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1. Sustainable Trade

International Workshop on Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews and a Side Event on Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews: Bridging the Science-Policy Gap, 21 - 23 April 2008, Geneva, Switzerland

UNEP and UNCTAD, under the auspices of the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force On Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF), Secretariat of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) of the University of Geneva jointly organized a Side Event on Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews: Bridging the Science-Policy Gap and an International Workshop on Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews on 21-23 April 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland. The side event briefed delegates to the CITES Animal Committee about the wildlife trade policy reviews initiative and its findings. [Agenda](#) of the side event.

On 22-23 April, the International Workshop organized as part of the international initiative to build national capacities to review and improve wildlife trade policies. The workshop brought together the country project teams from Madagascar, Nicaragua, Uganda and Viet Nam to share the key findings in terms of environmental, social and economic impacts of national wildlife trade policies, lessons learned from the wildlife policy review process, and recommendations to improve these policies. [Agenda](#) of the workshop.

For more information : <http://www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf/>

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Trade and Biodiversity Side-Event at the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 22 May 2008, Bonn, Germany

The side event will present the intermediate results of UNEP's initiative on Integrated Assessment of Trade-related Policies and Biodiversity in the Agricultural Sector, implemented in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD and UNEP- WCMC. The 4-year initiative was launched in July 2005 by UNEP in response to the call by the CBD COP to study the impact of trade liberalization on agricultural biodiversity (Decision VI/5 and VIII/28). The initiative aims to enhance capacity in developing countries to develop and implement policy recommendations that safeguard biological diversity while maximizing sustainable development gains from trade liberalization in the agriculture sector. The side-event will provide an opportunity to update the parties on the progress achieved in this respect. At the core of this initiative are six country projects in ACP countries (Cameroon, Uganda, Mauritius, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Jamaica) of 3-year duration, which aim to assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of trade liberalization in the agricultural sector with particular focus on biodiversity. Selected members of the country project teams will be invited to the side event to share first hand experiences. The event will also be used to share the advanced draft of UNEP's Guidance on Incorporating Biodiversity into Integrated Assessment of Trade Policy in the Agricultural Sector consisting of a practical step-by-step guide to undertaking integrated assessment of trade policy in the agricultural sector prioritising biodiversity, specific guidance for biodiversity assessment, and an accompanying reference document that explains in detail the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the complex linkages that exist between trade in the agricultural sector and biodiversity.

More information: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/biodivAgriSector.php>

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Second International Review Meeting for the Trade and Biodiversity Projects, 1-3 July 2008, Geneva, Switzerland

The Second International Review Meeting for UNEP's initiative on Integrated Assessment of Trade-related Policies and Biodiversity in the Agricultural Sector is tentatively scheduled for 1-3 July 2008 in Geneva. The meeting will bring together representatives from the six ACP countries participating in the initiative to present the results of their assessment studies and discuss possible policy recommendations as well as their implementation. The initiative provides support to Jamaica, Cameroon, Madagascar, Mauritius, Uganda and Papua New Guinea to assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of trade liberalization in the agricultural sector with particular focus on biodiversity. Following the finalization of the assessment studies in 2008, the countries will draft national action plans and prepare their implementation in 2009. Experts in the fields of trade, assessment and biodiversity from different institutions will also be invited to the meeting to provide additional support and advice to the countries.

More information: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/biodivAgriSector.php>

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2. Economic Tools

UNEP Side-event on Developing International Payments for Ecosystem Services (IPES): A Discussion of the Financial/Institutional Options at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 23 May 2008, Bonn, Germany

The IPES side event is intended to present and discuss the still evolving IPES concept along with the preliminary contributions to the IPES publication. The bulk of the session will be spent on engaging participants in an open discussion on potential financial and institutional arrangements that might accompany the development of IPES as a means of

contributing to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

More information: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/ipes.php>

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3. Energy Subsidies

Joint UNEP-GTZ-Statistics Sweden (SCB) Expert Meeting on Energy Subsidies, 26-27 May 2008, Geneva, Switzerland

UNEP-ETB, along with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and Statistics Sweden (SCB) will organize on 26-27 May 2008 a joint expert meeting on the issue of energy subsidies in order to move forward the agenda on the need to reform energy subsidies. The event will consist of two sessions. The first session will be dedicated to the current data work existing in the field of energy subsidies and the second one will focus on high fuel prices and its implications on poverty. The meeting will bring together experts in energy and transport, practitioners and researchers as well as data specialists.

More information: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/energySub.php>

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4. Fisheries

4th Global Forum Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands - *Advancing Ecosystem Management and Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management by 2010 in the Context of Climate Change*, 7 - 11 April 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam

The 4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands was organised by the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, and the Government of Vietnam, with UNEP as one of several co-organisers. The Conference brought together 430 ocean and coastal leaders from around the world representing 71 countries. All sectors, including governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, NGOs, the business community, ocean donors, and scientific institutions came together to assess essential issues in the governance of the world's oceans.

Particular attention was given to the connections between oceans policy and climate change issues, since climate change is beginning to increasingly alter the nature of the coastal and ocean environment, thereby threatening human security. Furthermore, under the main theme of "Achieving Ecosystem Management and Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management", emphasis was given to the challenge of controlling fishing overcapacity, achieving sustainable aquaculture and preventing illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, which greatly undermines efforts of sustainable fish stock management. Perverse incentives for fishers, such as fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and IUU fishing, as well as international fish trade and the impact of market based standards are among the key issues that were deemed to require action by the international community.

The Global Forum was created in 2001, when it became apparent that issues related to oceans (72 per cent of the earth's surface), coasts (50 per cent of the world's population), and islands (44 nations are small islands States) were absent from the agenda of the world's governments. Since then, it has been tracking the implementation of global goals and targets on oceans and convened global conferences on these issues.

More information on GOC2008 Website: <http://www.thew2o.net/goc2008> (contains policy briefs on different conference themes); <http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/index.html>

GOC2008 YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/globaloceans2008> (short video interviews and podcasts of ocean and coastal experts from various sectors around the globe)

Detailed conference coverage by the Earth Negotiations Bulletin: <http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/sdoh4/>

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