



# Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

### US Bipartisan Coalition Falters as Immigration Overtakes Climate Change

The future of the United States Senate climate change bill - which had been expected to be revealed on 26 April - is now in question after Senator Lindsey Graham (a Republican) threatened to withdraw support. But Senate majority leader Harry Reid (a Democrat) says he is working to ensure the energy legislation continues to receive bipartisan support.

The bill - a multi-party effort by Graham and fellow Senators John Kerry (a Democrat) and Joe Lieberman (an Independent) - was sidelined last week when the Obama administration and Senate Democrats decided over the weekend to prioritise passing legislation on immigration reform. Frustrated, Graham threatened to withdraw his support for the climate bill unless it regained its place ahead of immigration on the political agenda.

### EIA review to last eight weeks

The release of the climate bill has been postponed indefinitely. Graham is still technically on board, but it is uncertain whether his concerns have been addressed.

At Graham's suggestion, the bill was sent to the Energy Information Administration (EIA) on Tuesday so that the economic modelling process can begin. But shortly following the submission, the EIA said because the proposal was not delivered as a complete package the expected six-week process would require an additional two weeks.

Elements of the bill were reportedly delivered separately to the EIA, both verbally and by hard

copy. "We received details," said EIA spokesman Jonathan Cogan. "It's not a copy of legislation, but it was specific enough to allow us to go forward with our modelling efforts."

The coalition has gone to great measures to safeguard the contents of the bill, but the absence of a complete package has led some stakeholders to speculate whether the bill is, in fact, complete despite six months of work.

### **Immigration issue Republicans' trump card?**

Immigration shot to the top of the Democratic agenda last week when Arizona Governor Jan Brewer (a Republican) signed a controversial law that will lead to more stringent treatment of suspected illegal immigrants. With the mid-term elections coming up this year, Graham called the Democrats' push for immigration reform a "cynical political ploy" to keep Hispanic voters on their side.

Environmentalists have called for swift action, worried that if Graham's support is lost, the climate bill will not pass this year. "And every year Congress waits to legislate, adequately curbing emissions will get harder and more expensive," an editorial in the Washington Post commented.

But despite Reid's pledge to prioritise the climate bill ahead of immigration, it may not be enough to satisfy Graham. The Republican had suggested earlier this week that any discussion at all regarding immigration reform – even after the climate bill is passed – would be a betrayal. "I think I have made it pretty clear that if you bring up immigration, you are breaking faith with me," Graham said.

Obama had called on the Senate to tackle climate change immediately after completion of financial reform legislation. The White House issued a statement on 24 April urging the three senators to continue their work and restating its determination to see climate change legislation pass this year.

Senator George Voinovich (a Republican) has drafted a proposed amendment to the climate bill that would prevent federal, state and local authorities from going beyond what the bill

mandates in their emissions reductions programmes. The proposal would also limit the authority of the EPA and various federal laws like the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. It would also prevent public nuisance litigation related to climate change. Voinovich's proposal would help the climate bill gain Republican support.

### **Bill likely to feature border measures**

If the political divisions are resolved, the bill would reach the Senate floor in June at the earliest, but July is more likely. At that point, observers will finally have an opportunity to view the extent of the Senators' proposed "border measures" – instruments that would slap a tariff or other form of adjustment on imports from countries that have not implemented emissions reduction requirements that are "comparable" to those taken by the United States. Such measures are meant to encourage other countries to take similar actions to cut emissions, the senators wrote, and it would help guarantee that the climate bill "will be trade neutral."

But the notion of including some form of "border carbon adjustment" in a Senate climate bill will likely stir up controversy, both domestically and overseas. The Indian environment minister recently threatened to bring a WTO case against any country that imposes such measures, which are also reportedly being considered in the European Union (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 2 April 2010, <http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/73561/>).

Closer to home, US President Barack Obama spoke out against border carbon adjustment after lawmakers in the House included them in the climate bill they passed last summer (see Bridges Weekly, 1 July 2009, <http://ictsd.org/i/news/bridgesweekly/49962/>). But the president since seems to have backpedalled on the issue. The New York Times reported on 20 April that Carol Browner, Obama's energy and climate advisor, has said that the administration is open to using trade measures in a climate bill.

"There's going to have to be mechanisms that recognise they compete in a global market," Browner said, referring to US manufacturers in sectors like steel, cement, and glass. "I think it's fair to say a final bill will be very mindful of the needs of these particular sectors of the economy."

ICTSD reporting; **Sen. Reid To Push Climate Bill Before Immigration**, REUTERS, 30 April 2010; **"Climate Bill Analysis To Take Up To Eight Weeks: EIA,"** REUTERS, 30 April 2010; **"Senate Sponsors Scramble to Save Climate Bill After Lost Weekend,"** NY TIMES, 26 April 2010; **"Sen. Kerry says EPA to start climate bill analysis,"** REUTERS, 27 April 2010; **"US climate bill seen raising gasoline prices,"** REUTERS, 15 April 2010; **"Senate climate bill to be unveiled April 26,"** THE NEW YORK TIMES, 15 April 2010; **"Congress worked out health care. Is climate change next?"** THE WASHINGTON POST, 16 April 2010; **"Obama open to trade protections in Senate climate bill, adviser says,"** THE NEW YORK TIMES, 20 April 2010.

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### **"Fast-Start" Climate Funding ODA?**

With governments tightening their coffers in the wake of the global financial crisis, development campaigners are calling for more transparency in the initial stages of climate change funding for developing countries. The campaigners say they want to ensure climate funding promises are over and above current development aid, rather than transferred from existing projects.

The finance of climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries is a key pillar in the climate negotiations. In the Copenhagen Accord, struck at December's UN climate summit, developed countries agreed to provide poorer nations with "new and additional resources" of about US\$30 billion for the 3-year period 2010-2012 to help them with climate change mitigation and adaptation. Also, the developed countries committed in Copenhagen to "a goal of mobilising jointly US\$100 billion dollars a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries."

But many questions on climate finance for the period 2010-2012, also called "fast-start" finance, have emerged recently. First of all, there are questions on whether fast-start funding will really be "new and additional" to the 0.7 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) development assistance goal that was set already in 1970 by the United Nations – only a handful of countries (Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, and Sweden) have since realised this goal. There are also questions over which funds count towards the fast-start finance and how much of this funding has been raised up until now.

### **Funding formula in question**

The "additionality" aspect of the fast track finance has already come under pressure. After the recent economic crisis, some cash-strapped governments say they plan to divert some of the money from existing official development assistance (ODA) budgets rather than find new cash.

"There is a lot of slippery language around 'new and additional'," said Rob Bailey, a policy advisor on climate change for Oxfam. According to the Copenhagen Accord, "this funding will come from a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources of finance."

Despite previously stating that the UK supports the additionality of climate finance to ODA, Ed Miliband, the UK's energy and climate minister, told reporters last month there was "a pretty clear understanding" that fast-start funding would not be additional to ODA pledges after all. The British government now says it will provide "some climate finance" on top of its 0.7 percent international development commitment – but only from 2013.

Meanwhile, poorer nations say that fast-start climate funding should come in addition to other development aid because climate change is adding to the human and financial cost of disasters, and making their social and economic development more expensive.

Bill Gates has warned that climate change finance should not be diverted from other development

priorities. And Quamrul Chowdhury, a negotiator for Bangladesh at the UN climate talks, says using climate finance to fulfil development aid promises will be damaging to his country, which is already struggling to cope with rising sea levels and frequent floods.

"If [fast-start funding] is not new and additional, and it is not over and above ODA, our whole development will be paralysed, and how can [we meet] our goals for anti-poverty, education and healthcare programmes?" Chowdhury said.

### Funds already raised

On the question of how much fast-start funding has been raised up until now, donors have announced nearly US\$24 billion in fast-start funds by the beginning of March, plus US\$3.5 billion for the forest preservation scheme REDD .

The European Union plans to report on its member states' fast-start funding before the next round of climate talks taking place in Bonn in June, although countries have yet to agree a common definition. The bloc has promised €2.4 billion (US\$3.2 billion) each year from 2010-2012, which will be distributed "alongside contributions by other key players." But it is not yet clear whether this language means it will only happen if other key players also contribute.

Meanwhile, at least one such a key player – the US – has indicated that it will potentially cut off its fast-start flow to some developing countries that have not associated with the Copenhagen Accord.

There are several funds with ownership by developing countries that stand ready to put fast-start funds to immediate use: the UNFCCC's Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund, and the Kyoto Protocol's Adaptation Fund.

ICTSD Reporting; "Campaigners urge transparency on climate aid," REUTERS, 26 April 2010.

## FISHERIES

### Lift Moratorium to Save Whales: IWC Proposal

The International Whaling Commission issued a draft proposal on 22 April that would lift the current ban on commercial whaling, established in 1986, in favour of a progressive reduction and regulation approach. If approved, the proposal would allow limited commercial whaling to continue over a ten year period.

The new proposal sets specific catch-limits to be observed over the next five years, after which further reductions of the established limit will occur, until a zero-catch limit is ultimately realised. The IWC claims that these regulations will save between 4,000 and 18,000 whales over the next ten years, and would maintain rigorous regulation and monitoring to ensure that the quotas are not violated. Additionally, the proposal establishes a South Atlantic Sanctuary, recognising the non-lethal value and uses of whales, and addresses corresponding scientific conservation and management issues for these coastal states.

However, the proposal also would open the Southern Ocean Whale sanctuary – established in 1994, in which all types of commercial whaling are banned – to whaling once again.

The original moratorium passed by 25 votes to 7 in 1982, with five abstentions, and prohibited whaling for commercial purposes. Although formal objections were lodged at the time by Japan, Norway, Peru, and the Soviet Union, Peru and Japan later withdrew objections. Nevertheless, Iceland, Norway, and Japan manage to continue whaling under certain loopholes in or reservations to the moratorium, notably whaling for subsistence for aboriginal communities and for scientific research purposes. Japan maintains a sizeable quota for whaling for the purpose of Scientific Research, while Iceland's reservations and Norway's objection releases these two whaling countries from the obligations of the moratorium. Since the 1986 moratorium, these three countries have reportedly caught more than 33,000 whales.

## Black market trade

However, whales caught under the pretence of Scientific Research are serving more than just that purpose. While Iceland and Norway are exempt from regulations regarding whale meat trade due to their reservations—and are thus permitted to trade amongst themselves and other states that do not acknowledge the moratorium as valid with these two whaling nations—under international law, whale meat from scientific research must not be wasted, allowing Japan to utilise the whale meat and sell it for consumption domestically, although international sales are banned. However, the validity of the scientific research claim is question and complicated by the illegal presence of whale meat on the market in California and South Korea, demonstrating that the black market trade is still existent.

A study monitoring sources of whale meat conducted at Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center found whale meat sold in California restaurant in 2009 was genetically identical to meat sold in Japan in 2007, and found other meat sold in South Korea an unlikely product of legal by-catch. "[This study] basically confirms these products are leaking out of the scientific whaling operating in Japan," said Steve Palumbi, professor of biology at Stanford University and director of the Hopkins Marine Station in Monterey, US. Opposition to the proposal fears that legitimising commercial whaling would increase the level of illegal trade.

Accordingly, another component of the proposal would be a central registry of whale DNA to facilitate tracking populations and trade. However, as the quotas for Iceland, Norway, and Japan vary, it is still undetermined as to the degree to which trade in whale meat will be allowed under the new regime.

## Environmental groups pan proposal

The draft proposal was not favourably received by environmental groups. Paul Watson, founder of US-based Sea Shepherd Conservation Society vowed that the organisation's ships would return to the Southern Ocean Sanctuary, regardless of the outcome of the vote on the proposal. Last season, the marine conservation organisation says

it intervened and saved nearly 528 of Japan's self-imposed 935 Minke Whale quota – more than the quota the proposal sets at 400, they point out. Other groups, including Greenpeace and the International Fund for Animal Welfare, claim that the proposal helps preserve the dying industry, rather than conserving the diminishing whale population.

"It appears that the whales are making all the concessions, not the whalers and this proposal keeps dying whaling industries alive and not the whales," said Greenpeace Japan Programme Director Junichi Sato.

Similarly, Murray McCully, New Zealand's Foreign Minister, was quite vocal in his disapproval, pointing out that the new mandate failed to create a realistic response to the issue, and that in order to maintain New Zealand's support, the Proposal would have to reconcile with policies to conserve whales, especially in the Southern Ocean.

Other politicians were less resolute. "The United States affirms its support of the commercial whaling moratorium and will oppose any proposal that would lift the moratorium," said US Whaling Commissioner Monica Medina, in an apparent showing of support for draft proposal. "We can't stop [whaling]; we can only try to control it," she said in an interview.

The IWC says the controversial proposal offers a short-term compromise in exchange for long-term gain. "Our goal is a significant reduction in the number of whales killed, but some limited whaling will be authorized as a price for that," said Cristian Maquieir, the Commission's chairman. "This is highly controversial and very difficult. I would prefer something different, but there is nothing out there."

The proposal must win three-quarters approval by the members of the whaling commission at its 62nd annual meeting, set for 21-25 June in Agadir, Morocco.



## More information

The IWC draft proposal can be accessed here: <http://iwcoffice.org/documents/commission/IWC62docs/62-7.pdf>

ICTSD Reporting; “US Leads New Bid to Phase Out Whale Hunting,” NEW YORK TIMES, 14 April 2010; “IWC’s Latest Whaling Proposal Vexes All Sides,” GREENFUDGE.org, 27 April 2010; “IWC whaling proposal ‘offensive,’” NZ HERALD, 23 April 2010; “Whaling Commission Proposes to Cut But Legitimize Kill Quotas,” ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 27 April 2010; “Green Light for Commercial Whale Hunts,” CBS NEWS, 26 April 2010. “From the Seat to a Sushi Plate, a Trail of DNA,” NEW YORK TIMES, Green Blog, 15 April 2010. “Study: Illegal whale meat surfacing at sushi bars,” AP NEWS, 14 April 2010.

## IN BRIEF

### US Continues Push to Open Trade in Environmental Goods

The United States is still working to secure a deal that would slash barriers to trade in environmental goods and services, United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk said on Monday.

“We think it only makes sense to make the trade of those goods more open,” Kirk said, according to a report from Bloomberg. He added that the issue “is important enough” that it could move forward on its own, outside the context of the WTO’s Doha Round trade talks. He also noted that the US has been discussing the matter with officials from Australia, Canada and the European Union.

Liberalising trade in environmental goods and services (EGS) is one of the many issues under consideration in the global trade talks at the WTO. However, with a broad multilateral trade deal nowhere in sight after eight and a half years of negotiations, officials eager to open EGS trade are pursuing other options. Some prominent businesses, notably General Electric, have thrown

their support behind efforts to secure a stand-alone pact (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 30 October 2009, <http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/58312/>).

Advocates say that an EGS deal could end up looking similar to the WTO’s Information Technology Agreement (ITA) - a plurilateral deal to liberalise trade in IT products that has generally been considered a success. Negotiations over the ITA ended in December 1996, but the deal did not take effect until July of the following year after countries representing 90 percent of trade in the goods in question had agreed to sign on. Such a “critical mass” of industry would also be required before an EGS deal could enter force.

For now, Kirk is doing his homework. Earlier this month, the USTR’s office asked the US International Trade Commission to draw up reports on how an EGS deal would impact US industry and consumers and what it would mean for US exports of clean technologies. The reports are expected in October of this year and February 2011, respectively.

In related news, a group of Democratic lawmakers introduced a bill on Tuesday that aims to boost the competitiveness of the US clean technology industry. The bill - sponsored by Representatives Doris Matsui and Anna Eshoo of California, Bobby Rush of Illinois and John Dingell of Michigan — would establish a US\$ 15 million fund under the International Trade Administration, a branch of the Department of Commerce, to provide “export assistance” for US clean technology firms.

“Right now, the global market for environmental goods and services is estimated at US\$ 700 billion,” said Rep. Rush, the chair of the House subcommittee on trade and consumer protection, in a statement. “This means that the future of the overall US economy not only depends upon a vibrant domestic market but strong American leadership in the rapidly expanding green economy.” He noted that of the world’s 30 largest clean technology firms, only six are headquartered in the United States.

ICTSD reporting; “US seeks to push ahead with trade deal on green technologies,” BLOOMBERG, 26 April 2010.

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## European Environmentalists Fuming over Discovery of Biofuels Report

An EU document obtained by Reuters using freedom of information laws makes public the negative side effects on the environment and greenhouse gas emissions generated by biodiesel. This document was the final report of four studies intended to analyse the ramifications of proposed changes in the EU biofuels trade policies, focusing on global agriculture and environmental change.

Europe's demand for biofuels, the report predicts, is likely to contribute to climate change and harm the environment. The report suggests that emissions from biodiesel can be as much as four times more than the greenhouse gas emissions from diesel or gasoline.

"The EU's biofuel policy is looking more and more unsustainable and if not urgently reviewed will lead to deforestation, more climate changing emissions and damage to the environment," said Adrian Bebb, agrofuels campaign coordinator for Friends of the Earth Europe following the Reuters report. "It is time to end this madness and bring in real solutions to the climate crisis."

The EU has recently come under fire both for failing to release similar documents (see Bridges Trade BioRes 19 March 2010, <http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/72580/>) as well as the release of a previous report shedding light on land use change, the potential for causing food shortages in developing countries, and climate change ramifications associated with the increased use of biofuels in the EU (See Bridges Trade BioRes 2 April 2010, <http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/73572/>).

The EU's target of 10 percent of road transport fuel to come from "renewable sources" by 2010 could severely impact the environment, the new report finds. It further suggests that any increase above 5.6 percent of transport fuels from biofuels could "erode the environmental sustainability of biofuels," and severely increasing greenhouse gas emissions with just 4.6 percent increase.

"For the third time in six weeks the [European] Commission is forced to release studies about the climate effects of biofuels," said Nusa Urbancic of Transport and Environment (T&E), a Brussels-based campaign group promoting sustainable green transportation. "And for the third time these studies show that land use is the most important factor in deciding if biofuels make sense or not."

A coalition of environmental groups, including T&E has now launched legal action against the EC over its failure to freely release documents outlining the negative environmental impacts related to biofuels, such as the one obtained by Reuters. The lawsuit accuses the Commission of breaching several European laws designed to promote transparency, democracy, and legitimacy in European policy-making.

ICTSD Reporting; "Europe's Biofuel Policy unsustainable new research confirms," FRIENDS OF THE EARTH EUROPE, 26 March 2010; "Once-hidden EU report reveals damage from biodiesel," EURACTIV, 22 April 2010; "Global Trade and Environmental Impact Study of the EU Biofuels Mandate; Final Report," European Commission, March 2010.

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## EU Moves toward New Rules on Animal Welfare

The EU is starting to consider new rules on animal welfare that could have significant impacts on its trading partners.

The European Commissioner for health and consumer affairs, John Dalli of Malta, who took up his post in February, told The New York Times in an interview this week that he plans to introduce draft legislation to eliminate loopholes that allow some cosmetics companies to test their products on animals. He hopes to forbid such products from being sold in Europe unless the companies halt the testing before the end of 2012, he said.

More broadly, Dalli intends to propose new legislation on animal welfare "by early 2012" in the hope that the reforms could be implemented in

conjunction with changes to European farm policy that will take effect after 2013, the commissioner said in a speech in Ireland earlier this month.

“Our EU animal health legislation is now a vast body of legal texts - some 60 basic acts on trade, disease control, animal identification and so forth. The new law will simplify the current complex legal structure by replacing it with a streamlined framework,” Dalli told a conference on animal health on 12 April.

The European Commission has already held public consultations to gauge citizens’ thoughts on reforming the EU’s animal welfare laws. The more than 150 submissions that have been received have made it clear “that a high level of animal health remains essential,” Dalli said.

The European Union has long been known for its stringent health and safety standards for food and other products. Dalli hinted that he sympathises with such an approach.

“Careful analysis and consideration of convergence [with international standards] is necessary - but the EU should retain a higher level of protection of public health and animal health where this is justified,” he said in his speech.

In The New York Times interview, Dalli also signalled that the EU has no plans to lift bans on imports of US chicken that has been washed with chlorine or imports of US beef that has been treated with hormones. The two embargos have long irritated US exporters.

But Dalli does not always toe the traditionally strict European line on all of the issues that fall under his authority. He caused some eyebrows to raise in March - just a month after he took up his post - when his office approved the use of a genetically modified potato in Europe (for industrial purposes only, however).

“I do not believe in telling consumers what they should eat or buy, but I firmly believe we have a duty to let them know what they are eating or buying,” Dalli told the Irish conference.

ICTSD reporting; “EU push on animal welfare may open new trade front with US,” THE NEW YORK TIMES, 26 April 2010.

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## **Brazil Scraps Ethanol Tariff as US Considers Extending Its Own**

Brazil has eliminated its 20 percent tariff on ethanol imports until 2012, the country’s Chamber of Foreign Trade announced earlier this month. The temporary measure is widely seen as an attempt to pressure the United States into lowering or even removing its own trade barriers on ethanol imports.

Under existing US policy, ethanol imports are subject to a 2.5 percent ad valorem tax plus a tariff of 54 cents per gallon. Additionally, a tax credit for ethanol blenders of 45 cents per gallon - the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit or VEETC - supports US ethanol consumption. As these policies are set to expire at the end of 2010, a new bill has been introduced in Congress to extend them for five more years.

The US is the world’s largest producer of ethanol, but Brazil, the second-largest producer, is the largest exporter of the biofuel, with 1.365 billion gallons sold abroad in 2008. The countries produce two different types of ethanol - corn-based in the US and sugarcane-based in Brazil - but both kinds may be used interchangeably. Because cane-ethanol is cheaper to produce than corn-ethanol, the Brazilian ethanol industry is highly competitive.

The VEETC is not restricted to domestically produced US ethanol but can be paid to ethanol blenders using imported fuel. But because the tariff on imports is higher than the tax credit, Brazilian ethanol producers operate at a disadvantage to US producers, according to analysis by Robert Rapier, Chief Technology Officer for Merica International, a bioenergy holding company.

“If our energy policy goals are promotion of renewable energy, then the tariff is a partial obstacle,” Rapier wrote in his blog for Forbes.com. “If our energy policy goals are only



to promote domestic renewable energy, then the tariff serves that purpose at the potential expense of taxpayers, consumers and ethanol exporters.”

Lowering the cost of ethanol consumption would encourage use of the alternative fuel. “Consumers win when industries compete,” said Joel Velasco, the chief North American representative of the Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association (UNICA). “Brazilian ethanol producers are willing to compete for consumers. What about American producers?”

The American Farm Bureau supports the continuation of the tax credit and tariff as a way to secure energy security for the United States, move away from fossil fuels and develop a domestic industry.

The US corn-ethanol lobby group Growth Energy has launched a major push for the tax benefits to be extended. The group’s campaign includes a US\$2.5 million series of ads broadcasting the benefits of ethanol. UNICA came out with an ad campaign to end the subsidies, calling cane-ethanol a “sweeter alternative.” UNICA has often allied with the US lobby in the past to promote consumption of ethanol, but it is now acting in the interests of Brazilian ethanol.

WTO members who enact large-scale policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions without also lowering tariffs on clean technologies that would help reach reduction goals are acting nonsensically, said Marcos Jank, President and CEO of UNICA, in a presentation to WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, who visited Brazil’s largest sugarcane-growing region on 17 April. Ethanol ought to be included in the “list of environmental goods for which import tariffs must be abolished,” added Jank.

Jank emphasised the importance of keeping legally binding sustainability criteria in line with WTO trade rules. “Sustainability must be a given and we all want to ensure that it is always a vital consideration, but any binding criteria must be science based and measurable in practice,” said Jank. “Otherwise, we will be opening doors to a serious risk of creating new trade barriers.”

Brazil has been attempting to stabilise the country’s ethanol supply and prices since wild swings were seen during the financial crisis. Most recently, Brazil announced that it would provide US\$1.43 billion in loans to help ethanol producers defer sales and build stocks. Brasilia insists that the move is not a subsidy, but rather a stabilising tool. The US has not yet commented on the move.

ICTSD reporting; “Brazil To Lend To Ethanol Mills, Help Build Stocks,” REUTERS, 30 April 2010; “Brazil Announces Temporary Elimination of Ethanol Tariff,” NACS ONLINE, 7 April 2010; “Implications of the US Ethanol Tariff,” FORBES BLOG, 15 April 2010; “Brazil Records Record Ethanol Exports in 2008: Report,” BIOFUELS DIGEST, 27 January 2009; “Cane ethanol fires back at the corn-based variety,” THE HILL E2 WIRE, 12 April 2010; “Renewable Energy Tax Incentives,” AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, April 2010.

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## Latin American Meetings Address Climate Change

The First Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth's Rights, a unique event with representation from the indigenous communities and social movements from around the world, ended with calls for increased international environmental commitments and the establishment of a supranational environmental court.

The event took place from 20-22 April in the Bolivian city of Cochabamba. Bolivian President Evo Morales said the event was a great success, with some forty thousand delegates from nearly 150 countries in attendance.

In addition to presiding over the start of the conference, Morales will be responsible for leading a delegation of indigenous representatives who will travel to UN Headquarters in New York to deliver the resolutions and agreements adopted at the Conference. Observers say the Bolivian president will likely meet with UN secretary general, Ban Ki-Moon.

Among the many issues highlighted at the event, the proposal to create an International Court for climate and environmental issues garnered the most attention. The aim of the court would be to prosecute and punish nations, companies, individuals, and legal entities who commit crimes against nature, according to Morales, the country's leftist president.

The proposed court would be established within the United Nations, should be signed by all countries, Morales said. The Bolivian president said that more initiatives like these should be because "the struggle between peoples should not be reduced to the Climate Change Summit to be held in Cancun, Mexico, next December."

The outcome of the meeting urges countries to approve Annex I of the Kyoto Protocol, which states that developed countries will have to reduce domestic emissions by at least 50 percent over the 1990 levels. Organisers of the meeting say the plan to hold another similar event next year to discuss the outcome of the UN Climate Change meeting in Cancun.

Taking place in parallel to the conference in Bolivia, the World Summit of Regions on Climate Change got underway in Montevideo, Uruguay. The meeting was organised and sponsored by the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development, a non-governmental organisation composed of regional governments attending the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002.

The meeting reaffirmed the calls for greater efforts to reach an agreement at the next Climate Change Summit in Cancun and reviewed local policies in response to climate change.

The meeting found that the path of action on climate change in Latin America is scattered and responds primarily to local or sub-regional issues. Climate change policy in Latin America requires greater coordination of public policies in different countries of the region to confront the problem, the countries resolved.

*This article is based on a translation from Puentes Quincinal.*

ICTSD and CINPE Reporting; "Bajó la inversión en agua y saneamiento," CENTRO DE PRENSA DE LA ONU, 21 April 2010; "Conferencia Mundial de los Pueblos sobre el Cambio Climático y los Derechos de la Madre Tierra," ACUERDO DE LOS PUEBLOS, 22 April 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 (30 April –14 May)

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 ten 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 May 2010, New York, US. CLIMATE CHANGE, TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION: CONCERNS FOR SIDS. While international transportation has been a main driver of globalisation, trade, and development, it also contributes considerably to climate change. While small island developing states (SIDS) need transportation for their food security and for their exports, the effects of climate change, particularly rising sea levels, threaten their very existence. The purpose of this ICTSD side event at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development is to give an overview of the relation between the regulation of international transportation (aviation and shipping) in the face of climate change and the impact these policies may have on trade and development. For More Information, visit [www.ictsd.org](http://www.ictsd.org) and

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_csd18.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18.shtml)

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 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 roundtable 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/>.

12-14 May, Montreal, Canada. **3rd ICAO ENVIRONMENTAL COLLOQUIUM; AVIATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE.** This event will focus on strategies and programmes of ICAO, industry, academic/research institutions and international organisations to harness technological, scientific and economic solutions in the global fight against climate change. This Colloquium will provide a forum on aviation and climate change, in particular on related key developments emanating from the ICAO's Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels, UNFCCC COP/15 and the 8th Meeting of ICAO's Committee for Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP). For More Information, visit: <http://www.icao.int/CLQ10/>

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).

13-14 May, London, UK. **2010 FORESTRY BIOMASS & SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE: INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CARBON REDUCTIONS.** This event will provide up-to-date analysis of the latest developments in policy, economics and financing of biomass and forestry projects, and help you identify new investment opportunities and risks in these rapidly growing markets. Keynote Speaker - Tim Rollinson, Director General, Forestry Commission of Great Britain; and Chairman, Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration. For further information on the conference and to register, visit: [www.environmental-finance.com](http://www.environmental-finance.com).

#### Other Upcoming Events:

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).

DUMPING ON THE POOR: THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY, THE WTO AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. By D.

Green; M. Griffith. This paper critiques the EU's Common Agricultural Policy as a mechanism that promotes over-production and dumping of cheap goods that undercut local markets in developing countries. At the same time, tariffs and other obstacles prevent agricultural producers in these countries from accessing the European markets for their own goods. The paper calls for the EU to support the proposal for a "development box" in the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture, which would change the rules to allow governments the right to protect small-scale farmers from influxes of cheap goods. This paper can be viewed at <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/trade-policy/agriculture&id=19957&type=Document>

TOOTHED WHALES REPORT, UNEP/CMS, February 2010. This report, launched by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)/Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), warns that large-scale fishing operations are seriously threatening the lives of the majority of toothed whale populations. It notes that some 86 percent of all toothed whale species are at risk from entanglement and death in gillnets, traps, weirs, longlines and trawls. Further, lack of food and forced changes in diet as a result of overfishing pose additional threats to 13 of the 72 toothed whale species. Many populations are also suffering from: the ingestion of marine debris; habitat loss; and the effects of chemical and noise pollution. The report can be viewed: [http://www.cms.int/reports/small\\_cetaceans/contents.htm](http://www.cms.int/reports/small_cetaceans/contents.htm)

COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH, POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND FOOD SECURITY - ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper, April 2010. This paper proposes methods for quantifying the contribution of aquaculture to national economies, poverty alleviation and food security in order to improve the political and financial support to the sector for its adequate development. Ways to measure the three dimensions of food security – availability, access, contribution to food utilisation – are described and explained. The technical paper can be viewed here: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i0974e/i0974e00.htm>

TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: IMPORT OF FLOWERS FROM AFRICA TO NORWAY, by R Haug; I Ohna; A Jens. How can increased African agricultural imports achieve environmental sustainability? This study examines how it is possible to increase import of agricultural products from low income sub-Saharan African countries to Norway by benefiting from zero tariffs. View this Paper at: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/trade-policy/environment&id=40169&type=Document>