



# Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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## RENEWABLE ENERGY

### China to End Challenged Subsidies in Wind Power Case

China has agreed to bring an end to a controversial public fund for wind power manufacturing, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) Ron Kirk [announced](#) on 7 June. The subsidies were the subject of a formal WTO dispute between the US and China that commenced late last year.

The disputed fund provided grants to those Chinese wind turbine manufacturers that used locally-produced input rather than foreign imports. According to the USTR, individual grants had ranged from US\$6 to US\$22 million, with hundreds of millions more being spent since the inception of the programme in 2008.

Washington had argued that Beijing's grants were prohibited, as the provision of grants was conditional on the use of local input. This requirement would be in violation of Article 3.1(b) of the [Subsidies and Countervailing Measures \(SCM\) Agreement](#). The US had also taken issue with China's failure to notify the WTO of these measures.

Moreover, Washington alleged that Beijing had violated the commitments it made when acceding to the WTO by not making available translations of the domestic legislation regarding the grant program in English, French, or Spanish – the official languages of the global trading body.

“The United States is pleased that China has shut down this subsidy program. Subsidies requiring the use of local content are particularly harmful and are expressly prohibited under WTO rules,” Kirk said. “This outcome helps ensure fairness for

American clean technology innovators and workers.”

Permanent Mission of China to the WTO, however, rejected the US take on the issue in a statement released on 9 June.

“China noticed that the US had misunderstandings on the measure at issue, and has made clarifications in the consultations for this dispute,” the statement reads. “The aim of the measure at issue is to enhance investments on research and development in wind power technology, but not to use domestic goods instead of imported goods.”

Already in February this year China had decided to formally revoke the legal measure that had created the programme that is known as the Special Fund for Wind Power Equipment Manufacturing.

“From 2010, China has terminated the implementation of the program,” the Chinese Mission explained. “In order to remove some WTO members’ doubt, China announced publicly that the measure at issue was an invalid document in February 2011.”

While the decision was communicated to the US, it was not part of a formal agreement regarding the dispute between the two parties. At the WTO it is common practice that parties enter into mutually agreed solutions that are then announced to the global trade body, marking a formal end to the dispute.

The announcement by USTR, however, indicates that the US considers the revocation a major victory.

“This is the third successful WTO challenge that the United States had brought against Chinese government subsidies,” the USTR claimed. “In each of these cases, following formal consultations at the WTO, China agreed to eliminate the subsidies that the United States had challenged.”

Also, US industry applauded the decision as a move toward less distortion in the clean energy technology marketplace.

“With this first green technology issue behind us, we encourage the [Obama] Administration to continue to work to level the playing field for clean technology companies and American workers to grow sustained employment and good job opportunities,” said Leo Gerard, president of the United Steelworkers union (USW), [in a statement](#). USW had initiated the dispute by submitting a petition to USTR calling for action against Chinese green energy subsidies (see Bridges Trade BioRes, [10 September 2010](#)).

### **Subsidies simply no longer needed: Chinese industry**

While US officials appear ecstatic, Chinese wind energy firms are framing the move as a non-issue.

“It is understandable that the Chinese government is ending subsidies to an industry that is strong enough to compete with international players,” Shi Pengfei, vice-president of the China Wind Energy Association, told China Daily.

Indeed, the success of the Chinese wind power industry is no longer dependent on the support measures. The wind energy industry in China has grown rapidly over the last decade, with local production support measures being equally successful. While in 2004 82 percent of all wind power equipment installed in China was imported, in 2010 Chinese-made equipment accounted for almost 90 percent of new installations. Meanwhile, in 2010 China overtook the US as the country with the greatest installed wind power capacity.

This rapid growth, coupled with support programmes, allowed the major manufacturers to accumulate technology and investment while overcoming challenges in the production of megawatt-level and offshore wind turbines. Chinese wind power manufacturers are now among the top global leaders with increasingly globalised supply chains.

At the same time, observers fear overproduction and shortcomings in connecting wind power plants to the electricity grid; these concerns increase the pressure for Chinese manufacturers to invest and export abroad. Domestic content

requirements could hamper such efforts, observers caution.

This reasoning might be the real motivation for China to end its special fund.

“The cancellation of the subsidies should not be interpreted as a shift in the policy to support the green industry,” commented Zou Ji, China Director at the World Resources Institute.

Vice Minister of Finance Li Yong endorsed China’s commitment to supporting its green industry only two weeks ago. Li announced that China would increasingly make use of interest-rate subsidies to the renewable-energy and high-technology material sectors.

### The green side of the dispute

The dispute had found itself at the centre of international attention since its beginning, given that it was one of the first ‘green technology’ disputes brought to the WTO. Had it proceeded further within the WTO system, it could have been one of the first opportunities for the WTO to take position in the climate protection versus trade discussion.

Early on in the discussions, Beijing’s Commerce Ministry had insisted that the fund was consistent with China’s WTO obligations (see Bridges Trade BioRes Review, [Spring 2011](#)).

“The measures that China has taken to develop wind power, as an important way to achieve sustainable development, are beneficial to resource conservation, environment protection and contribute to overcome the climate change and global warming,” the WTO mission today reaffirmed.

Beijing’s position got prominent support when Robert Howse, Professor at New York University Law School, suggested in March that the Chinese support was a positive move for sustainable energy in the country.

“China has good grounds, environmental grounds, for wanting to ensure its security of a domestic supply of alternative energy technologies in the

future, Howse said. “China’s demand for clean energy is so enormous that it would be irresponsible for China not to take measures to ensure it has an adequate domestic industry in this area.”

The China case did not proceed for long enough to test the WTO on this. However, with increasing global green technology support and firm competition in the sector, more cases are likely to follow.

ICTSD Reporting; “China to halt wind turbine subsidies,” CHINA DAILY, 8 June 2011; “China to Promote Renewable Energy Through Subsidies,” THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 20 May 2011; “China’s Promotion of the Renewable Electric Power Equipment Industry,” NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL, March 2010.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Slow Start to Bonn Climate Talks Gives Way to Progress

Procedural quarrels over the first several days of the ongoing international climate change negotiations gave way to a more positive and constructive tone mid-week, with delegates expressing gratitude for the opportunity of getting down to business. The two-week talks in Bonn, Germany – which got underway on 6 June – are part of the process leading up to the next Conference of the Parties (COP) in Durban, South Africa this December.

With the glacial pace of climate discussions since last December’s COP in Cancun, many countries have already acknowledged that their expectations for Durban are low. Key polluting countries lack the political will to move forward, due largely to concerns regarding to the competitiveness of their carbon-intensive industries and their focus on growth and jobs more generally.

Increased pressure on delegates last week came in the form of new data released by the International

Energy Agency (IEA) showing that global carbon dioxide levels have risen sharply following a slump caused by the 2008 financial crisis. In fact, 2010 emissions are the highest recorded to date.

### **Kyoto prospects unlikely**

The future of the Kyoto Protocol in particular looks grim, with its first commitment period running out in 2012, and several parties already having announced that they do not intend to participate in the foreseen extension, or “second commitment period,” of the agreement. Most recently, on Thursday Canada announced that it would be joining Japan and Russia in rejecting a second phase of the emissions pact.

Canada’s right-leaning government – which has been critical of Kyoto in the past – was re-elected with a majority earlier this year, clearing the way for Ottawa to pursue policies more aggressively.

"Now that we've finished our election we can say now that Canada will not be taking a target under a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol," Judith Gelbman, a member of Canada's delegation, told delegates in Bonn.

In a further blow to Kyoto, Christina Figueres, the UN's top climate official announced that the deadline for approving a second phase of the pact in time for the 2012 expiration date has already passed. Even if countries could agree to a plan in Bonn, she said, the lengthy ratification process in national parliaments would stretch beyond December of next year.

### **South Africa ramps up pressure**

Negotiations for a new agreement that could supplant Kyoto, known as the working group on Long-term Cooperative Action (LCA), have been taking place at a sluggish pace, due to an array of disagreements between negotiating blocs and countries.

The traditional developed-developing country divide noticeably reared its head last week, with the G77 group of developing countries and China arguing that developed countries are not engaging in a meaningful way. In a veiled reference to the

United States, Jorge Argüello – Argentina’s ambassador and chair of the G77 and China group – suggested some parties are attempting to stall progress and prevent the possibility of a deal in Durban.

“Some parties...are determined to prejudge the results of Durban without even the chance for a dialogue on the substance,” Argüello said. “We cannot go home [from Bonn] empty handed.”

But as week one came to a close, several observers commented that the aggressive approach incoming COP president South Africa has taken in paving the way to Durban. Pretoria has scheduled a number of meetings between Bonn and Durban in an attempt to address as many outstanding issues as possible before the COP gets underway.

In an informal open-door meeting on Saturday, South Africa called on parties to discuss their expectations for the Durban meeting. At the meeting, the G77/China group and other developing countries insisted that Durban must first establish a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, followed by the a “balanced” operationalisation of the Cancun Agreements.

Several developed countries also underscored the need for the operationalisation of the Cancun Agreements in Durban, combined with a framework for a measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) system.

### **Trade, response measures hampering discussions**

Trade-related issues have been creating discord among participating countries since the opening of the current round of climate talks. Countries disagree on whether or not to address emissions from agriculture and maritime and aviation transportation as discrete topics in the negotiations.

Problems also emerged with regard to “response measures,” which deal with the social and economic impacts that countries could experience as a result of the policies and measures that other countries take to mitigate climate change. These

include trade measures, such as international transport taxes or carbon labelling schemes.

Discussions on response measures have advanced in various negotiating tracks over past years, and this session's agenda included a special "forum" that would consider a work programme and modalities for more in-depth treatment of the potential impacts. However, some countries, including the US, are blocking the discussion in any track to avoid any potential decisions at Durban.

ICTSD Reporting; "SB 34 and AWG Highlights: Saturday, 11 June 2011," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN, 13 June 2011; "Government confirms it will reject new Kyoto Protocol," REUTERS, 9 June 2011; "US criticised over climate change stance at UN talks," IRISH TIMES, 13 June 2011.

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## Brussels Targets Aviation, Trucking in Emissions Clampdown

Tensions are building over the EU's decision to extend their Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to aviation. Under the new plan, all airlines inbound to and outbound from the 27-member bloc will be covered under the system - an announcement that drew criticism from aviation groups and non-EU countries alike.

The inclusion of airlines, which became public on 6 June, will be fully implemented from 1 January 2012 onward. As the 27 EU members, the European Parliament, and the European Commission have all adopted the ETS, EU Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard insists that including the aviation industry is within the EU's rights.

"As most other subjects are already subject to measures, it is only reasonable that this sector should also contribute to fight climate change," Hedegaard explained in a 31 May article for the Economic Observer.

The Emissions Trading Scheme will oblige airlines to pay for carbon permits if they exceeded a

certain emissions cap. This requirement would apply to all flights entering the 27-member bloc, for both EU and non-EU airlines.

Before the announcement, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the global body that represents over 230 airlines, had publicly supported carbon markets as a way to regulate emissions. However, it is now toeing a difficult line between backing its prior statements of support and voicing its concerns over cost.

"IATA's position is very clear," said Paul Steele, Director of Aviation Environment at IATA. "We see emissions trading as a useful tool and we've not backed away from that at all." He then clarified that the issue "is not about the ETS as a mechanism, it's about the fact that the EU has probably overextended itself in the way it's trying to impose it."

Willie Walsh, head of International Airlines Group, which manages British Airways and Spanish airline Iberia, told The Telegraph that he expected trade retaliation from non-EU countries, "whether in the form of imposing additional taxes on European airlines or restricting access to markets."

## China, US express frustration

Recent statements from Chinese officials seemed to confirm Walsh's fear.

"If the EU presses ahead with its plan, the friendly relations between Chinese airlines and European airlines and aircraft manufacturers will surely be affected," said Chai Haibo, vice president of the China Air Transport Association (CATA). The impact of the legislation on Chinese airlines could be up to €84.5 million in the first year, according to CATA estimates.

The Wall Street Journal reports that several US airlines have also banded together to contest the decision's legality.

Despite the opposition, Hedegaard stood firmly by the ETS, arguing that any change in position would make Brussels appear uncommitted to climate change. "If someone says boo, we do not

change our laws - that would not be serious,” she told The Guardian.

There are also alternatives available, should non-EU countries not want to participate in the trading scheme. If those countries can prove that they have taken “equivalent measures” to mitigate their airlines’ emissions, then they would not be subject to the ETS.

### **Road haulage tax revised to reflect environmental costs**

Transport emissions are estimated to be responsible for one quarter of greenhouse gas emissions in Europe. Brussels says it is targeting the sector because, unlike other industries, transport emissions are rising. Trucking companies are also likely to see increased costs in upcoming months as well as new Eurovignette road haulage tax rules are revised to include charges for air and noise pollution.

European Parliament on 7 June voted to increase taxes on usage of transport infrastructure as well. The funds raised from the revised Eurovignette law will be used to improve the performance of transport systems and to cut pollution, starting with air and noise.

MEPs said that 85 percent of all revenue raised should be used to reduce damage to the environment and develop all transport systems sustainably.

The revision will cover all motorways along with trans-European networks and be applied to vehicles over 3.5 tonnes. These vehicles will be charged three to four cents per vehicle/km on average.

Heaviest pollution class vehicles may have added costs, especially in sensitive and mountainous regions, while lesser-polluting engines will be exempt from the taxes until 2014 or 2018, depending on their class.

“These new EU rules will send the right price signals to operators so they will invest more in efficient logistics, less polluting vehicles and more sustainable transport at large,” said Siim Kallas,

vice-president of the European Commission responsible for transport.

The laws will cover all 30,000 km of trans-European transport (TEN-T) once formally approved by the EU Member States who previously voted overwhelmingly in favour of the initiative.

“This is a very important step in the right direction towards creating a fair financial environment where prices across different transport modes reflect the real costs to society and the taxpayer,” Kallas insists.

ICTSD reporting; “Chinese Airline Group ‘Totally Opposes’ EU’s Emissions Plan,” BLOOMBERG, 6 June 2011; “EU’s scheme could blacken relations,” CHINA DAILY, 8 June 2011; “Greener skies over Europe,” FINANCIAL TIMES, 6 June 2011; “China threatens trade war over EU emissions trading scheme,” GUARDIAN, 6 June 2011; “EU insists on right to curb airline CO2 emissions,” REUTERS, 6 June 2011; “Airline group IATA says fully supports CO2 trading,” REUTERS AFRICA, 7 June 2011; “IAG chief executive Willie Walsh: a European green tax could lead to a trade war,” THE TELEGRAPH, 6 June 2011; “European Commission Stands Its Ground On Airlines Emissions,” WALL STREET JOURNAL, 6 June 2011; “Polluter Pays Principle Approved for EU Trucks,” ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 8 June 2011.

## **IN BRIEF**

### **Nagoya Protocol Implementation Moves Forward as Committee Meets**

Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) last week tackled a range of crucial details related to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) that had remained vague in the final accord. At the Montreal meeting, members stressed that several issues, including the modalities of the compliance



mechanism, must be ironed out before the agreements can be ratified.

At its first meeting, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP) looked at the clearing house mechanism (a network for facilitating scientific and technical cooperation), capacity building, awareness raising, and compliance procedures and mechanisms.

As the Nagoya Protocol was adopted in a last minute decision, it has been criticised for its ambiguity and incompleteness (see Bridges Trade BioRes, [8 November 2010](#)). These loopholes, however, are expected to be addressed at the next CBD conference of the parties (COP) in October 2012. The ICNP work will address developing suitable solutions.

During the 5-10 June meeting, compliance emerged as the centre piece of the ICNP's work. Compliance refers both to members' compliance with the protocol – including the obligation to adopt measures to ensure private parties' compliance – and the compliance of users with domestic regulation.

Members agree that there are valuable lessons to be learned from existing compliance mechanisms under related agreements such as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety but that the Nagoya Protocol needs to develop its own unique approach. In particular, they say, a future compliance mechanism needs to address collaboration in cases of non-compliance by private parties. Access to justice – national court systems and other means – will be critical in this regard. This demand is not specifically mentioned in the protocol due to great opposition from “user countries.”

A second focus rested on the clearing house mechanism. Members are expected to notify to the clearing house their national implementation measures including national legislation, guidelines on access and evidence of compliance. The latter marks a landmark achievement of the protocol as such evidence is transformed into an internationally recognised certificate of compliance once notified with the clearing house mechanism.

Members agreed that the mechanism should be established in a gradual manner starting with a pilot phase. Disagreement, however, prevailed regarding the information to be incorporated. In particular, the regulation of third party transfer arrangements remains contentious. Members finally called upon the secretariat to implement the mechanisms as soon as possible though additional resources will be required.

Outstanding issues on compliance were deferred to the ICNP 2 meeting to take place in April 2012.

To date 24 countries have signed the Nagoya Protocol but none have ratified. The protocol will enter into force 90 days after the 50<sup>th</sup> ratification. During the ICNP 1, the EU and its member states Croatia, Turkey, and Serbia expressed their willingness to sign the protocol once announced corrections in the French version were finalised.

ICTSD Reporting.

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## Tainted Veggies Spark EU-Russia Trade Row

An EU-Russia spat over trade in fresh vegetables in the wake of a fatal E. coli outbreak in Europe is casting a shadow over Moscow's ongoing bid to accede to the World Trade Organization.

Russia on 2 June imposed an import ban on all fresh vegetable products from the EU, even though Russia's health agencies have not yet signalled any cases of infection in their country. The European Commission – which has been among the stronger supporters of Russia's accession to the global trade body – has criticised the import ban as disproportionate, unscientific, and contrary to WTO rules.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has defended the ban, and dismissed criticism that it contravenes global trade rules. “We can't poison our people for the sake of some spirit [of WTO],” he told Russian business executives in the southern Russian city of Sochi.

This feud follows a mysterious and rare bacterial outbreak that has primarily affected Germany. Several people have died and over 2,300 have been sickened in the past month. German officials initially blamed Spanish cucumbers and tomatoes for the outbreak, but later retracted the accusation. Spanish producers estimate that Germany's panic regarding Spanish produce continues to cost them €200 million weekly. One Spanish exporter, Costa de Almeria, has already incurred €1 million worth of losses from having to destroy stocks, according to a 3 June BBC report.

European Commissioner on Health and Consumer Policy John Dalli protested Russia's decision to impose a ban and requested the immediate withdrawal in a 2 June letter to Russian authorities.

### **Blanket ban has repercussions for industry and WTO entry**

The Russian ban applies to all fresh vegetables that originate from the 27-country bloc. Russia accounts for a quarter of EU fresh vegetable exports, with the Moscow Times putting that value at €600 million annually. The export market, however, pales in comparison to the EU's own internal trade.

The ban will benefit Russian vegetable producers. The head of the Russian Consumer Protection Agency, Gennady Onishchenko, has publicly urged Russians to avoid imported vegetables, arguing that the E. coli outbreak demonstrates that "Europe's lauded health legislation – one which Russia is being urged to adopt – does not work."

According to Russia's agricultural minister, Yelena Shrinnik, their position is heavily influenced by the nation's capacity to suffice on domestic agricultural production alone.

The all-encompassing ban is illegal under WTO regulations, Fernando Valenzuela, head of the EU delegation to Russia, argued.

"One of the aspects of joining the WTO are a number of regulations... and certainly the ban that has been decided by the sanitary authorities of

Russia is not compliant with those rules," Valenzuela said at a news conference in Moscow. He then asserted that Russia must demonstrate that it can, of its own accord, abide by the rules of the WTO in order to demonstrate that it is willing to become a responsible member of the organisation.

Maxim Medvedkov, Russia's top negotiator for its WTO membership talks, rejected Valenzuela's comments, telling Interfax that "any WTO member is entitled to this, and Russia has and will have this right after joining the organisation."

WTO rules give members the right to restrict trade in order to protect the health and safety of their citizens, but specify that such restrictions must be "applied only to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health" and are "not maintained without sufficient scientific evidence." ([Article 2.2 of the SPS Agreement](#))

The Russian consumers' rights agency has said that Moscow would consider lifting the ban once the EU identifies the source of the outbreak and the mechanism for the bacteria's transmission.

EU officials have warned that the trade spat could sour the mood for discussions scheduled for tomorrow's EU-Russia summit in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia.

ICTSD Reporting: "E. coli: Russia bans import of EU vegetables," BBC, 2 June 2011; "Spain seeks compensation for E. coli blame," BBC, 3 June 2011; "Spanish farmers blame Germany for crisis," BBC, 3 June 2011; "Russia won't lift ban on EU vegetables to enhance its WTO bid, Putin says," BLOOMBERG, 3 June 2011; "Russia and EU clash on trade ahead of summit," EU OBSERVER, 6 June 2011; "Russia refuses to lift Europe vegetable ban," FINANCIAL TIMES, 3 June 2011; "Ban on Vegetable Imports Threatens to Derail EU Summit," THE MOSCOW TIMES, 6 June 2011.



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## Sustainable Tropical Forest Initiatives Receive Mixed Report

Sustainable management of tropical forests in key timber-producing countries has surged since 2005, according to a new report by the Yokohama-based International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). But countries facing conflict and political turmoil continue to struggle to make any meaningful progress in protecting their forests.

“We are of course happy to see the progress that has occurred in the last five years,” ITTO Executive Director Emmanuel Ze Meka said in a press release. “But it still represents an incremental advance, and some countries are still lagging behind.”

The report is being heralded as the most comprehensive study of the world’s forest cover and forest management with 31 out of 33 major timber trade countries responding to ITTO’s inquiries in the 2010 study. The previous study in 2005 only elicited responses from 21 out of the 33 nations.

Amongst the positive findings of the report are the national cases of Gabon, Guyana, Malaysia and Peru who, after vast forest destruction throughout the 1980’s and 1990’s, are showing strong improvements in sustainable management of their forests.

Brazil made strides in its overall management as well, however 2009 showcased unnerving evidence of rapid deforestation without presenting a specific cause.

Countries affected by civil conflicts and economic strife such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea were unable to make any substantive improvements. Forests in such regions continue to be harvested unsustainably because the countries simply lack the capacity to properly govern their resources, the report says.

With rising food volatility, biofuel initiatives, and demand for timber, wood fuel and paper, tropical

forests are subject to enormous pressure to be liquidated, the study finds.

Duncan Poore, co-author of the report and former head of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) told Reuters that although awareness was growing in regards to sustainably harvested wood it is not strong enough to counter the world demand for food.

“There’s been an extraordinary change of attitude and culture. They may not be practicing it, or able to because of lack of funds, but they know it’s there,” said Poore.

In the medium term the ITTO expects deforestation and forest degradation to continue, says Andy White, coordinator of the Rights and Resources Initiative for ITTO. But, with support from aid organisations to help fund programmes in timber producing countries – such as the enhanced Reduced Emission from forest Destruction and Degradation (REDD+) – the rate of deforestation can be curtailed.

### More information

The *Status of Tropical Forest Management 2011* can be accessed [here](#).

ICTSD Reporting; “Good News and Bad News for the World’s Tropical Forests,” TIME, 7 June 2011; “Report: Tropical timber trade boosts sustainable management,” BUSINESSGREEN, 7 June 2011; “Food demand eating into tropical forests – report,” REUTERS AFRICA, 7 June 2011.

## EVENTS AND RESOURCES

### Events

If you would like to see your event listed here or are interested in finding out more about publicising your event through ICTSD, write to [biores@ictsd.ch](mailto:biores@ictsd.ch). For a more comprehensive list of events for the trade and environment community visit the [BioRes online calendar](#).

#### Events in the next two weeks (13-27 June)

6-17 June, Bonn, Germany. 34TH SESSION OF THE UNFCCC CONVENTION ON SUBSIDIARY BODIES. This two-week meeting of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) marks the halfway point between last December's Conference of the Parties in Cancun and this December's meeting in Durban. ICTSD hosted two side events at the meeting and will provide updates on the negotiations via [Twitter](#) and at [ICTSD On the Go...](#) Further information available on the meeting can be found on the [UNFCCC website](#).

14 June, Worldwide. LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE ON SOCI-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS. Organised by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, this regional online real-time conference will focus on the impact of living modified organisms (LMOs) on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity on a regional basis and identify possible issues for further consideration. Representatives from parties, other governments and relevant organisations are invited to nominate representatives through the Biosafety Clearing House no later than 30 May. For more information, visit the [CBD website](#).

20-24 June, Geneva, Switzerland. FIFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION (PIC COP 5). This meeting will

primarily discuss matters related to the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention, including the Chemical Review Committee and financial resources. PIC COP 5 will also consider the recommendation of the Chemical Review Committee to include endosulfan and azinphos methyl in Annex III to the Convention. For more information, visit the [event website](#).

20-24 June, British Columbia, Canada. NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT. The theme of this conference, convened by the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), is "Enforcement Cooperation: Strengthening Environmental Governance." The conference aims to demonstrate how enforcement cooperation at all levels is essential for achieving sustainable development objectives. For more information, visit the [event website](#).

20-24 June, Manila, Philippines. SIXTH ASIA CLEAN ENERGY FORUM 2011: NEW BUSINESS MODELS AND POLICY DRIVERS - BUILDING THE LOW-CARBON FUTURE. This conference will promote best practices in clean energy policy and regulation, financing and investment, innovative business models, and energy access across Asia. Sessions will provide opportunities for stakeholders to discuss successfully innovative and creative methods to break down barriers to large-scale clean energy development and deployment in the Asia Pacific region. Participants will include governments, national and multi-national banks, carbon and clean energy investment funds, environmental regulators, academia, and civil society. For more information, visit the [event website](#).

22-23 June, Brussels, Belgium. OCEAN ENERGY 2011: SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN ENERGY ASSOCIATION (EU-OEA). This conference will focus on creating a networking platform for the European ocean energy community. It aims to connect leading technology developers, policy makers, industrial players, supply chain partners, utilities and investors. Highlights of the convention will include an

address by the European commission and presentations from developers and investors that will highlight the supply chain opportunities a thriving marine energy sector will offer the European Union. For more information, visit the [event website](#).

22-24 June, Geneva, Switzerland. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD) PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM: MAKING TRADE AND FINANCE WORK FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET. This third annual UNCTAD Public Symposium provides a venue for a multi-stakeholder dialogue on topics likely to dominate the global political agenda in 2011 and 2012. Key topics for discussion will be financial and monetary reforms for sustainable development and making the transition to a green economy fair and equitable. Participants from civil society, the private sector, parliamentarians, academia, the media, international organisations and governments will have an opportunity to exchange their views on these issues. For more information, visit the [event website](#).

27-28 June, Paris, France. RECONCILING POVERTY ERADICATION AND QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT: WHAT ARE THE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS? This conference is set to bring together French and international high level speakers, well-known in the scientific, political, non-profit and academic world in preparation for the G20 conference one year before Rio+20. It will be hosted by the Veolia Environment Institute and the Agence Française de Développement. More information is available on the official [website](#).

### Other Upcoming Events

27-28 June, Paris, France. RECONCILING POVERTY ERADICATION AND QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT. The French Development Agency will host this event as a platform for in-depth dialogue between a variety of stakeholders in the lead-up to Rio+20. The focus will be to raise awareness regarding the new constraints and opportunities resulting from a combined analysis of poverty and the environment. Participants will also share concrete

experiences in various geographical, economic and political contexts that have made reconciling poverty eradication and quality of the environment possible. For further details, visit the meeting [website](#).

5-8 July, Quito, Ecuador. CBD LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON REDD+ INCLUDING RELEVANT BIODIVERSITY SAFEGUARDS. This workshop is organised by the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador with financial support from the Government of Japan and the UN-REDD Programme. The purpose of the workshop is to consult with parties on the development of advice on relevant biodiversity safeguards, so that REDD+ actions are consistent with the objectives of the CBD and avoid negative impacts on and enhance benefits for biodiversity. More information can be found on the official CBD [website](#).

11-15 July, Lombok, Indonesia. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOREST TENURE, GOVERNANCE AND ENTERPRISE: EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ASIA IN A CHANGING CONTEXT. Organised by Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), this conference aims to promote an assessment of the relationship between forest tenure, sustainable forest management, and income generating enterprises to promote action across a range of Asian countries. It will bring together stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond and follow-up on RRI-ITTO organised international tenure conferences held in Acre, Brazil in July 2007 and Yaoundé, Cameroon, in May 2009. For further information, visit the [ITTO website](#).

16 July, Rome, Italy. CLIMATE CHANGE AND GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE: STATE OF KNOWLEDGE, RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES. This seminar will include presentations covering: animal, plant, aquatic, forest, micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources. Additional discussions will include setting the policy scene, and agriculture

biodiversity and climate change. It is organised by the Commission for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). More details can be accessed from the official [website](#).

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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 contact the [BioRes Team](#).

BEYOND RIO+20: GOVERNANCE FOR A GREEN ECONOMY. By Adil Najam, Henrik Selin and Mark Halle, published by the Pardee Center (2011). As an intellectual contribution to the preparations for the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Boston University's Frederick S Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future convened a task force of experts to discuss the role of institutions in the actualisation of a green economy in the context of sustainable development. This report presents varied and diverse ideas on what the world has learned about institutions for sustainable development from the past. The authors then propose alternative recommendations for the governance challenges and opportunities for the continuous development of a green economy in the future. The report is available on the Rio+20 [website](#).

GROUNDING GREEN POWER: BOTTOM-UP PERSPECTIVES ON SMART RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. Published by the World Resources Institute (May 2011). This working paper identifies key components of smart renewable energy policy in developing countries, focusing on the power sector. It also provides recommendations for maximising the effectiveness of international support for deployment of renewable energies, drawn from on-the-ground experiences in developing countries. The working paper is available [here](#).

MARGINAL OIL. Written by Lorne Stockman and Sarah Wykes, published by the Heinrich Böll Foundation (May 2011). This report says that as

conventional oil production declines, the global oil industry is investing heavily in dirtier and riskier forms of unconventional oil such as heavy crude, tar sands, and oil shale. The authors say these investments pose a challenge to the climate, the environment and local communities. The paper describes the drivers behind marginal oil investments and gives an overview of existing and potential projects across the globe. The analysis is intended to benefit public knowledge and productively feed the ongoing debates on the road to Durban, Rio and beyond. The paper can be accessed [Böll Foundation website](#).

BIOCARBON FUND EXPERIENCE: INSIGHTS FROM AFFORESTATION / REFORESTATION CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM PROJECTS. Published by the Biocarbon Fund which is managed by the World Bank (June 2011). The report examines the complexities faced by project developers in applying A/R methodologies and the high transaction costs of A/R types of projects. It then highlights the positive effects on livelihoods and sustainable use of biodiversity, calling for a scaled-up approach to these types of projects. The report concludes with a discussion of how this experience could inform the debate about the enhanced Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). The report is available [here](#).