



# Bridges Trade BioRes

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

Volume 10 · Number 6, 2 April 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

### Environmental Groups Pan CITES Meeting

A meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) has sparked criticism from environmental groups for failing to commit to new trade restrictions for certain marine species.

The two-week conference drew to a close on 25 March without an agreement among governments on new regulations for trade in bluefish tuna, a number of shark species and varieties of sea corals. A push by the United States to place the polar bear in the category of species endangered by international trade was also nixed.

Environmental groups charge that commercial interests undermined proposals to restrict trade in lucrative marine species.

"I question if CITES has the political will to protect economically valuable marine species like sharks," said Elizabeth Griffin, a marine scientist with the conservation group Oceana.

### Economy vs. Ecology

The meeting in Doha, Qatar, brought together 175 governments to determine regulations on the international trade in wild animals and plant species. Species considered threatened by international trade may be placed in one of three appendices: Appendix I effectively bans trade in the species; Appendix II regulates their trade; and Appendix III applies to species subject to domestic regulation.

In rejecting proposals to list certain marine species, a number of governments argued that

regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) are better suited to supervising the sustainability of the fisheries sector, instead of trade restrictions under CITES.

Speaking on the sidelines of the meeting, Masanori Miyahara, the chief counsellor for Japan's fisheries agency, said that "as a general principle we are not convinced that CITES measures can help." Japan argues that strengthening RFMOs, so that they are more effective in enforcing against illegal and unreported fishing, is a more effective solution to protecting endangered marine species.

But such arguments did not dissuade skeptics from alleging that economic and political interests drove the decision to keep marine species off the lists. The Australian delegate remarked in a closing statement that the "economy rather than ecology dominated the debate" in Doha.

### **From Iguanas to Polar Bears**

Among the species that did gain new CITES protections are spiny-tailed iguanas and five species of tree frogs from Central America, a rhinoceros beetle from Bolivia, a salamander from Iran, the unicorn beetle, rosewood, and holywood.

A proposal to move the Nile crocodile from Appendix I to Appendix II was also accepted, after Egypt outlined the measures it has taken to sustainably manage the species.

However, the United States failed to gain sufficient support for moving the polar bear from Appendix II to Appendix I. Canada - one of the countries that opposed the proposal - argued that trade restrictions would not address the threats posed to polar bear habitats by climate change.

In a teleconference, the US Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Tom Strickland, said that building up sufficient support for CITES protections is a gradual process.

"CITES history is that it's a journey - with regard to elephants and big cats, it took more than one conference to build coalitions and get these issues addressed," said Strickland.

### **African Elephants**

In a move that generated controversy among African countries, Tanzania and Zambia tried to down list their elephant populations from Appendix I to Appendix II (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 22 January 2010 <http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/68472/>).

Tanzania structured its proposal in two separate parts. The first would allow trade in live animals, raw hide, and trade in hunting. The second part only includes trade in registered ivory. Japan, Botswana, Uganda, Qatar, China, Saudi Arabia, and Malawi all supported both parts of the proposal, with Uganda calling the proposal an "example of good management for other range countries." However, the EU and US asked for more time to establish monitoring programmes, and criticisms from countries forced the rejection of both parts of the proposal.

Zambia's proposal, which did not include section a one-off sale of ivory, was also voted down.

Kenya had led an effort to block the Tanzanian and Zambian proposals, and drew up its own proposal for a 20 year moratorium on changing the status of African elephants in CITES. However, the proposal was withdrawn, with Kenya explaining that "we need to take this debate on ivory back to the African continent."

ICTSD reporting; "Summary of the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora: 13-25 MARCH 2010," Earth Negotiations Bulletin, 29 March 2010; CITES Governments Depart Doha Leaving Marine Species Unprotected", Environmental News Service, 25 March 2010

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### UN Agency Tackles International Shipping and Climate Change

The International Maritime Organization's (IMO) environment committee agreed that the IMO should be the focal point for discussions on any future agreement on reducing GHG emissions by the maritime transport industry. However, members of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) who met in London on 22-26 March are divided on what specific action should be undertaken.

Echoing the debate in other aspects of the climate change negotiations, a number of developing countries argued that an agreement needs to respect the principle of Common But Differential Responsibilities (CBDR), in which obligations would vary depending on a country's level of development. In contrast, developed countries stressed the importance of the No More Favorable Treatment principle, meaning that ships from all countries should be treated equally, as is the case with all other IMO Conventions.

The concept of CBDR is particularly complex in the context of transport fuels. Among developing countries there are diverging interests between emerging economies and developing countries with a significant shipping industry on the one hand, and the vulnerable economies that are most threatened by climate change, on the other.

#### Next steps

A majority of members at the IMO meeting agreed that a group of experts should be established to undertake a feasibility study and impact assessment of Market-based Measures (MBM) to reduce GHG emissions. The expert group will report back to MEPC in September and to the Cancun Climate Change Conference (COP 16) in December.

Several market-based measures will be considered:

- **Emission Trading (Cap and Trade):** Norway, Germany, France and the UK prefer a global, open emissions trading scheme (ETS), administered by an international body, such as the IMO. In fact, the EU threatened to include shipping in the EU ETS and to set efficiency requirements by August 2011 if no progress is made in the IMO.
- **Bunker Use Levy:** Proposed by Denmark, this scheme is considered by some to be the simplest of the three proposals. The downside of this scheme is that there may be less impetus for ships to improve their energy efficiency performance as opposed to an emission trading scheme.
- **Trade in Energy Efficient Credits:** This scheme establishes mandatory efficiency standards for new and existing ships. The Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) would provide a means to measure and improve on the efficiency of all ships and allow ships to trade efficiency credits to comply with the efficiency standard. Countries at the MEPC meeting agreed on very preliminary text to mandate requirements for the EEDI. While this approach does not place a cap on emissions in the shipping sector, it does provide for definitive performance standards. This is a US proposal with the support of Australia and most of the shipping industry.

#### Canada - US regulations on bunker fuels approved

The IMO also adopted the US and Canada's proposal to ban the use of the dirtiest types of shipping fuels, commonly referred to as bunker fuels, within their coastal waters.

The new regulation is expected to cost US\$3.2 billion to bring ships up to compliance levels, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA also estimates that eliminating these fuels will save an estimated 14,000 lives in the US and Canada, and will

provide relief to 5 million people who suffer from air-quality related illness.

The US and Canada first proposed the measures in March 2009, after years of pressure from environmental groups. The rules will apply to all cargo ships, oil tankers, and large cruise ships that pass within about 320 kilometres of the US and Canadian coastline, and will become enforceable in August 2012.

ICTSD Reporting; “Big Victory for Clean Air! Emissions Control Area Created Around US and Canadian Coastlines,” Treehugger.com, 26 Mar 2010; ““Dirty Bunker Fuel Banned for Large Ships in US, Canadian Waters,” Environmental News Service, 26 March 2010; “New rule cuts ship pollution around US, Canada,” Associated Press, 27 Mar 2010.

## IN BRIEF

### Report Sheds Light on Sustainability of EU Biofuels Target

A comprehensive new report seeking to untangle complicated links between EU biofuels policy and indirect land-use change finds that the EU target for 2020 remains sustainable, as long as there is a mix of first- and second-generation biofuels, and the use of electric cars grows substantially.

The first in a series of four reports looking at the indirect impact of biofuels on the environment, “Global Trade and Environmental Impact of the EU Biofuels Mandate” focuses on the effects of more open biofuels trade. The EU has committed to deriving 10 percent of its transport fuels from biofuels by 2020; however, the sustainability of the target has come under increasing fire since it was adopted in 2008.

In response to such concerns, the EU has established a set of sustainability criteria, excluding, for example, the use of biofuels grown on land previously harbouring significant biodiversity for fulfilling the target. This measure

seeks to minimize negative direct land use change effects.

Currently, the EU is investigating ways to minimise indirect land use change effect, such as the impact of releasing more carbon emissions as forests and pristine lands are converted to cropland due to biofuel expansion.

Under the main scenario investigated in the report, trade would open up in the biofuels sector, leading to a greater influx of Brazilian ethanol - the most climate-friendly option currently available. Only 5.6 percent of the 10 percent target would be fulfilled by biofuels under this scenario, and 45 percent of these biofuels would be made of Brazilian ethanol. Indirect land use change would be small. However, if more than 5.6 percent of the target would be fulfilled through the use of first generation biofuels, indirect land-use changes would quickly grow.

The report, prepared by the International Food Policy Institute (IFPRI) and based on general equilibrium modeling, is available for download at

<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/html/145954.htm>

It was made public by the European Union on 25 March.

ICTSD reporting; “EU biofuels target borderline sustainable, report finds,” EURACTIV, 26 March 2010; “EU report signals U-turn on biofuels target,” Reuters, 25 March 2010.

### Biodiversity Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing One Step Closer

On 28 March, negotiators concluded a week of talks in Cali, Colombia, on a protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which is set to govern the issue of Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) with regard to biological resources.

The negotiations, which have been going on for several years, followed intense consultations conducted by the Co-Chairs over the last months among regional groups in order to narrow down options. Their hope is to agree on a protocol in time to have it adopted at the next CBD Conference of the Parties, which will take place in Nagoya, Japan, in October this year. As such, the Co-Chairs were able to present delegates to the ninth meeting of the **Ad Hoc** Open-ended Working Group on ABS with a slimmed-down and streamlined draft protocol at the onset of the negotiations.

While advancing on a number of controversial issues in contact groups, negotiators were not able to make enough progress to send the draft protocol on for adoption, and instead agreed to suspend the meeting and continue negotiations at an additional session in June, in Montreal, Canada. They also recognised that the text is still fully open, and no options have, as such, been officially excluded yet.

At the close of the negotiations, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Tim Hodges of Canada and Fernando Casas of Colombia, remained optimistic, stressing that “the willingness of the regions to enter into a frank dialogue, to try out new modes of discussion, and to work with the draft protocol, shows that we are striding purposefully down the road to Nagoya.” They called on “all the Parties to keep up their commitment in this journey.”

### **Megadiverse countries seek proposal for COP 10**

Prior to the ABS Working Group meeting, representatives of the megadiverse countries - a group of 17 states with the highest levels of biodiversity - met in Brasilia, Brazil, to advance a proposal on Access and Benefit Sharing.

Founded in 2002, the megadiverse group consists of South Africa, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Philippines, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Kenya and Venezuela. Together these countries hold approximately 70 percent of the Earth’s genetic diversity.

The 9-12 March meeting in Brasilia concluded with a ministerial declaration that outlines the topics considered essential by the megadiverse countries in a future ABS protocol. Key concerns for the group include strong provisions on compliance and guarantee of funds for the implementation of the protocol.

For a complete update of the ABS negotiations in Cali, see IISD’s Earth Negotiations Bulletin at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol09/enb090503e.html>

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### **India Threatens WTO Case against Proposed ‘Carbon Border Taxes’**

India will bring a WTO challenge against any “carbon taxes” that rich countries impose on Indian imports, Indian Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said this week.

“If they impose such a tax, we will take them to the WTO dispute settlement forum,” the minister told The Hindu Business Line, an Indian daily newspaper. “We will deal [with this] through hard negotiations. Such barriers are not going to be WTO-compatible and we will fight it.”

No such measures have been implemented, but politicians in both the United States and the European Union have discussed the possibility of imposing tariffs or other forms of “border carbon adjustment” on goods imported from countries with laxer regulations on greenhouse gas emissions. Buzz around the idea - widely known as a “carbon tax” - has grown since December’s climate conference in Copenhagen failed to produce a global deal to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases. Proponents say that the measures could help level the playing field for firms and industries based in countries with strict climate regulations.

A form of border carbon adjustment was written into the climate legislation passed by the US House of Representatives last summer. US President Barack Obama [criticised the measures](#), warning of the dangers of “sending any protectionist signals” amid the economic



downturn. The Senate has yet to vote on its version of the bill.

European heads of state reportedly remain divided over whether the 27-nation bloc should impose a carbon tax at EU borders. At a recent summit of European leaders, Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann argued that “it wouldn’t be a good negotiating tactic,” Agence-France Presse reported. But French President Nicolas Sarkozy is an ardent supporter of the measures. Sarkozy told journalists last week that European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso will put forward a proposal for a European carbon border tax in June.

But many in Europe remain unconvinced. Speaking to journalists earlier this month, Connie Hedegaard, the European Commissioner for Climate Action, cautioned against the unilateral measures. If we trust other countries’ pledges to take action to limit climate change, then “it should not be the time to say, OK, but we just give you a carbon tax. Why not now make an effort to try to conclude the international deal?” Hedegaard said, according to a report from Dow Jones.

India has pledged to reduce its carbon emissions by 20 to 25 percent by 2020, but the country opposes any multilateral climate deal that would be legally binding.

ICTSD reporting; “India threatens to move WTO on carbon tax issue,” THE HINDU BUSINESS LINE, 29 March 2010; “EU Hedegaard: Now not right time for carbon border tax,” DOW JONES, 9 March 2010; “Europe still split over carbon tax at border,” AFP, 26 March 2010.

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### **Madagascar Reinstates Ban on Precious Timber Exports**

Madagascar’s transitional government reinstated a ban on rosewood logging and exports last week, in a move that has raised questions about what to do with stockpiles of rosewood processed prior to the moratorium.

The ban prohibits all exports of rosewood and precious timber for up to five years. It comes in the wake of protests and public-appeal campaigns from several environmental activist groups in response to resumed timber shipments by Delmas, a French cargo company, from Madagascar. Delmas is currently the only major shipper that still carries the timber, usually to the Chinese market.

Madagascan authorities must now determine what to do with the large stockpiles of the timber in North-Eastern ports. Some activists call for complete destruction of the stockpiles to send a clear message to traffickers that the illegal logging of rosewood will not be tolerated.

However, a report prepared in 2009 by Global Witness and the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) recommended auctioning the stockpiles, so long as the sale is commandeered and supervised by authorities, independent auditors and representatives of civil society. The proceeds would then be used to support and maintain the national parks and related environmentalist measures.

This report, released in November 2009, documented widespread illegal logging and warned that the trafficking presented a severe threat to Madagascar’s forests, jeopardizing the people and animals that live off-or in-these habitats.

There also remains question as to whether the current Madagascan government, which seized power during a military coup last year, will be able to monitor and enforce the ban.

“We are pleased that pressure from conservation groups, donors and non-governmental organisations seems to be having an effect,” said Reiner Tegtmeier, a campaigner at Global Witness.

“However, this is not the first time that the Malagasy authorities have banned export of precious timber, and we know from experience that official decrees are often not enforced. We

are calling on the authorities to keep this decree in place, ensure that it is fully observed, and prevent loopholes or exceptions that enable export of illegal timber.”

ICTSD reporting; “Campaigners welcome Madagascar Rosewood export ban but warn that maintenance and enforcement will be crucial,” Press Release, Global Witness, 29 March 2010; “Madagascar bans rainforest timber exports following global outcry,” Wildmadagascar.ORG, 25 March 2010; “Out of Control Deforestation,” Goalover.org, 18 March 2010.

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### Greenpeace Says Unapproved GM Rice Found in Chinese Supermarkets

Greenpeace China claims that the US retail giant Wal-Mart has been selling Genetically Modified (GM) rice in several stores in central Hunan Province.

In a report released in March 2010, Greenpeace says it found pest-resistant GM rice in two stores in the region when it conducted a survey in October and November 2009. Greenpeace says that GM rice was not approved for sale in China prior to November 2009.

Many other stores were selling fruits and vegetables with high contamination levels of banned pesticides, alleges the environmental group.

This is the second survey of its kind by Greenpeace China, with another performed in 2005 also finding unapproved GM rice being grown on a large scale and distributed in the Hubei region.

Chinese officials have discounted the latest Greenpeace survey. “I don’t think their survey is trustworthy but the ministry is open to such inquiry on the precondition that it’s based on

sound scientific data,” said Huang Dafang, a member of Ministry of Agriculture’s bio-safety committee. “China has laws and designated establishments to oversee and regulate GM food and we’ve never heard of such a case from these sources,” he told the China Daily.

China has issued GM production licenses in an effort to address the problem of feeding its growing population. But Greenpeace China alleges that the GM strains have not been properly tested.

China is currently a major producer of GM cotton and vegetables, such as tomatoes and peppers. While Mr. Dafang discounted the validity of the Greenpeace report, he conceded that testing and tracking of GM foods needs to be improved in order to regulate the presence of GM food in the consumer market.

“Greenpeace: Wal-Mart Illegally Selling GM Rice in China,” CHINA CSR, 19 March 2010; “GM Rice Already on Shelves: Greenpeace,” China Daily, 26 March 2010; “Illegal GM Rice in Chinese Shelves,” Making Waves, 17 March 2010; “GM rice found in Chinese supermarkets: Greenpeace,” The Independent, 17 March 2010.

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## EVENTS AND RESOURCES

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### 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/](http://ictsd.net/news/biores/events/).

**Coming up in the next two weeks (2 - 16 April)**  
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)

#### Other Upcoming Events:

22 April, Geneva, Switzerland. TRADE AND BIODIVERSITY DAY. Co-Hosted by ICTSD and UNEP. The Trade and Biodiversity Day will explore strategies to address new and existing trade and biodiversity issues and to promote the mutual supportiveness of trade and biodiversity policies in the context of sustainable development. The focus will be on areas where controversy has arisen in current negotiations and discussions in the WTO, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on International Trade in Species (CITES). They include the new trade and biodiversity related issues in the transition toward a greener economy, in the upcoming regime on access and benefit sharing, in fisheries subsidies and management, in agricultural

negotiations, and in relation to climate change negotiations and the Copenhagen Accord. For further information, please contact Andrew Aziz, [aaziz@ictsd.ch](mailto:aaziz@ictsd.ch) or Malena Sell, [msell@ictsd.ch](mailto:msell@ictsd.ch).

3-14 May 2010, New York, US. EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CSD-18). This session will review the state of implementation of goals and targets for Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management, Mining and the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption & Production Patterns. For more information, visit: [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd\\_aofw\\_mg/mg\\_pdfs/mg\\_csd18\\_call\\_sg\\_repo.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_mg/mg_pdfs/mg_csd18_call_sg_repo.pdf)

10-11 May, Geneva, Switzerland. RESPONDING TO GLOBAL CRISES: NEW DEVELOPMENT PATHS. The UN Conference on Trade and Development is hosting its second Public Symposium to deepen insights from the recent crises and to explore new development paths. Key topics of the symposium will be “Rethinking global economic governance: towards trade and financial reforms for enhancing development” and “Sustainable development strategies.” The symposium will include a round table of eminent persons on the main themes, moderated plenaries and focused group discussions to debate key aspects of new development paths. It is open to representatives of civil society, member states, international organisations, other UN agencies, parliamentarians, the private sector, academia and the media. Papers and/or inputs should reach the UNCTAD secretariat as soon as possible and no later than 20 April 2010. For more information, visit: <http://www.unctad.info/en/Public-Symposium-2010/>.

13-14 May, Nanjing, China. SECOND ADVANCED WIND TECHNOLOGY AND INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2010. At this summit, senior directors and technicians from China’s wind energy and wind turbine bases will discuss China’s newest industrial policies, advanced technology solutions for their plants, grid integration and updated progress reports on major projects in China. Topics to be addressed include development trends in the global wind power



market, Chinese renewable energy policies and relevant regulations, investment and financing prospects in the Chinese wind power market and lessons from the European offshore wind market. For further information, visit [http://www.noppen.com.cn/events/2nd\\_Wind/2nd\\_Wind.asp](http://www.noppen.com.cn/events/2nd_Wind/2nd_Wind.asp) or contact Catriona Scanlong at [catrionas@noppen.com.cn](mailto:catrionas@noppen.com.cn).

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

28 June- 2 July 2010, Edinburgh, Scotland. THE 18th COMMONWEALTH FORESTRY CONFERENCE, Restoring the World's Forest and Tackling Climate Change. This conference will feature case studies of forest restoration successes, and address topics including: actions that can be taken now for forests to achieve climate change objectives; the role of education and professionalism; next steps and strategies for delivering REDD; the importance of communities in delivering forestry objectives; the role of the private sector in finance and restoration; the economics of restoration and sustainable development; and the important role of forests in helping to reverse the global loss of biodiversity. Full details, including the provisional programme, are available on [www.cfc2010.org](http://www.cfc2010.org) or from [cfcc@in-conference.org.uk](mailto:cfcc@in-conference.org.uk).

26 July - 6 August, The Hague, Netherlands. ICAP SUMMER SCHOOL ON EMISSIONS TRADING FOR EMERGING AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. The summer school will convey an in-depth understanding of

emissions trading as an instrument to mitigate greenhouse gases, and build capacity on the technical design and implementation of carbon trading systems. Over the span of 2 weeks, participants will have ample networking opportunities with each other and with the teaching faculty, composed of representatives from ICAP members and other recognised experts in the field. For more information please contact the organisers: e-mail: [summerschool@icapcarbonaction.com](mailto:summerschool@icapcarbonaction.com); internet: [www.icapcarbonaction.com](http://www.icapcarbonaction.com)

16-20 August 2010, Fortaleza, Brazil. SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND DEVELOPMENT IN SEMI-ARID REGIONS - ICID 2010. With the goal of promoting secure and sustainable development in the semi-arid regions of the world, ICID 2010 aims to bring together public policy makers, scientists, and members of civil society. Organisers of the event hope to identify and focus action on challenges and opportunities for a better future in the world's arid and semi-arid regions. The conference will generate, publish, and present recommendations to guide global, regional, national and local analysis and policies aimed at reducing vulnerability and improving the lives of the people of dry lands around the world. For more information, contact the Executive Secretariat: tel: +55-061-3424-9634; email: [contact@icid18.org](mailto:contact@icid18.org); internet: <http://icid18.org/index.php>

22-25 August 2010, Oldenburg and Bremen, Germany. ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY IN A TIME OF CRISIS. The heart of this 11th Biennial Conference of the International Society of Ecological Economics is the stress and exploitation of the Earth's ecological systems, the loss of biodiversity, and climate change. Problems such as these were intensified by the collapse of the global financial system. By uniting scientists, practitioners, and decision makers from various fields, this conference seeks to integrate ecological and social concerns into economic analyses and practical solutions. Main themes for this event include the causes of, and adaptation to, climate change, renewable energy, biodiversity and ecosystem services, land use and restoration, sustainable development, governance and public policy, green business, and the broadening of

ecological economics. For more information, contact Kevin Grecksch: tel: +49-(0)441-798-4088; fax: +49-(0)441-798-4379; email:[kevin.grecksch@uni-oldenburg.de](mailto:kevin.grecksch@uni-oldenburg.de); internet:<http://www.isee2010.org/>

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## 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).

EU GUIDE TO BOOST GREEN GOODS AND SERVICES. 15 March 2010 Section: Sustainable Dev. A European Commission handbook published on Friday (12 March) hopes to give businesses and politicians the right tools to assess the life cycle of all products and services in order to help boost the green economy. To read more, visit:[http://www.euractiv.com/en/sustainability/life-cycle-assessment-handbook-news-334323?utm\\_source=EurActiv+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=7704d78ff8-my\\_google\\_analytics\\_key&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.euractiv.com/en/sustainability/life-cycle-assessment-handbook-news-334323?utm_source=EurActiv+Newsletter&utm_campaign=7704d78ff8-my_google_analytics_key&utm_medium=email)