pose no health risk.

Marco Contiero, Greenpeace's EU Policy Director on Genetic Engineering, called the application of the ARM and admittance of the potato "problematic," adding that he finds it "shocking that one of the Commission's first official acts is to authorise a GM crop that puts the environment and public health at risk." Italy has threatened to rally other EU states against the measures, with the country's agriculture minister, Luca Zaia, heading the charge. In addition to the GM issue itself, Zaia has said that he believes the decision infringes on the sovereignty of EU member states.

The decision marks a commitment by EC President José Manuel Barroso to approach the GM question in the EU with what he calls sound science, rather than emotions. The EU decision comes in the wake of a string of national bans

against the cultivation of MON 810 implemented last year despite safety reassurances from Brussels.

In the US, Dick Lugar, a senator and ranking member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, lauded the decision, saying that the approval of Amflora potatoes could be a first step toward more general EU acceptance of biotech products. The US has long been critical of the EU's anti-GM position, arguing that it is not in line with Europe's WTO commitments.

ICTSD reporting; "Brussels breaks ground with go-ahead for modified potato," FINANCIAL TIMES, 3 March 2010; "EU Approves First Modified Crop for Planting in 12 Years," THE NEW YORK TIMES, 2 March 2010; "EU Clears Biotech Potato for Cultivation," THE NEW YORK TIMES, 2 March 2010; "EU Commission under fire over GM Potato," THE PARLIAMENT.COM, 9 March 2010; "European Commission okays GM Potatoes," FRANCE 24, 03 March 2010; "GM potato Cleared for EU Farming," BBC NEWS, 2 March 2010; "Is the EU finally embracing GM crops?" REUTERS, 2 March 2010.

## IN BRIEF

### EU, Argentina End Seven-Year WTO Biotech Row

The WTO dispute launched by Argentina against the EU over its biotechnology legislation in May 2003 ended Thursday with the two countries coming to an agreement on how to handle issues related to biotech trade in the future. The settlement establishes that the two countries will engage in regular dialogue on issues of mutual interest related to genetically modified (GM) agriculture. The agreement is similar to a deal struck between the EU and Canada in July 2009 (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 7 August 2009, <http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/52891/>).

A 21 November 2006 decision by the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) on the original complaint – filed jointly by the US, Canada, and Argentina in May 2003 – found that the EU had

violated the Organization's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement on three grounds. First, it agreed that EU policy on the issue was tantamount to a de facto moratorium on approval of GM products from June 1999 to August 2003. Second, out of 27 product-specific applications proposed to the DSB, 23 were found to have been subjected to undue delays. Finally, national safeguard measures introduced by six EU member states (prior to the establishment of the DSB) were found to be based on an inappropriate risk assessment (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 1 December 2006, <http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/9074/>).

The agreement will have European Commission authorities meet with their Argentinean counterparts to discuss agricultural biotechnology and trade issues of mutual interest, such as the authorisation processes of GM products of mutual interest, measures related to biotechnology which may affect trade, evaluating the economic and trade outlook of future GM product approvals, and the renewal of GM product authorisations.

The EU insists that the dialogue will not influence any decisions made on biotech policy in Brussels. Rather, they say the dialogue is expected to act as an exchange of information on contentious biotech issues in an attempt to avoid any unnecessary trade obstacles.

Canada, Argentina, and the US have been meeting regularly with the European Commission to discuss biotech-related issues since the adoption of the WTO panel report in 2006. But while discussions with Canada and Argentina have been fruitful, the US remains a hold out.

"This is the second settlement regarding the WTO case on GMOs that is reached," said EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht in a statement. "This is certainly a recognition by Canada and Argentina as much as the EU that the best approach to this complex issue is a regular dialogue. I hope the United States, the only remaining WTO complainant in this dispute, will soon come to the same conclusion."

#### More information

An EU Fact Sheet on the agreement can be accessed here: <http://bit.ly/d1tFyd>

ICTSD Reporting.

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### China-Burma Border Hot-Spot for Illegal Wildlife Trade: WWF

Chinese attempts to reduce or eliminate trade in endangered wildlife have been hindered its porous border with Burma, according to a new report by TRAFFIC, WWF's wildlife trade monitoring network. "The State of Wildlife Trade in China 2008," part of an annual series that assesses trends in China's wildlife trade, finds that poor enforcement of wildlife trade regulations in China is allowing dealers to provide door-to-door delivery of rare or banned animal goods by smuggling items across the border from Burma's less-regulated markets.

Despite the presence of Burmese laws forbidding trade in endangered species, the locations investigated by TRAFFIC are effectively exempt from national rules, since the region—Special Region 4—is an autonomous state controlled by the rebel group the National Democratic Alliance Army.

The report also highlights the illegal trade in big cat products – including tiger bone wine and furs – and points to this as a key issue at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Conference of the Parties currently underway in Doha, Qatar (see related story, this issue).

Tiger and leopard parts were found in some Western-China markets, although the presence of such items has decreased, raising concerns that the trade has become more carefully organised and is operating 'under-the-radar'. Additionally, TRAFFIC's investigation into Burmese markets confirmed that wildlife trade has become more covert through internet operations. The report details efforts to curtail this based on a seminar on controlling the online trade in endangered species, hosted by the Endangered Species Import and Export Management office of China (ESIEMO)



and the Department of Public Information Network Security Supervision (PINSS).

“China’s border areas have long been considered a hotbed for illegal trade, with remote locations often making surveillance a difficult problem in sparsely populated areas,” said Professor Xu Hongfa, director of TRAFFIC’s China programme. And State-run Chinese media outlet People’s Daily recently confirmed the presence of a market for tiger products when it noted a spike in demand for tiger bone tonic wine coinciding with the Chinese Lunar Calendar’s current Year of the Tiger.

The report also highlights and assesses official China-Japan timber trade data, freshwater turtle farms in China, sustainable use of traditional medicinal plants, application of wildlife trade information, coral and ivory Trade in East Asia, and Chinese-Nepalese efforts to increase enforcement of cross-border illegal wildlife trade.

Despite the reported problems in effectively managing its border with Burma, the TRAFFIC report says China has made great strides in managing and controlling processing and trade in ivory.

### More information

The State of Wildlife Trade in China 2008 can be accessed here: <http://www.traffic.org/general-reports/State-of-Wildlife-Trade-Report-2008.pdf>

“Porous China-Myanmar border allowing illegal wildlife trade,” TRAFFIC. 16 March 2010; The State of Wildlife Trade in China 2008, TRAFFIC East Asia China Program. 16 March 2010; “Myanmar a gateway for wildlife trade to china: Report,” AFP. 17 March 2010; “China’s Illegal Wildlife Trade in Tigers, Turtles, Timber,” ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE. 17 March 2010.

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## EU faces Lawsuit over Transparency on Biofuels

Four environmental non-government organisations have lodged a lawsuit with the EU’s

General Court against the EU executive, on the grounds that several documents alluding to the environmental dangers of biofuels, as well as their affect on food prices, were withheld, which they say violates European laws on transparency and democracy.

The green groups – ClientEarth, Transport & Environment, the European Environmental Bureau, and Birdlife International – filed the suit after claiming the EC missed a deadline under the freedom of information laws to release sought-after documents.

Commission spokesman Mark Gray claims that the greater issue at hand is “whether the Commission can be expected to handle such bulky and complex requests within the normal time frames.” Gray also claims the court action was “premature” on the grounds that the release of the documents has not been expressly refused. The response by the activists is that the delay could set “dangerous precedent” by allowing documents to effectively be suppressed until after a relevant policy decision has been made.

Biofuels proponents say the fossil fuel alternative has the potential to raise EU farm incomes and possibly reduce carbon outputs – a claim that is now contested by several environmentalists. However, concerns regarding the use of plant-based biofuels from within the Commission came to light when 118 reports and emails, citing worries about food shortages and the expansion of farming into sensitive areas were released to Reuters.

Additionally, The EU recently came under fire over a report by UK based development organisation ActionAid, which stated that the goal of sourcing 10 percent of transport fuel from renewable sources by 2020 would lead to massive famine in the developing world (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 22 February 2010 <http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/70930/>)

In a similar case, the Commission was criticised by ombudsman P Nikiforos Diamandouros for failing to release letters between German car company Porsche and former industry commissioner Guenther Verheugen. These letters were sought by Friends of the Earth Europe for

consideration in the debate over legislation to curb carbon emissions from automobiles. The ombudsman, who is responsible for investigating claims of administrative concerns in the EU and relevant bodies, stated in a report that “The Commission’s uncooperative attitude in this case is detrimental to the public image of the EU.”

Nusa Urbancic of Transport and Environment, a transport campaign group, said that in effort to reconcile EU environment policy with actual effects, there “must be full transparency about what the true impacts are.”

The EU is working to design and implement rules to ensure that only biofuels that are derived from sustainable energy crop plantations count towards its target, while biotech companies are developing second-generation biofuel technology using feedstocks that do not infringe on agricultural or forested land. Nevertheless, the NGOs say the already released documents demonstrate that there was already considerable concern among European policymakers regarding the impact of their attempted goal.

“EU Faces Court Challenge over Biofuel Reports,” REUTERS. 9 March 2010; “European Activists Sue Over Biofuels Studies,” THE NEW YORK TIMES. 8 March 2010. “Legal action targets EU biofuel policy,” BUSINESS GREEN. 9 March 2010.

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## GM Sugar Beets Approved in US

US Federal Judge Jeffery White has given farmers the green light to harvest genetically modified sugar beets, saying that the request to suspend cultivation from environmental groups came too late in the growing process, and that removing the beets from the market would cause severe economic ramifications. In the US, cultivated sugar beets provide for nearly half of the country’s sugar supply, and the majority of those sugar beets are genetically modified (GM).

“If this court were to ban the planting and processing of the genetically engineered sugar beet root crop, there would not be enough conventional seed for a full crop this year,” White

said in denying the injunction. “The economic impact of such a shortage would be dramatic and widespread.”

In 2007, a coalition of green groups and organic farmers sued the US Department of Agriculture over its approval of biotech company Monsanto’s GM sugar beet, citing concerns that the GM strain would cross pollinate with – and thus compromise – non-GM beets. Monsanto joined the lawsuit on the side of the USDA in defence of the crop. A US District Court judge ruled that the USDA had failed to follow the appropriate processes in approving the GM sugar beet.

The groups that had brought the suit subsequently asked that the cultivation and harvest of the GM beets be put on hold until the lawsuit was resolved. But the judge denied the request on economic grounds. Removing the crop from the market this late in the season would cause losses of roughly 6,000 jobs and US\$300 million in profits, he said, noting that the removal of the crops would also significantly affect the prices and supply of US Sugar.

It remains unclear if the GM crop will be banned from cultivation while the lawsuit is still active. Still, the judge encouraged the use of as much conventional seed as possible in the meantime. The prospect of the future ruling has fuelled a promise of resistance from Monsanto, as well as enthusiasm and optimism from the environmental groups.

“Without measures to protect farmers like me from (genetically engineered) contamination, organic chard and beets as we know them are at serious risk of being lost,” said organic beet farmer Frank Morton.

This concern over cross contamination may not be unwarranted. In 2004, the Canadian Supreme Court ruled in favour of Monsanto when a farmer, claiming accidental cross planting, replanted and sold GM canola. (For more, see Bridges Trade BioRes 28 May 2004, <http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/63685/>)

“Beet growers spared for now,” CAPITAL PRESS. 18 March 2010; “Judge allows genetically

engineered beet harvest,” ASSOCIATED PRESS. 16 March 2010.

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## One Third of Rich Country CO2 Emissions ‘Outsourced’: Study

Over one third of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions associated with the consumption of goods and services in many European countries are produced offshore, according to a new study by two researchers from the Carnegie Institution for Science.

The authors argue that ‘international carbon leakage’ would be better measured by adding up the amount of CO2 released during the worldwide production of goods and services that each country consumes rather than by totalling the CO2 emissions released during the production that occurs inside each country’s borders. Traditional production-based national emissions accounting hides a substantial amount of CO2 that is ‘traded’ internationally, they say.

Worldwide, 23 percent of all CO2 emissions are produced in one country and consumed in another, the study found.

“Just like the electricity that you use in your home probably causes CO2 emissions at a coal-burning power plant somewhere else, we found that the products imported by the developed countries of Western Europe, Japan, and the United States cause substantial emissions in other countries, especially China,” said Stephen Davis, lead author of the study. “On the flip side, nearly a quarter of the emissions produced in China are ultimately exported.”

Davis and his co-author Ken Caldeira used industry-specific trade data from 2004 on trade flows between 113 countries and regions to create their ‘consumption-based accounting’ of CO2 emissions. Their methods are detailed in a press release from the Carnegie Institution.

The researchers found that China is easily the world’s largest net ‘exporter’ of emissions with 1,430,000 kilotonnes of CO2 embodied in its exports. Russia is next largest with 389,000

kilotonnes, followed by the Middle East, South Africa, Ukraine and India.

The primary net ‘importer’ of CO2 emissions is the US, by far. It imports 1,220,000 kilotonnes, while the next largest importer is Japan, with 468,000 kilotonnes. The United Kingdom, Germany, France and Italy round out the top six.

Davis and Caldeira also look at CO2 imports and exports in per capita terms. They conclude that “net imports of emissions to the United States, Japan and countries in Western Europe are disproportionately large, with each individual consumer associated with 2.4-10.3 tonnes of CO2 emitted elsewhere.”

Luxembourg, Hong Kong, Singapore, Iceland and Liechtenstein top the list of highest per capita consumers of net CO2 imports. According to the study, “individual consumers in the most affluent and least populous countries of Western Europe...are importing the same mass of emissions as are exported by 5-10 people in China.”

Hong Kong, Singapore, and eight Western European countries comprise the top ten net importers of emissions on a per capita basis, but the US surpasses every other country in total consumption emissions at 22.0 tonnes. The US is the world’s largest producer as well as consumer of CO2 emissions.

The net effect is an export of emissions from China and other emerging economies to the developed nations of the US, Japan and in Western Europe. Davis and Caldeira write that “the prosperity of developed countries was not only founded on two centuries of fossil fuel emissions, but also in some cases is now being maintained by emissions produced in developing countries...Consumption-based accounting of emissions provides grounding for ethical arguments that the most developed countries - as the primary beneficiaries of emissions and with greater ability to pay - should lead the global mitigation effort.”

A graphic depicting the ‘trade flow’ of carbon emissions between the ten largest net importers and exporters can be viewed [here](#):



<http://www.ciw.edu/prdaviscaldeiraoutsourcefigure121810.jpg>

ICTSD reporting.

## EVENTS AND RESOURCES

### Vacancy

SENIOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, MARINE & FISHERIES PROGRAMME. Brussels, Belgium. WWF, the global conservation organisation, is looking to fill a full-time position in its Brussels European Policy Office (WWF-EPO) to work as Senior Public Affairs Officer, Marine and Fisheries Programme. The post holder will represent WWF's positions on fisheries and marine conservation matters principally to the EU institutions. She/he will provide strategic advice and leadership and support to the marine and fisheries team in the WWF European network of national organisations, including engaging with key industry sectors. The successful candidate will have a university degree in a relevant discipline and at least six years of professional experience. He/she will have significant experience with EU institutions, and possess strong communications and interpersonal skills. Fluency in English and proficiency in another European language are required. The post will be offered under a Belgian contract. Application letter and CV should reach WWF-EPO no later than 31st March 2010 and be sent to [recruitments@wwfepo.org](mailto:recruitments@wwfepo.org). For more information, visit: [http://www.panda.org/who\\_we\\_are/jobs/?190482/Senior-Public-Affairs-Officer-Marine-and-Fisheries-Programme-Brussels-Belgium](http://www.panda.org/who_we_are/jobs/?190482/Senior-Public-Affairs-Officer-Marine-and-Fisheries-Programme-Brussels-Belgium)

### 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 (19 March-2 April)**

13-25 March, Doha, Qatar. FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES COP 15). 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 visit <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/meetings/cop15/index.shtml>.

22-26 March, London, UK. 60TH SESSION OF THE IMO'S MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE. The 60th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) will be held at IMO headquarters. Issues scheduled to be on the agenda for the meeting include, reducing air pollution from ships, harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water, recycling of ships, and noise from commercial shipping and its adverse impacts on marine life. For further information, visit [http://www.imo.org/includes/blastDataOnly.asp/data\\_id%3D26826/1.pdf](http://www.imo.org/includes/blastDataOnly.asp/data_id%3D26826/1.pdf) or contact the IMO: tel: +44 (0)20 7735 7611; fax +44 (0)20 7587 3210; email: [info@imo.org](mailto:info@imo.org).

23 March, Geneva, Switzerland. WORKSHOP ON EMERGING TRADE MEASURES IN TIMBER MARKETS. This one-day multi-stakeholder workshop, co-organised by the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Research and Statistics Division of the WTO Secretariat, will be dedicated to issues surrounding tariff and non-tariff trade barriers and emerging trade regulations on timber. Led by expert presentations, workshop participants will discuss the economic impacts of trade and trade-related measures on timber markets, taking into account the role of trade in timber markets and the link between trade liberalisation and key challenges facing the forest-based sector. For further information, visit <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=270> or

contact Cédric Pène: tel: +41-22-917 1286; fax +41-22-917 0041; email: [cedric.pene@unece.org](mailto:cedric.pene@unece.org).

23 March. New York, US. CSD-18 THEMATIC SEMINAR SERIES: SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION. 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.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_seminar_series.shtml)

24 March, Berkshire, UK. SUSTAINABILITY: WHERE ARE WE GOING? STRATEGIC PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY IN THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SECTOR. This specialist conference is targeted at directors and senior managers of sustainability and environment-related public engagement organisations. The day will allow participants to take a wider strategic view of climate change, environment and sustainability issues as well as question how organisational visions and operations fit with these priorities. Featuring leading thinkers and champions in the field will include Shadow Chancellor Vince Cable MP, Zero Carbon Britain/Centre for Alternative Technology, International Institute for Environment and Development, Global Footprint Network, Botanic Gardens Conservation International and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. For further information, visit <http://www.livingrainforest.org/explore/conferences2010/>.

24-25 March, Langat Basin, Malaysia. INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: HARMONISING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF RIVER BASINS. This international symposium aims to identify business opportunities for the water sector to integrate into an expanding environmental services industry and in so doing support the expansion of a truly sustainable and diversified water business environment. This concept is based on improving water based

businesses by establishing enduring business partnerships that connect water managers with environmental services, as well as boost the multifunctional productivity of water. For more information, contact the organisers: Shahbaz Khan; e-mail: [s.khan@unesco.org](mailto:s.khan@unesco.org); internet: <http://helpforum.ning.com/events/harmonising-environmental>

24-26 March, Montpellier, France. TAKING STOCK OF SMALLHOLDER AND COMMUNIT FORESTRY: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? CIFOR, the French research institute for development (IRD) and the French International Research Centre for agricultural development (CIRAD) are organising an international conference on smallholder and community forest management in Montpellier, France, in March 2010. New global trends are affecting local forest dynamics. Climate change, increasing social vulnerability, incentives for deforestation and land use change are the negative effects. Potentially positive effects include payments for carbon capture and storage as well as mechanisms for biodiversity valuation. In light of these trends, organisers say it is an appropriate moment to take stock. For More information, visit:

<http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/Events/Smallholder+and+community+forestry/>

### Other Upcoming Events:

6-11 April, Geneva, Switzerland. 30TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT. This conference will explore the role of impact assessments in transitioning to a green economy. The conference will focus on five sectors: agriculture, industry, tourism, transportation, and cities. The conference will look into both the role of the public and the private sector. For more information contact the organisers: e-mail: [info@iaia.org](mailto:info@iaia.org); internet: <http://www.iaia.org/iaia10/>

15-16 April, Paris, France. WORKSHOP ON ADVANCING THE AQUACULTURE AGENDA: POLICIES TO ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE SECTOR. The main objective of this workshop is to provide a platform for participants to examine policy

challenges that members of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) face in aquaculture development. This event will be organised into four sessions, each covering a different theme: overview of the latest developments in aquaculture, best practices in aquaculture management and development, enhancing economic conditions for aquaculture, and how to develop national and international policy strategies for aquaculture development. For more information, contact the organisers: tel: +33-1-45-24-82-00; fax: +33-1-45-24-85-00; email: [tad@contact.oecd.org](mailto:tad@contact.oecd.org); internet: [http://www.oecd.org/document/3/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_33901\\_44041283\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_37401,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/3/0,3343,en_2649_33901_44041283_1_1_1_37401,00.html)

21-23 April, Seoul, Republic of Korea. BUSINESS FOR ENVIRONMENT GLOBAL SUMMIT (B4E). This meeting will address resource efficiency, renewable energies, new business models and climate policy strategies. At the meeting, CEOs and senior executives will join leaders from government, international agencies, NGOs and media to discuss environmental issues, forge partnerships and explore innovative solutions for a greener future. For more information please contact: Michelle Ko; tel: +65 6534 8683; fax: +65 6534 8690; internet: [http://www.b4esummit.com/?page\\_id=106](http://www.b4esummit.com/?page_id=106)

24-28 May, Guatemala City, Guatemala. 26<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION. This biennial meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (Comisión Forestal para América Latina y el Caribe or COFLAC), which advises the FAO on forestry policy in the region, aims to bring several Latin American countries together to discuss policy formulation, review and coordinate regional implementation, and act as a platform for information exchange between countries. For more information, visit <http://www.rlc.fao.org/es/comisiones/coflac/2010/default.htm> or contact Edwin Oliva: tel: 00 (502) 2321-4520; fax: 00 (502) 2321-4520; email: [eoliva@inab.gob.gt](mailto:eoliva@inab.gob.gt).

14-17 June, Sannäs, Finland. 4<sup>S</sup> SUMMER SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS: HARMONISING POLICY, TECHNOLOGY,

PRODUCT DESIGN AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. This symposium at Aalto University aims to bring together motivated researchers and high level keynote speakers with an interest in interdisciplinary systemic approaches to complex issues under the theme of closed-loop sustainable material systems. It will be in the form of a workshop with one of the main goals being to establish an international and interdisciplinary network of researchers with sustainability as a research interest. Researchers working on their doctoral thesis or post-doctoral activities are encouraged to apply; selection of participants will be made by the scientific steering committee. For more information, please visit: <http://4s.mekpros.fi/> or contact the organisers at [maaria.wierink@tkk.fi](mailto:maaria.wierink@tkk.fi).

14-17 July, Quito, Ecuador. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN TRANSBOUNDARY TROPICAL FORESTS. The need to maintain large areas of tropical forests through the establishment of transboundary conservation areas (TBCAs) has long been recognized as an important activity to perpetuate ecosystems and biodiversity resources, as well as the environmental services and socio-economic benefits they provide. Recognising that countries have sovereign rights over their biological resources, international agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) are committed to enhancing technical and scientific cooperation, training and information exchange on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical forests. For more information, please visit <http://www.cbd.int/forest/doc/Announcement-Quito-Conference-14-17-July-2010-en.pdf>

23-28 August, Seoul, Korea. FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE: SUSTAINING SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT. 23<sup>rd</sup> WORLD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOREST RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS (IUFRO). This Congress will draw leading professionals and expert scientists in all fields of forestry from all over the world. Speakers representing government policy makers, academic scholars and researchers from universities and institutions will present and

discuss the latest innovation on various themes, such as forest and climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of forest resources, forest environmental services, and Asia's forest for the future, among others. For more information, visit: <http://www.iufro2010.com/?code=iu02&subp=0301>

31 August–3 September, Mexico City, Mexico. WORKSHOP ON FOREST GOVERNANCE, DECENTRALISATION AND REDD IN LATIN AMERICA. Several factors underscore the relevance of discussing the relationships among sustainable forest management, forest governance, REDD and livelihoods. Forests in Latin America are home to tens of millions of people who depend directly on forest resources for their livelihoods. Current deforestation rates and their external drivers deprive these people of the primary resource they depend on. At the same time, deforestation and forest degradation are driven by poverty in many places: Poor communities change land use to improve their lives. The conditions of forest governance will determine whether REDD strategies, projects and schemes can realise their potential to preserve forests. These conditions will also determine whether REDD can bring real benefits to poor people who depend on forests and already serve as traditional safeguards, or whether those potential benefits will be channelled to other stakeholders. For more information, please visit: <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/Events/CIFOR/decentralisation-redd.htm>

12-16 September, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 3RD INTERNATIONAL BIOCHAR CONFERENCE (IBI 2010): PROGRESSING FROM TERRA PRETA DE ÍNDIOS TO THE WHOLE WORLD. This event, organised by IBI and EMBRAPA, will bring together scientists, engineers, policy analysts, policy makers, users, producers, investors, and students to discuss the use of biochar – the use of charcoal as a means of carbon capture and storage. For more information, visit [www.ibi2010.org](http://www.ibi2010.org)

## 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).

POLICY BRIEF: FOREST GOVERNANCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION. The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). March 2010. The brief highlights lessons learned from experiences on the ground and sets out the key elements of an approach to forest law compliance and governance that will ensure the optimal role of forests in mitigating climate change. The key messages that emerged from the five workshops, which were jointly funded and convened by ITTO and FAO in Southeast Asia, West Africa, Central Africa, the Amazon Basin and Mesoamerica between August 2006 and July 2008, include that: forest-related laws need to be harmonized with those in other sectors; and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD) requires effective forest governance and clarifying rights to land, forests and carbon. The policy brief highlights the causes of poor forest law compliance, including failings in the policy and legal frameworks, insufficient enforcement, lack of information, corruption, and market distortions. It also states that REDD initiatives should build on the lessons learned through forest law enforcement, governance and trade initiatives. To access the publication, visit: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/19488-1-0.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY: FACT SHEETS. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). 9 March 2010. The fact sheet on climate change and biodiversity highlights scientific evidence that climate change affects biodiversity and, as a result, vital ecosystem services for all humans. It also notes that biodiversity can help reduce the effects of climate change. The fact sheet on dry and sub-humid lands underscores climate change impacts on

wetlands, drylands, grasslands, Mediterranean forests, and desert margins. The fact sheet on forest biodiversity stresses the mitigation potential of forests. The fact sheet on protected areas stresses that protected areas can act as buffers against climate change and poverty, and that the LifeWeb Initiative has been created to strengthen financing for protected areas to sustain biodiversity, secure livelihoods and address climate change. To access the fact sheets, visit: <http://www.cbd.int/2010/prints/?tab=5>