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Trade in Endangered Species

CITES FURTHER UPS CONSERVATION EFFORTS BUT TENSIONS REMAIN

As the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) came to an end on 14 October in Bangkok, Thailand, many conservation groups claimed success. Disagreements remained, however, on the best way to attain conservation goals and balance them with trade rules and poverty alleviation. The meeting added a number of controversial and commercially valuable species to CITES' Appendices, including several timber and marine species.

Animal and plant species listed under CITES Appendix I are considered highly threatened by extinction and are excluded from trade, with the exception of very special circumstances. Appendix II species are subject to strictly regulated trade on the basis of quotas and permits to ensure that trade does not compromise their survival. Appendix III lists species that are subject to domestic regulation, and for which a Party requests the cooperation of other Parties to control international trade.

Hoodia, ramin, agarwood, Irrawaddy dolphin upgraded

South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana were successful in their proposal to list Hoodia, a medicinal plant long used by Africa's San people for its appetite-suppressing qualities, in Appendix II (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 23 September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-09-23/story2.htm>). In addition, the COP passed Indonesia's proposal to uplist the Ramin tree from Appendix III to II. The ramin tree has long been one of

Southeast Asia's major export timbers and Indonesia emphasised that the Appendix II listing would ensure better enforcement of conservation measures and benefit orangutan populations. In addition, the Irrawaddy dolphin was transferred from Appendix II to I despite opposition from Japan, Norway and Gabon. The great white shark, agarwood tree and humphead wrasse were added to Appendix II. Although CITES has traditionally avoided listing highly valued marine and timber species, COP-13 continued the recent trend away from this practice, which had already become apparent at COP-12 in Santiago, Chile. At the Santiago meeting, Parties voted to put bigleaf mahogany in Appendix II (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 21 November 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-11-21/story1.htm>).

"West" accused of whale "imperialism"

Japanese delegates accused the "West" of "cultural imperialism" and vowed to continue efforts to expand whaling after CITES voted against downgrading three stocks of minke whale from Appendix I to Appendix II (which was also the case at the last COP). Such a downgrade would have enabled wider trade in the species, thereby feeding the tastes of the Japanese for whale meat, but faced opposition from conservationists who view the killing of whales as cruel (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 19 March 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-03-19/story3.htm>). The downgrading would also have put pressure on the International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium on whaling. "The West is trying to impose its unilateral standards on us. I regard this as cultural imperialism," Japanese delegate Masayuki Komatsu told Reuters.

Ivory trading again in the spotlight

Delegates also clashed on the best way to conserve key species in cases where CITES decisions provide signals that impact on illegal poaching and trading. The draft action plan for the control of trade in African elephant ivory was eventually approved. However, Kenya's proposal that Parties refrain for six years from submitting down-listing proposals and engaging in trade of raw and worked ivory, spurred controversy, and was eventually rejected. Discussion centred upon whether such a moratorium on elephant trade would cause illegal trade to thrive and require financial resources for enforcement. Namibia's suggestion to include trade in elephant leather and hair goods for commercial purposes was adopted by consensus, but its proposals to allow an annual export quota of 2,000 kilogrammes of accumulated raw ivory and to allow trade in worked ivory products were rejected.

Participants also considered alternatives to complete trade bans, such as economic incentives and sustainable use programs, along with ex situ breeding projects that cooperate with in situ conservation to ensure the survival of species. The CITES Secretariat introduced a document on economic incentives which was adopted. With regard to the document, New Zealand stressed that economic incentives must be targeted and compatible with the WTO. Indonesia suggested that such incentives require adequate regulation and law enforcement and India stressed the need to provide incentives for local stakeholders in conservation efforts.

Overlap with other agreements and organisations

A key theme to these decisions, and the meeting in general, was the increasing overlap between CITES, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), environmental organisations and international trade rules. The need to retain consistency with the ongoing IWC moratorium on whaling, for example, contributed to the decision to maintain the highest level of protection for minke whales. Increased cooperation between CITES and the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) was notable, especially during discussions on marine species and promoting capacity building in developing countries.

As well, delegates agreed to incorporate the Sustainable Use Principles and Guidelines of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), though Israel, Australia, India and the EU were concerned that the term "sustainable use" may pollute the more scientific approach of CITES. However, some delegates pointed out that the concept of sustainable use was already being used by national authorities in managing CITES

species. CBD-related topics such as alien invasive species and access and benefit-sharing for the use of genetic resources also permeated discussions throughout the meeting.

Additional Resources

Documents of the meeting: <http://www.cites.org>

For daily updates and a summary report, see IISD's Earth Negotiations Bulletin:
<http://www.iisd.ca/cites/cop13/>

ICTSD Reporting; ENB, Vol. 21 No. 35-45, 14 October 2004; "Japan loses bid to loosen trade in whale products," REUTERS, 12 October 2004.

Environment at the WTO

WTO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES

WTO Members at the special (negotiating) session of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), meeting from 12-13 October, continued their discussions on the relationship between WTO rules and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Members focused on a submission by Australia on its national experiences on negotiating and implementing specific trade obligations (STOs) in MEAs. Members also discussed a proposed list by Chinese Taipei of possible environmental goods. Mirroring past meetings, debates on both topics revolved mainly around procedural issues, i.e. whether discussions should follow a practical or a conceptual approach, or both.

During the regular CTE session on 14 October, Members discussed a new submission by the EC on addressing developing country concerns regarding the effects of environmental measures on market access. The Committee also debated an EC proposal to hold a workshop on paragraph 51.

MEAs-WTO: National experiences versus principles

Australia in its submission (TN/TE/W/45, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org/>) presented its national experience in negotiating and implementing the Basel Convention on trade in hazardous waste, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and the Montreal Protocol on ozone-depleting substances. Australia stressed the need for effective coordination at the national level between domestic agencies and stakeholders as a "key to achieving compatibility between countries' different international obligations and their smooth domestic implementation". While acknowledging the importance of national coordination, the EC stressed that coordination at the international level was equally important.

Australia's submission gave rise to a general debate on the best approach to the negotiations (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 25 June 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-06-25/story1.htm>). Australia is a firm supporter of a 'practical' approach to the discussions based on national experiences, arguing that this can help improve understanding of STOs in MEAs and their relationship with WTO rules. While supporting this approach, the EC and Switzerland also stress the need for a complementary debate on basic principles underlying the WTO-MEA relationship. Noting a widespread support for the practical approach, Chair Ambassador Toufiq Ali of Bangladesh encouraged Members to focus efforts on this avenue for the time being.

Environmental goods: list versus definition

Chinese Taipei formally submitted its proposed list of possible environmental goods, which had already been circulated as an informal document at the last CTE meeting. The list includes primarily the more traditional (i.e. end-of-pipe) environmental goods, mirroring a list developed by APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic

Cooperation). Several Members welcomed in particular the concept of a "direct use" characteristic for identifying environmental goods, i.e. goods that "directly control pollution".

The EC noted that Members in addition to submitting their proposed lists might want to consider the principles underlying their decision to include certain goods. Such principles could relate to the classification of goods under the Harmonised System (i.e. codes used by customs officials), non-tariff barriers, or goods with multiple end-uses. The US expressed concern that Members could get bogged down in the debate on principles, favouring instead a more concrete discussion.

Korea and Switzerland announced their intention to submit their proposed lists by the next CTE meeting. Qatar, supported by Venezuela, again referred to its submission on natural gas technologies which it would like to see taken up in the negotiations (TN/TE/W/14). The EC also suggested that Members might want to hold an informal meeting between now and the next CTE meeting if they felt that enough material was available for further debate.

Members widely welcomed the papers presented by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (TN/TE/INF/7) and the OECD (TN/TE/INF/8). The World Customs Organisation also presented at the meeting on the difficulties that might arise when including environmental goods in the Harmonised System. He noted that the System only distinguished between products based on their physical characteristics, and that it therefore did not lend itself to denoting goods depending on the process and production methods (PPM) used or on their end-use (i.e. environmental or otherwise).

Regular session discusses market access, paragraph 51

The EC paper (WT/CTE/W/239), submitted under paragraph 32(i) of the Doha Declaration (effect of environmental measures on market access), provides information on reforms carried out in the EC policy making process that contribute to addressing -- in the development and implementation stages of legislation -- concerns highlighted by developing countries. Specifically, the paper describes efforts to enhance upstream transparency, consultation mechanisms, down-stream information mechanisms and supportive/accompanying measures. The EC concludes by putting forward proposals for further cooperation, including improving bilateral dialogue, multilateral cooperation among relevant organisations (such as UNEP, UNCTAD, the WTO and World Bank), and synergies with the private sector.

While Members generally welcomed the submission as helpful, they also used the opportunity to vent their frustration with the EC process. India referred back to its earlier submission under this agenda item (WT/CTE/W/207), dated 21 May 2002, in which it had put forward a number of proposals to ensure that environmental requirements were applied in a manner that would minimise the adverse effects on market access for developing countries. Members felt that some of India's proposals should be pursued in future discussions.

Regarding paragraph 51 of the Doha mandate -- which mandates the CTE and the Committee on Trade and Development to ensure that sustainable development is adequately reflected in the negotiations -- the EC suggested holding a workshop next year. According to the EC, the workshop should include international organisations presenting ideas on ways to move forward how to ensure that sustainable development is reflected in the Doha Round. Chair Naéla Gabr (Egypt) asked Members to submit their suggestions for the structure of the workshop as well as suggest speakers to the Secretariat, which could prepare a draft agenda.

The next meeting of the CTE special session will be held in February 2004.

For further details on the WTO Workshop on environmental goods, held just prior to the CTE meeting, see BRIDGES Weekly, 13 October 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-10-13/story6.htm>.

ICTSD reporting.

Intellectual Property

EXPERTS IDENTIFY OPTIONS FOR FAO MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT

The Expert Group on the Terms of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) met for the first time in Brussels from 4-8 October to develop and propose recommendations, and, where appropriate, propose options and/or elements for the standard MTA. The Material Transfer Agreement is a contract that sets the minimum standards for access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) held in the Multilateral System, which will be established under the International Treaty on PGRFA (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 8 July 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-07-08/inbrief.htm#4>). The standard MTA is fundamental to the implementation of the new Treaty, being the vehicle for facilitating transfer of genetic resources as well as specifying benefit-sharing arrangements. At this meeting, the Expert Group prepared a document containing advice, recommendations and options regarding the obligations for providers and users of PGRFA in the future standard MTA.

Operationalising the benefit-sharing system

The Treaty (Article 13.2d) sets up a benefit-sharing system that provides for the sharing of monetary or other benefits derived from the commercialisation of products developed from PGRFA accessed under the Multilateral System, which includes all genetic resources listed in Annex I of the Treaty. Benefit-sharing is mandatory when the commercialisation of the product restricts the product's availability for use in further research and breeding, and voluntary when the product is freely available for such purposes. In this context, the Expert Group discussed issues related to the level, form and manner of payments made for access to genetic resources (e.g. annual payment, upfront payment, fixed percentage of sales, an amount proportional to the incorporation or significance). The experts also debated the possibility of establishing different levels of payments for various categories of recipients, which commercialise products using PGRFA from the Multilateral System. Potential categories could include developing versus developed countries; seed-producing institutions versus farmers; publicly funded research institutions versus small farmers versus big businesses; or small-holder farmers versus commercial breeders.

Other questions of definition focused on what constitutes 'commercialisation of genetic resources' (e.g. offering for sale; selling, leasing or licensing for monetary considerations; or offering for sale the product and all subsequent products) and what exactly is meant by a product that 'incorporates material accessed from the Multilateral System' (e.g. physical incorporation with or without the expression of a trait). Also in the context of Article 13.2d, the Expert Group analysed under what conditions the genetic resources covered by the International Treaty would be available without restriction to others for further research and breeding (e.g. when it is in the public domain; subject to plant variety protection; or patented and made available royalty-free). The Group also discussed how 'monetary and other benefits' should be defined for the purposes of the standard MTA (e.g. percentage of royalties/sales; cash payments to the providers of the genetic resources to support the management of PGRFA in relevant communities; educative measures; marketing strategies; or research and development activities for capacity building).

Meeting criticised as exclusive

The Expert Group process was strongly criticised by civil society organisations. The Expert Group was limited to 24 members from all regions. The secretariat had suggested that advisors from not only governments, but also industry, academia and civil society be included. However, the only advisors present were from scientific institutions such as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and representatives of the seed industry. No farmers groups or other civil society organisations were included. The World Intellectual Property Organisation and the Union of the Protection of New Plant Varieties were, however, officially invited to participate in the meeting. Some observers expressed their concern that the exclusion of farmers and civil society groups not only prevented a broader, more informal discussion on these issues, but also left serious doubts over the transparency and inclusiveness of the process.

Next steps

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (acting as the Interim Committee for the International Treaty) will consider the recommendations of the Expert Group at a 15-19 November meeting, and take the advice into consideration when drafting the new standard MTA. The Commission is unlikely to finalise this process in November.

Background on the International Treaty

After seven years of difficult negotiations, the revised International Undertaking (IU) -- now the International Treaty (IT) -- on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) was adopted by the Conference of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on 3 November 2001, making it the first binding international instrument dealing specifically with the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 22 November 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/01-11-22/story4.htm>). The revision of the IU to harmonise it with the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) has been underway since 1994. In its original form, as a non-binding agreement dating from 1983, the IU was based on the principle that PGRFA should be "preserved [...] and freely available for use, for the benefit of present and future generations" as part of the common "heritage of mankind."

Additional Resources

Documents of the meeting, including the meeting report, are available at <http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/docsmta1.htm>.

Agrobiodiversity and Intellectual Property Rights: Selected Issues under the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture", Robert Lettington, http://www.iprsonline.org/unctadictsd/dialogue/2004-06-29/2004-06-29_lettington.pdf

ICTSD reporting.

In Brief

EU AND ANGOLA MEET ON FISHERIES AGREEMENT

Negotiations on a new Angola-EU Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) stalled in early October, as discussions regarding localisation of the fishing industry grew more heated. The previous fisheries agreement, which began in 2002 and concluded on 1 August 2004, provoked criticism from WWF. The environmental group argued that the absence of quantitative limits in the grants provided by agreement would further threaten resources and a food source in a nation grappling with a food crisis (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 10 October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-10-10/story2.htm>). The October 2004 meeting, which marked a second attempt at negotiating a successor FPA, failed as a result of disagreements over the Angolan government's efforts in recent months to establish a greater degree of local ownership over their fishery sector. On 23 September 2004, Angola and Cape Verde signed a partnership agreement to jointly explore tuna fishing possibilities on the west coast of Africa, using ten tuna fishing vessels purchased with external financing, particularly from African financial institutions. Angola hopes to continue to pursue joint ventures with domestic and regional bodies in an effort to develop their fishing sector so as to have a stake in all fishing ventures in Angolan waters. It is therefore expected that future FPA agreements would require EU operators to invest locally. This approach was supported in principle by the EU, which said it was in line with European Council conclusions on partnership agreements. However, they criticised the Angolan policy process, saying that in order to secure temporary investment Angola was rushing into fishing partnerships without a comprehensive management policy, security provisions for investors or capacity to monitor fleets. The EU expressed concern over the sustainability of Angolan fisheries, given what they view as excessive concessions that are often involved in such joint ventures and other issues analysed as part of

the EU's pre-negotiations sustainability analysis. The third round of negotiations on the FPA is expected to take place at the end of 2004.

ICTSD reporting; "Fisheries partnership between Cape Verde and Angola," AFROL NEWS, 23 September 2004.

BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT APPROVES GM SOY CROP

Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva issued an executive order on 14 October allowing Brazilian farmers to legally plant genetically modified (GM) soy until January 2006. The government had hoped to avoid issuing what is the third provisional permit for GM plantings (after similar orders were given in 2002 and 2003), but the Biosafety Bill, which would allow the legal planting of GM crops, had not been approved by the legislature in time for farmers currently in the midst of planting their crop (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 23 September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-09-23/story3.htm>). The Brazilian Senate recently passed the bill in an amended form after months of debate, but changes made to the bill in the Upper House means it will have to be voted on again in the Lower House.

Experts estimate about 30 percent of Brazil's soy is grown with GM seeds. The figure is thought to be closer to 90 percent in Brazil's southernmost state, where the seeds were first introduced in the 1990s after being smuggled in from Argentina. The executive order was widely seen as a victory for agriculture biotechnology giant Monsanto, which needed the order to collect royalties from Brazilian farmers who use smuggled versions of the company's popular Roundup Ready seeds to cut production costs.

"Brazil's president OKs genetically modified soy," AP, 18 October 2004; "Lula's Executive Order clears way for Brazil 2004/05 GM soy," Agência Estado, 15 October 2004; "Order allows Brazilian farmers to produce genetically modified soy just as planting starts," AP, 15 October 2004.

UK STIMULATES PRODUCTION OF BIOMASS FUEL CROPS

The UK has established a task force to encourage the production of biomass, crops grown for use as environmentally friendly fuels. The government is also offering a range of grants to stimulate biomass supply and demand in an effort to help the UK meet its targets for using renewable energy and support the agriculture and forestry sectors.

Biomass takes several forms: forestry by-products, agricultural waste like straw and chicken litter, and fast-growing energy crops such as miscanthus, willow, poplar, sawdust, straw, and wood. Biomass is different from other forms of renewable energy in that it is controllable, unlike wind and wave power, and it can provide heat and electricity simultaneously. In addition, biomass would meet the government's Renewables Obligation, which requires the UK to acquire 15 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2015. The overall EU target is to generate 12 percent of all energy from renewables by 2010. According to Food and Farming Minister Larry Whitty, "Biomass energy has the potential to be of huge benefit in terms of combating climate change, boosting farm diversification, and creating more rural jobs". The latter points will likely gain in relevance as agriculture negotiations at the WTO proceed, leading to tighter criteria on currently large farming subsidies.

Despite the benefits of biomass, biomass has not developed as quickly in the UK as it has in other parts of Europe, according to Sir Tom Blundell, chair of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution. Last May, in an effort to facilitate the development and use of biomass, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution published a report that claimed the government had ignored the potential for biomass, particularly as a means to combat climate change. The report said that biomass "is failing to develop under fractured and misdirected government policies". While the government concurred with many of the findings in the report, a lot of work has yet to be done before biomass can become an alternative energy source and substantially influence the UK's targets for renewable energies.

Royal Commission report: <http://www.rcep.org.uk/bioreport.htm>

"UK Boost For Biomass Fuel Crops," BBC, 15 October 2004; "UK 'Lagging On Biomass Potential'," BBC, 11 May 2004; "Biomass -- Small Scale," ENERGY SAVING TRUST, 2003.

Events & Resources

EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar, <http://www.ictsd.org/cal/2004calendar.htm>. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies.

IUCN-ICTSD Event

18-20 November, Bangkok, Thailand: **MARKETS, BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENT**. Global Synthesis Workshop as part of the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress. As part of this workshop stream, IUCN and ICTSD are jointly organising a session on "International trade - Friend or foe of biodiversity?" which will look at a number of key challenges, including balancing the benefits of trade against environmental risk, controlling illegal trade in natural resources, ensuring equitable and efficient use of genetic resources, and reconciling the liberalisation of trade in services with sustainable use of natural resources. For further information contact Sebastian Winkler, tel: (+41 22) 999-0299; Email: sebastian.winkler@iucn.org; Internet: http://www.iucn.org/congress/wcforum/forum_themes.htm#4

21 November, Bangkok, Thailand: **LINKING CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND TRADE POLICY**. A Training Workshop for conservation practitioners, jointly organised by IUCN and ICTSD as part of the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress. The course will assist practitioners in understanding how trade policy affects biodiversity-related activities on the ground and consequently try to soften or avert negative effects while enhancing potential positive effects. It aims to enable actors to implement and develop progressive ideas aimed at strengthening the mutual supportiveness between trade policy and biodiversity objectives. For further information visit Heike Baumüller, tel: (+41 22) 917 8478; email: hbaumuller@ictsd.ch; Internet: <http://www.iucn.org/congress/programme/forum-programme.cfm?toi=event-list&datePass=21#point8>.

Coming up in the next two weeks

22 October, Geneva, Switzerland: **WTO GENERAL COUNCIL -- COHERENCE**. For further information contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: (41-22) 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org

22 October, Geneva, Switzerland: **WTO WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY**. For further information contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: (41-22) 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org

25-29 October, Mexico City, Mexico: **CGIAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004**. The Annual General Meeting of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is being hosted by the Mexican government. Over 1,000 international and Mexican policy makers, agricultural research experts, scientists, and development specialists are expected to attend the week of consultations, stakeholder meetings, field visits and more. For further information contact the CGIAR Secretariat, email: cgiar@cgiar.org; Internet: <http://www.cgiar.org/meetings/index.html>; tel: +1 (202) 473-8110; fax: +1 (202) 473-8951.

27-28 October, Geneva, Switzerland: **WTO COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**. For further information contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: (41-22) 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org

27-28 October, Moscow, Russia: INVESTING IN RUSSIA'S LONG-TERM FUTURE. This conference is being organised by the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) and Interfax in association with, among others, the Russian Ministry for Economic Development and Trade and the World Bank Group. The conference will examine the current economic climate in Russia, the fast growing and established business sectors, particularly those where foreign investment is involved, the future of Russia as a consumer market and wider economic issues. For further information, contact Dino Ribeiro, email: dribeiro@riia.org; Internet: <http://www.riia.org/Russia2004>

1 November, Copenhagen, Denmark: SEMINAR ON TRADE, DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. This seminar is organised by the 'WTO, Trade & Development' network, an initiative based at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). The aim of the network is to provide an international forum for the discussion and dissemination of research and policy-relevant information on trade and development issues. The seminar is part of the 'Trade Mondays' series, with a seminar once a month at DIIS. For further information on the network and the 'Trade Mondays', contact Stefano Ponte, Seminar Coordinator, email: spo@diis.dk

1-2 November, Amsterdam, Netherlands: TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: THE NORTH-SOUTH DIMENSIONS. Organised by CAT & E (Concerted Action on Trade and Environment). Over the past few years, the trade and environment agenda has expanded to include many of the WTO agreements as well as regional trade negotiations and investment agreements. This conference seeks to provide a forum for the presentation of recent research and consideration of its implications for policy. Priority topics for consideration include: social and environmental problems in production, trade and (sustainable) development; systemic issues; regional, national, and local case studies; trade in commodities, including genetically modified organisms; and Sustainability Impact Assessment. For further information contact Luke Brander, email: luke.brander@ivm.vu.nl; Internet: <http://www.cat-e.org/>

1-5 November, Geneva, Switzerland: SEVENTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE OF WIPO. This invitation-only meeting of the World Intellectual Property Organization's committee will discuss participation of indigenous communities, Traditional Cultural Expressions/Folklore, Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources from a policy, regulatory, and international perspective. For further information contact WIPO, email: grtkf@wipo.int; Internet: http://www.wipo.int/documents/en/meetings/2004/igc/index_7.html; tel: +41-22-338-9111; fax: +41-22-733-5428.

3-5 November, Auckland, New Zealand: CLIMATE CHANGE AND BUSINESS CONFERENCE AND EXPO 2004. This international conference will consider the linkages between business and climate change. Based on the assumption that "climate change is big business and will remain so whether or not the Kyoto Protocol enters into force," the meeting will include discussions on business opportunities and on improving companies' bottom line performance by reducing energy costs and emissions. The conference is supported by the Australian and New Zealand governments, and is being co-organized by business and union groups, as well as the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. For further information contact the Conference Company Limited, tel: 64-9-360-1240; fax: 64-9-360-1242; email: secretariat@climateandbusiness.com; Internet: <http://www.climateandbusiness.com>.

Other upcoming events

8-10 November, Sydney, Australia: 2ND IWA LEADING-EDGE CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABILITY IN WATER-LIMITED ENVIRONMENTS. This conference is organised by the International Water Association. Questions to be addressed will include: Water-limited environments demand efficiency in water provision but do we achieve this through demand management, recycling, economic incentives or reuse? How do we ensure that the systems we design meet the needs of the environments in which they are located? For further information contact Noirin Casey, tel: +44 (0) 20 7654 5518; fax: + 44 (0) 20 7654 5555; email: les2004@iwahq.org.uk; Internet: <http://www.les2004.iwa-conferences.org>.

8-12 November, Rome, Italy: THE TENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CGRFA). The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is a permanent forum where governments discuss and negotiate matters relevant to genetic resources for food and agriculture. The inter-governmental body holds Regular Sessions every two years. Relevant technical assistance agencies, intergovernmental organisations, development banks and non-governmental organisations also attend these sessions in their capacity as observers. Participants will consider international regimes for plant and animal genetic resources. For further information contact Paola Franceschelli, tel: (0039) 06-570-53554; fax: (0039) 06-570-53057; email: Paola.Franceschelli@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/docs10.htm>.

17-25 November, Bangkok, Thailand: THE 3RD IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS: "PEOPLE AND NATURE, MAKING THE DIFFERENCE". Organised by the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The Congress will consist of a three-day World Conservation Forum and a four-day Members' Business Assembly. During the Forum, IUCN members, partners and interested stakeholders will debate options that safeguard the ecosystems upon which future prosperity depends. During the Assembly, IUCN members - governments and NGOs - will approve the 2005-2008 Programme Framework and Financial Plan, elect officers, consider resolutions and recommendations, and set the membership dues. For further information, contact: IUCN, tel: (+41 22) 999-0232; fax: (+41 22) 999-0020; email: ursula.hiltbrunner@iucn.org; Internet: <http://www.iucn.org>

4-6 December, Dhaka, Bangladesh: DHAKA INTERNATIONAL BIOTECH CONFERENCE. The fifth International Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology Conference is organized by the Bangladesh Association for Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology, Bangladesh's Ministry of Science, Information and Community Technology, and the University of Dhaka. The conference, whose theme is "Sustainable Biotechnology for Developing Countries," is being held at the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh. For further information contact Dr. R.H. Sarker, email: bhsarker2000@yahoo.co.uk or baptcb@bd.drik.net.

RESOURCES

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy or review by the BRIDGES staff to Heike Baumüller, hbaumuller@ictsd.ch.

INTERNATIONAL LAW OF RELEVANCE TO PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES: A PRACTICAL REVIEW FOR SCIENTISTS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES. Issues In Genetic Resources, No. 10, edited by Susan Bragdon (International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, March 2004). To access the article visit http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/publications/pubfile.asp?ID_PUB=937.

10 WAYS TO FIX AGRICULTURE TRADE. By the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (September 2004). This new IATP fact sheet outlines 10 proposals for lifting prices for farmers to sustainable levels and fixing the agricultural trading system. The fact sheet is available in English and Spanish at www.iatp.org.

FAO GLOSSAIRE DE LA BIOTECHNOLOGIE POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE. Compiled by M. Atallah (2004). Apart from a translation of the over 3,000 terms and definitions contained in the original English glossary, the 427- page publication also contains an additional English-French vocabulary of biotechnology-related terms. The publication is available both in PDF and as a searchable database at http://www.fao.org/biotech/index_glossary.asp?lang=fr.

ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND THE SHARING OF BENEFITS – PRIVATE RIGHTS OR SHARED USE FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION? In Environmental Law International Network Review, February 2004, pp. 26-33. By Corinna Heineke and Franziska Wolff (2004). Available at www.agrobiodiversitaet.net/download/Corinna_Heineke_Fraenzi_Wolff.pdf

FREE TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT: MEXICO, NAFTA, AND BEYOND. By Kevin P. Gallagher (Stanford University Press, 2004). This book examines the impact economic integration has on the environment, focusing on Mexico, which has transformed itself from one of the world's most closed economies to one of the most open. Mexico's experience offers a cautionary tale for governments and policy makers considering the hotly debated relationship between globalisation and the environment. For further information see: http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/policy_research/FreeTradeEnvBook.htm.

EXPORTING EUROPE'S PROTECTIONISM. By Lawrence A. Kagan (The National Interest, Fall 2004). This article compares and contrasts the competing EU (precaution-based) and US (risk based) approaches; discusses the evolution of the formal precautionary principle in international law and the legal consequences of adopting a precaution-based model of risk regulation; assesses the EU's intentions to establish the precautionary principles as an absolute international framework standard to govern the use of science and technology by all countries; and explains the current relationship between the precautionary principles and WTO law. To access the article visit <http://www.keepmedia.com/pubs/NationalInterest/2004/09/01/586792?extID=10026>

WATER USES AND THE PROTECTION OF WATER BODIES, STEERING MECHANISMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY. By Peter Kessler (Ecologic, 2004). This chapter introduces environmental policy instruments for the protection of water bodies and reports on a practical case study regarding ground water management in Hessisches Ried. It also discusses the objectives of the German Working Group of the Federal States on water issues (LAWA) with regard to surface water and continues with a strategic approach as it was embodied in the water Framework Directive (WFD). To access the chapter visit <http://www.ecologic.de/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=1205>.

ECONOMICS OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY. By Rainer Wichern (European Economy. Economic Papers, No. 211, August 2004). Abstract: This paper tries to highlight that the overall support level for the agricultural sector remains relatively high and that most of the farm support still stems from market price support. In systematically analysing the main CAP measures and using most recent figures, it is shown that price support -- together with quota restrictions and land set aside obligations -- is one of the least efficient CAP instrument currently in place. Thus, the success of the 2003 reform does not allow for a position of leaning back. On the contrary, the drive of previous reforms with respect to bringing EU prices down to competitive levels need to be kept and perhaps even be further accelerated. To access the report visit http://europa.eu.int/comm/economy_finance/publications/economic_papers/economicpapers211_en.htm.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY NEW SDRR WEBSITE. The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO's) Research and Technology Development Service (SDRR) is involved in a number of biotechnology- and biosafety- related activities, including implementing projects to strengthen national capacities in biosafety and organizing workshops and training courses at the national and regional level. A recently launched SDDR website provides information about these activities. The website is available online at http://www.fao.org/sd/sdr/bio_en.asp.

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