



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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

Contributors to this issue were Andrew Aziz, Ahmed Abdel Latif, Paige McClanahan, and Malena Sell.

The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Graham Absent as US Senators Unveil Climate Bill

United States Senators John Kerry and Joe Lieberman introduced new draft climate legislation on Wednesday, ten months after the House of Representatives passed its own bill to cut US emissions of greenhouse gases.

Senators Kerry (a Democrat) and Lieberman (an Independent) are the chief sponsors of the nearly 1,000-page piece of legislation, which aims to bolster the US contribution to addressing climate change while spurring economic growth and creating jobs at home. The bill is in line with the United States' official international position to cut its carbon dioxide emissions to 17 percent of 2005 levels by 2020.

The bill lays out an offsetting programme that allows polluters to receive credit for emissions reductions. The bill would make as much as two billion tons in offsets available each year, with 75 percent aimed at domestic programmes and 25 percent reserved for international environmental efforts.

Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican and an initial sponsor of the bill, had worked closely with Kerry and Lieberman to craft legislation that would appeal across party lines. But Graham split with the other two senators last month after Congressional Democrats announced that immigration reform would take priority over new climate legislation (see Bridges Trade BioRes, [30 April 2010](#)). His withdrawal delayed the bill's release, which was initially scheduled for 26 April.

Still, despite Graham's absence, Lieberman told reporters he believes the Republican will vote for the bill.

Border measure language toned down

As expected, the Kerry-Lieberman bill includes language that would allow “border measures” - also known as carbon tariffs - on imports from countries that have not enacted strict regulations on emissions of greenhouse gases, but much of the strong language used to promote the bill is absent from the actual text.

“To achieve our environmental objectives in the event that no global agreement on climate change is reached, we will require imports from countries that have not taken action to limit emissions to pay a comparable amount at the border to avoid carbon leakage and achieve our environmental objectives,” reads a communiqué to US manufacturers on Kerry’s website.

However, references to “border measures” or “adjustments” in the bill have been axed in favour of an “International Reserve Allowance Program.” Reference to the Program is found under Title IV “Job Protection and Growth,” Subtitle A “Protecting American Manufacturing Jobs and Preventing Carbon Leakage.”

The bill would also allocate more emission allowances to certain “trade-exposed” industries. This measure is designed to “protect and promote manufacturing jobs in the United States and prevent carbon leakage to other countries.”

US industry generally voiced support for the bill, with the understanding that measures to protect jobs are fully implemented. “This leakage of emissions and jobs has the potential to undermine both the economic and environmental goals of energy and climate legislation,” said Leo Gerard, president of United Steelworkers – the largest union in the US. Gerard said border measures must be implemented to deal with “products from countries that do not share America’s commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through effective, meaningful and comparable policies.”

Experts have speculated that in light of the stiff Republican opposition on the bill, it may not pass Congress before 2013 – after the next presidential election.

The US House of Representatives passed its own draft climate legislation last summer. That bill also included a measure that would impose a form of “carbon adjustment” at the border, although the provision would not take effect until 2014 (see Bridges Trade BioRes, [26 June 2009](#)).

Offshore oil a sensitive issue in US

The bill contains provisions encouraging offshore drilling, but states would be permitted to invoke a 120 kilometre buffer zone along their coasts. The massive Gulf of Mexico oil leak has pushed energy issues to the fore in the United States in recent weeks, with much public outcry over a perceived lack of emergency response measures. In light of this, Graham said in a statement that in addition to the immigration issue, the timing of the bill’s release was inappropriate.

However, President Barack Obama countered that the environmental disaster highlights the need for such a bill. “The challenges we face - underscored by the immense tragedy in the Gulf - are reason to redouble our efforts to reform our nation’s energy policies,” Obama said, adding that he hopes the bill passes this year.

The bill envisions a 40 percent reduction in foreign oil imports by 2030. Reuters reports that oil refiners will be subjected to new federal requirements as energy efficiency standards are applied to vehicles. By 2030, free pollution permits provided to utilities will come to an end as they are transitioned into a payment system.

More information

An official 21-page summary of the bill is available [here](#).

The full 987-page American Power Act (APA) is available [here](#).

The communiqué addressing the manufacturing sector aspects of the bill (including border measures) can be found [here](#).

ICTSD reporting; “US unveils climate bill,” STRAITS TIMES, 13 May 2010; “Global Cap And Trade Decades Off, U.S. Unveils Plan,” REUTERS, 13 May 2010; “Industry welcomes US climate bill, but fears for manufacturing jobs,” BRIGHTER ENERGY, 13 May 2010; “After

long wait, Senate takes up climate,” AGENCE-FRANCE PRESSE, 12 May 2010; “Kerry, Lieberman to end the suspense with climate bill rollout today,” CLIMATEWIRE, 12 May 2010.

BIODIVERSITY

UN Proclaims Global Failure in Protection of Biodiversity

Countries have failed to meet their 2010 targets for preserving biodiversity and most future scenarios project continued high levels of extinction and habitat loss throughout the 21st century, according to a new report released by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which operates under the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 warns that unless “radical and creative action” is taken to reverse the trend, support systems for life and livelihoods – especially among the world’s poor – are at risk of collapsing.

“Overall, the news is not good,” said Gaetano Leone, Deputy Director the UN Environment Programme’s Regional Office for Europe at the 10 May release in Geneva, Switzerland. “Sadly, we will not achieve the 2010 biodiversity targets anywhere in the world.”

In 2002, more than 190 countries committed to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 – the International Year of Biodiversity. But the 2010 Outlook confirms that all three main components of biodiversity – genes, species, and ecosystems – have seen multiple indications of decline.

But while the overall assessment is negative, some examples of progress – such as slowing the rate of loss for tropical forests and mangroves in some regions and improving the protection of certain vulnerable species – were cited as well. More protected areas were created on land and coastal areas, and conservation efforts over the past 100 years prevented the extinction of at least 31 bird species (out of 9,800), according to the report.

Trade contributing to biodiversity loss

The report looks closely at the role of invasive alien species in biodiversity loss around the world and identifies it as one of five main drivers – the others being climate change, pollution, habitat change, and overexploitation. In relation to the spread of alien species, the report takes aim at the pressures brought on by trade. “Increased world trade has been a key indirect driver of the introduction of invasive alien species,” the report states.

Foreign organisms can be transported in a number of ways, such as being unintentionally packed in agricultural produce or travelling in the ballast water of ocean-going vessels. While the majority of these organisms are benign, many can have far reaching impacts. “It has been estimated that of some 11,000 alien species in Europe, around one in ten has ecological impacts and a slightly higher proportion causes economic damage,” the Outlook states. The most damaging taxonomic groups were found to be terrestrial invertebrates and terrestrial plants.

Intervention schemes, such as the Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories for Europe (DAISIE), have been shown to be somewhat successful. DAISIE creates an inventory of invasive species that pose a threat to European biodiversity and acts as a means to assess a threat and disseminate the data to other countries as a form of early warning system. However, while the report acknowledges successful examples of interventions to control the spread of alien invasive species, the high volume of new invasions tends to negate these efforts.

Tools exist for future progress

The Outlook says that despite the global failure to meet biodiversity targets, national biodiversity strategies and action plans have now been implemented in some 170 countries. Furthermore, some international financial resources have been made available – though much more is needed – and there has been progress in establishing mechanisms for research, monitoring and scientific assessment of biodiversity.

The report states that the tools exist to reduce biodiversity loss, but stresses that the missing ingredients are resources and political will. It says that the significant measurable results in certain areas demonstrate what can be achieved when all elements come together. The Outlook cites successful government policies that have slowed forest loss in certain tropical countries and effective alien invasive species measures that have helped reduce the risk of extinction for several species.

But while the possibilities for biodiversity conservation show promise, the report insists that governments are not making the issue a priority. “Actions to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity receive a tiny fraction of funding compared to activities aimed at promoting infrastructure and industrial developments,” the report says. “Biodiversity considerations are often ignored when such developments are designed, and opportunities to plan in ways that minimize unnecessary negative impacts on biodiversity are missed.”

Outlook to be a key document at CBD COP

The Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 is the third in a series that have been published every four years since 2002. The findings are based on 110 national reports and scientific assessments that were subjected to extensive independent review. Its conclusions will be central to the negotiations by world governments at the CBD Conference of the Parties, which will take place from 18-29 October in Nagoya, Japan.

Although no countries met their 2010 goals, the report insists that establishing targets is an important process in promoting biodiversity conservation. Parties attending the COP are expected to review the past decade and consider appropriate biodiversity goals for 2020.

The document will also be used to inform discussions by world leaders and heads of state at a high level segment of the UN General Assembly on 22 September.

Further information

The Global Biodiversity Outlook can be accessed on the [CBD website](#).

ICTSD Reporting.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

WIPO Committee Increases Pace of Talks on Traditional Knowledge

The 16th session of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) witnessed agreement on the establishment of Inter-sessional Working Groups (IWGs). With this matter resolved, delegates hoped to accelerate the committee’s substantive work, which aims to produce a draft legal instrument by September of next year.

IGC Chairman, Ambassador Philip Richard Owade of Kenya, said that the Committee had “broken new ground” and that serious work lies ahead.

Last October, the IGC won a mandate from the WIPO General Assemblies to start text-based negotiations with the aim of creating a legal mechanism to prevent “the misappropriation and misuse” of traditional knowledge. However, substantive discussions came to a halt during the 15th session, last December, when delegates came to a deadlock over how to structure the sessions of the inter-sessional working groups. These IWGs are meant to “support and facilitate the negotiations of the IGC” and to “provide legal and technical advice and analysis.”

Two proposals on the structure of the IWGs were put forward during the IGC’s December session. Under the proposal made by the African Group, each of the three IWGs would focus solely on Traditional Knowledge (TK), Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCE) or Genetic Resources (GR). The Development Agenda Group (DAG), a new coalition of largely developing countries, agreed

that “it would be more efficient if one meeting was devoted to one subject matter at a time.” The African Group proposal also called for the inter-sessional groups to be limited to 27 representatives and 10 experts including seven expert observers who are from or who represent indigenous and local communities.

A coalition of developed countries and Central European and Baltic States submitted a separate proposal. This one stated that “all three inter-sessional Working Groups will deal on an equal footing with TCEs, TK and GR” and noted that each working group should look in to all three issues at once. This proposal also suggested that the working groups be open to representatives from indigenous and local communities besides experts and member states, but did not specify a minimum number.

After intense informal negotiations, delegates reached a consensus on 7 May, the last day of the meeting. It was decided that “all three subjects of the IGC shall be treated on an equal footing” and that each subject should be allocated an equal amount of time for discussion. Delegates agreed that the first IWG, to be held in July, will address TCEs. The topics of the second and third IWGs will be decided at the IGC’s next session.

A few definitions might be useful. Traditional Cultural Expression (TCE), according to WIPO, include music, art, designs, names, signs and symbols, performances, architecture etc., that are integral to the cultural and social identities of indigenous and local communities. Traditional Knowledge (TK) on the other hand, encompasses all of the beliefs, traditions and practices found in a certain community. Some examples of TK include traditional healing methods, traditional water systems and traditional farming methods. Genetic resources are genetic materials of plants, animals or micro-organisms which contain a valuable resource for future generations of humanity.

The 7 May compromise also included a guarantee that “participation in the IWGs shall be open to all member states and accredited observers” and that “each member state and accredited observer shall be represented by one technical expert.” The arrangement also includes “funding for each IWG

to be provided by WIPO for one representative each from 71 developing countries and countries with economies in transition.”

The only issue that remained unresolved at the end of the week-long meeting was whether WIPO’s Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities should be used to sponsor indigenous people’s participation in the IWGs. The Indigenous Caucus called for the IGC to amend the rules of the Voluntary Fund to achieve this goal; the group also called on the committee to “consider alternative funding mechanisms.”

Text-based talks continue

Over the course of the session, IGC delegates also engaged in text-based negotiations on substantive issues.

The first topic of discussion was a newly revised paper on “Objectives and Principles” for the protection of traditional cultural expressions.

Article 3 of this paper concerns “acts of misappropriation and misuse” of TCEs. On this point, the United States expressed concern regarding the exercise of IP rights over derivatives of TCEs. It suggested that the term “derivatives” be replaced by “adaptations” to reduce the impact of the stronger protection of TCEs on material available in the public domain. South Africa, however, said that removal of rights over derivatives would greatly affect the overall treatment and protection of TCEs. Delegates at the session asked the secretariat to undertake a study on the matter.

The IGC also discussed a revised “Objectives and Principles” paper on traditional knowledge. Article 3 of the TK instrument, which describes the general scope of subject matter, generated some debate. Spain on behalf of the EU said that the protection of TK should ensure “a balanced approach between the holder of TK and the users.” Spain also stressed “the need to facilitate access and dissemination of TK in order to ensure the dynamic and vibrant nature of the public domain.”

Norway also said that knowledge should be classed as being in the public domain when it is becoming well known outside the indigenous local community in which it originated. The representative from the Tulalip Tribes said that this theory meant that an unnecessary burden is put on holders of the knowledge; he did not agree that disclosure of the knowledge should lead to exhaustion of rights.

The last issue for discussion was the revised options paper on the protection of genetic resources. Text-based negotiations have not yet begun on this subject at the IGC, although discussions on genetic resources are underway in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and also within the context of the TRIPS Council at the WTO.

A representative from the CBD updated member states on the progress in negotiations toward an international regime on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS). The ABS regime aims to allow sovereign states to determine access to natural resources within their jurisdiction while ensuring that parties take appropriate measures to share the benefits derived from their use. She said that negotiators are still trying to figure out how to ensure compliance with prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms during the ABS process.

The IGC's discussions on GR could be kick-started by a joint submission Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway and the US that was made last week. The countries presented a proposal that lays out five "objectives and principles" for the GR discussions. Countries are expected to discuss the proposal at the next session of the IGC, which will be held from 6 to 10 December.

ICTSD reporting.

IN BRIEF

WTO Fisheries Talks Focus on Special Treatment for Poor Countries

Establishing appropriate levels of special and differential treatment (S&DT) for developing country fisheries subsidies monopolised the agenda as negotiators met at the WTO from 3 to 7 May. The S&DT focus was pushed primarily by an in-depth analysis from WWF of a negotiating proposal tabled by Brazil, China, India, and Mexico on 11 February (TN/RL/GEN/163).

The WWF analysis, called "One Step Forward, Three Steps Back: Comments on TN/RL/GEN/163," was released on 28 April and presented to negotiators on 3 May. A source close to the negotiations says that members picked up on many points brought up in the 17-page document. Of particular interest, the source says, are the flexibilities that would be provided low income countries.

Some parties are concerned that the nature of the special and differential treatment afforded to small-scale, artisanal fisheries in developing countries proposed in GEN/163 could allow for generous subsidies, the source says. While WWF has praised certain elements of GEN/163 and stated its general support for broad and effective S&DT, the green group says the "carve-out" measure outlined in the proposal is tantamount to a "blank cheque."

However, those supporting the Brazil, China, India, and Mexico proposal say the brouhaha generated by the carve-out issue is not merited. One delegate pointed out that GEN/163 is not fundamentally different from previous proposals that were tabled without any push-back from the environmental community. The notion that countries involved would seek to table a proposal that would allow for rampant subsidies is not warranted, the delegate said. While the proposal may not be perfect, the delegate acknowledged, it has been instrumental in breaking a longstanding deadlock in rules negotiations.

Still, there are concerns among some negotiators that certain elements of the proposal could lower the former chair's ambitions, which conservationists had lauded as progress in the right direction. Uruguay's Guillermo Valles Galmés recently stepped down as chair of the rules negotiating group, leaving a legacy of progressive action on subsidies.

"As chair of the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules from 2004-2010, Ambassador Valles showed leadership and innovative approach in advancing trade rules that contribute to the responsible management of marine resources by combating inappropriate subsidies to the world's fishing fleets," reads a recent WWF communiqué honouring the former chair. "Working with 153 WTO member states, Ambassador Valles' leadership heralded a number of key wins towards the pursuit of innovative trade rules that serves the long-term interests of both the environment and human society."

With no heir apparent for Valles, those close to the talks say that parties have been hesitant to engage in meaningful negotiation. Observers speculate that the absence of a chair will likely stall the negotiations for the foreseeable future.

Shortly before parties met in Geneva, the United States tabled a new proposal (TN/RL/GEN/165), that emphasises the need to stay the course (TN/RL/W/213). "The United States strongly supports the overall structure and level of ambition in the chair's November 2007 text," the proposal reads. "The premise of this proposal is that the chair's text retains its current level of ambition and its architecture."

More information

The Brazil, China, India, and Mexico proposal (TN/RL/GEN/163) can be found [here](#).

The US proposal (TN/RL/GEN/165) can be found [here](#).

ICTSD Reporting.

Cameroon, EU Ink Timber Trade Deal

After 31 months of negotiations, Cameroon and the EU have signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) aimed at ensuring only legally harvested timber from the West African country enters the domestic or EU marketplace. Once implemented, the VPA will apply to all wood products harvested or produced in Cameroon, one of Africa's largest exporters of tropical hardwood.

Both government and civil society observers say that if implemented properly, the deal could bring an end to illegal logging in the heavily forested country. Cameroon has struggled with illegal and unsustainable logging for many years. From 1990-2005, 13.4 percent (3.3 million hectares) of the country's forest cover was lost.

Non-governmental organisations following the progress of the deal have praised the process of the negotiations for being "transparent" and "inclusive". Observers say the bilateral process sets an excellent example for future negotiations, but caution that transferring the good intentions on paper into practice will not be easy.

"The negotiation process in Cameroon has shown how well the Commission and country governments can work together," said Iola Leal Riesco of the Brussels-based green group FERN. "We must remember however that forests benefit from good implementation of good policies, not good policies alone."

The implementation date for the deal is set for 2012. At that time the VPA will require all wood-products exported from Cameroon to the EU to have a license proving they were legally obtained and harvested in a way that retains the health of the nation's forests and gives benefits back to forest communities.

Stefano Manservigi, Director General for Development of the European Commission, says it's a win-win trade deal.

"As producers and consumers of tropical timber, Cameroon and the EU have a joint responsibility to eradicate illegal logging and related trade,"

Manservisi said in a press release. "This is good for Cameroon and good for European consumers, who remain as concerned as ever about climate change, which has forest degradation and illegal logging as one of its causes,"

Civil society groups following the negotiations said the open process has been exceptional. The government of Cameroon has committed to making information publicly available, continuing independent monitoring of the forestry sector, carrying out legal framework reforms applicable to the forestry sector, and including civil society in the implementation process.

"One of the strengths of this agreement lies in the fact that it clearly identifies the information that must be publicly disclosed," said Symphorien Azantsa, Coordinator of the Cameroon-based EC Forest Platform, an organisation that is closely monitoring the Agreement.

Cameroon exported nearly US\$500 million worth of wood and wood products in 2006. Approximately 80 percent of the country's processed wood is exported to the EU, while 60 percent of its raw logs are shipped to China.

This is the third VPA to be signed in Africa in as many years. Ghana signed an agreement in 2008 and the Republic of Congo – also known as Congo-Brazzaville – clinched a deal in 2009 (see Bridges Trade BioRes, [15 May 2009](#), and [19 September 2008](#)).

VPAs lie at the core of the European Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, the EU's response to a call for action at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. Beyond VPAs, Brussels promised to require EU member states to purchase sustainable forest products, and to introduce a legislative measure discouraging the importation of wood from unknown - and thus, potentially illegal - sources.

There is currently no EU law preventing illegally harvested wood from entering the European market.

ICTSD Reporting; "Cameroon agrees to cut illegal wood out of its supply chain," MONGBAY, 10

May 2010; "Cameroon signs timber licence agreement with EU," TIMBER TRADES JOURNAL, 10 May 2010.

Possible WTO Case over EU Palm Oil Restrictions?

At a recent meeting among Malaysian and Indonesian palm oil producers, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok – the Malaysian Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister – said the European Renewable Energy Directive unfairly excluded palm oil from the EU market. The meeting on 3 May launched a new grouping of six Malaysian and Indonesian palm oil producer associations, the Indonesia-Malaysia Palm Oil Group, which will seek to address concerns over the sustainability of their operations.

Dompok said he would consult informally with his Indonesian counterpart regarding the possibility of launching a dispute at the WTO to redress the situation, and seek legal advice from the WTO. Under a new directive on renewable energy, which was adopted last year and enters into force by the end of this year, biofuels must make up ten percent of transport fuel in EU countries. However, the EU has put in place a system of checks and balances to ensure that these biofuels are sustainable.

Notably, biofuels entering the EU market must be at least 35 percent more carbon efficient than fossil fuels, and cannot be derived from cleared forest or wetlands. In practice, these sustainability criteria would keep Malaysian and Indonesian palm oil off the EU market, while European rapeseed biodiesel, for example, would fulfil the criteria.

According to Dompok, the sustainability criteria represent green protectionism. Purboyo Guritno, Indonesian Palm Oil Association Chair, said his industry has been victimised by developed country environmental activists. "Indonesia and Malaysia must take a more proactive approach in protecting the growth of the oil palm industry that supports tens of millions of livelihoods," he stressed.

The environmental claims of certified sustainable palm oil has been in question recently as Unilever – the world’s largest purchaser of palm oil – blacklisted two major Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) members in Indonesia for engaging in “unsustainable” practices (see Bridges Trade BioRes [5 March 2010](#)). While the oil is primarily used as an ingredient in food and detergents – such as margarine, cooking oil, soaps, and shampoos – it is increasingly being used as a biofuel.

For years, several green groups have been campaigning against the palm industry, which they say destroys wildlife habitat, causes widespread forest loss and releases huge quantities of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, primarily in Southeast Asia.

Together, Malaysia and Indonesia produce 85 percent of the world’s palm oil.

“Malaysia, Indonesia palm oil groups unite against critics,” AFP, 5 May 2010; “Indonesia, Malaysia seek WTO advice on EU biofuel policy,” REUTERS, 6 May 2010; “The EU must reshape its palm oil policies,” MALAYSIA STAR, 11 May 2010; “Move to have WTO’s ear on palm oil fight,” MALAYSIA BUSINESS TIMES, 13 May 2010.

EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Events

For a more comprehensive list of events for the trade and environment community visit the BioRes [online calendar](http://ictsd.net/news/biores/events/), <http://ictsd.net/news/biores/events/>.

Coming up in the next two weeks (14-28 May)

24-28 May, Guatemala City, Guatemala. 26TH 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 the [meeting’s website](#).

24-28 May, Punta del Este, Uruguay. THE FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF). The Assembly, held once every three to four years, is the governing body of the GEF, in which representatives of 177 member countries participate. It is a strategic opportunity for GEF stakeholders to meet, take stock, and collectively strengthen strategies and actions for protecting the global environment and achieving sustainable development. The Assembly will combine plenary meetings and high-level panels, exhibits, side events and GEF project site visits. Prominent environmentalists, parliamentarians, business leaders, scientists, and civil society representatives and community leaders will discuss global environmental challenges within the context of sustainable development and other international development goals. For further information, visit the [Assembly website](#).

26-27 May, Barcelona, Spain. AGRICULTURAL PRICE VOLATILITY: PROSPECTS, CHALLENGES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS. The agricultural sector has been deeply battered by both the food and financial crises and faces a looming climate change crisis. This seminar will examine current and projected trends in prices, review past policy responses, examine policy options available today and arrive at pragmatic recommendations on addressing volatility in the future. The meeting is being organised by the International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC), the University of Barcelona, and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development. For further information, refer to the [seminar website](#).

28-30 May, Bonn, Germany. FIRST WORLD CONGRESS ON CITIES AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE. Jointly hosted by Local Governments for Sustainability, the City of Bonn and the World Mayors Council on Climate Change, Resilient Cities 2010 will offer an opportunity for participants to share the latest

scientific findings, state-of-the-art approaches and effective programmes on climate change adaptation and resilience-building in cities and urbanised areas. Case examples of local adaptation practice will illustrate approaches and experiences. The conference aims at setting the direction for future planning of and investment in urban infrastructure. For further information, visit the [Congress website](#).

Other Upcoming Events:

16-17 June, Geneva, Switzerland. MEETING ON FISHERIES, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. This meeting – co-organised by ICTSD, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and WWF – will explore the trade and development linkages of the global fisheries sector. The fishery sector is a cornerstone of food security, particularly in developing countries. However, with 80 percent of the world's fisheries being exploited up to or beyond their biological limits, the sector is in crisis. Topics to be explored during this two-day meeting include the crisis of shrinking fish stocks, fisheries subsidies, developing country exporting opportunities, sustainable aquaculture, and aid for trade. For further information, visit the [meeting's website](#).

16-18 June, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. PROGRAMME FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF FOREST CERTIFICATION SCHEMES (PEFC) STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE. This dialogue seeks to provide an overview of the development of forest certification in the Asia Pacific region and to discuss the relevance and appropriateness of the draft revised international criteria at a regional and national level. PEFC is the world's largest forest certification system. For further information, refer to the [Stakeholder Dialogue website](#).

28 June-2 July, Edinburgh, Scotland. 18TH COMMONWEALTH FORESTRY CONFERENCE. Conference organisers say this conference will pull together some of the most influential and dynamic individuals with a professional interest in forestry to explore how restoring the Commonwealth's forests can contribute to the global challenge of tackling climate change. Public and private sector representatives from around the Commonwealth

will discuss how forest restoration can be used to tackle issues such as community livelihoods, food security, biodiversity, energy, and governance. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

22-25 September, Phuket, Thailand. GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON AQUACULTURE 2010: FARMING THE WATERS FOR FOOD AND PEOPLE. This conference, co-sponsored by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific (NACA), and the Department of Fisheries of the Royal Thai Government, aims to tackle five key matters related to global aquaculture. Organisers hope to review the present status and trends in aquaculture development, evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the 2000 Bangkok Declaration and Strategy, address emerging issues in aquaculture development, assess opportunities and challenges for future aquaculture development, and build consensus on advancing aquaculture as a global, sustainable and competitive food production sector. The conference was originally scheduled to take place in June 2010. For further information, refer to the [conference website](#).

23-28 August, Seoul, Korea. XXIII WORLD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOREST RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS (IUFRO). This Congress, held every four to five years, will draw professionals and 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 further information, visit the [IUFRO World Congress website](#).

Resources

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy for review by the BioRes staff to Andrew Aziz at aaziz@ictsd.ch.

THE EFFECTIVENESS, EFFICIENCY AND EQUITY OF MARKET-BASED AND VOLUNTARY MEASURES TO MITIGATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR.

By Alexander Kasterine and David Vanzetti. (UN Conference on Trade and Development, 2010). This article, first published in UNCTAD's Trade and Environment Review 2010, argues that the prospects for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the agricultural sector and its trade are dim. Agriculture accounts for 13 per cent of global GHG emissions. This rises to approximately 30 per cent if land clearance for farming, agrochemical production and trade in agricultural and food products are attributed to the sector. The authors say that the technical and political challenges in pricing externalities across the sector, population growth, and increasing demand for ruminant meat are three key barriers to reducing emissions. Among other issues, the paper analyses market based mechanisms and voluntary mitigation measures for their effectiveness, efficiency. and equity. The study finds that carbon labelling and food miles initiatives are likely to be ineffective, inefficient and unfair to developing country exporters.

OUR BALANCING ACT - THE REAL VALUE OF ECOSYSTEMS.

By Denis Sliker and Jos van Assendelft (The Forest Enterprise Foundation 2010). Forests, oceans and wetlands are the treasuries of Planet Earth, the authors of this book on the economics of ecosystems contend. Ecosystems provide us with crucial services such as clean water, food, climate regulation and biodiversity. Still, forests and other ecosystems are threatened and the planet is losing its capacity to provide a comfortable living environment, for us and for next generations. In this book, the authors explore the route of putting a value on ecosystems. Next to this, the book places the pressure on ecosystems in an historic perspective

and presents ways to define the monetary value of ecosystems. Contributions from Willem Ferwerda (Director IUCN Committee of the Netherlands) and Frederic Kizza (Senior Warden Uganda Wildlife Authority) are also featured. The book can be purchased on the Forest Enterprise Foundation's website.

FORESTRY, RISK AND CLIMATE POLICY.

By Michael Dutschke (Cullivier, 2010). This book resumes over a decade of policy advice, starting by focusing the global frameset of forest-related mitigation activities under the Climate Convention. Later chapters shed light on the diverse underlying methodological and economic issues. The final chapter proposes how to collect funds for global commons like the reduction of emissions from forests or supporting adaptation to climate change, while at the same time strengthening the commitment of the beneficiaries towards the international climate regime. The book concludes that forestry as a means of mitigating climate change is special compared to options in other sectors, and that environmental risks in striking the balance between environmental effectiveness, cost-efficiency and equity are posing important challenges. Besides identifying the key issues in climate forestry, the book offers pragmatic solutions for the integration of forests into international climate policy. Printed versions can also be purchased from the [Cullivier website](#).