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New publications:



UNEP/UNCTAD-CBTF publication: [_](#)

[Overview of the Current State of Organic Agriculture in Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania and the Opportunities for Regional Harmonization](#)

The Environment and Trade Handbook, 2nd Edition is now available in [Russian](#)

1. Organic Agriculture

Prime Minister of Tanzania highlights potential of Organic Agriculture for Sustainable Trade and Poverty Reduction at East African Organic Conference on 29 May 2007 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

“Organic agriculture not only saves the environment and health of consumers, but it is also a vital business and wealth creation opportunity that contributes to poverty reduction” said the Prime Minister of Tanzania, Edward Lowassa, at the launching ceremony of the East African Organic Product Standard (EAOPS). The conference at which the standard was launched was attended by more than 250 participants from 25 countries, making it the biggest event on organic agriculture in the history of Africa.

The EAOPS is the world's second regional organic standard after the European Union and the first ever developed in cooperation between public, private and NGO sectors. The standard is among many of the concrete results of the initiative on “Promoting Production and Trading Opportunities for Organic Agricultural Products in East Africa ” which is being implemented by the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF) with the financial support of the EU and other donors.

At the national level, this initiative has been able to induce the national policymaking in favour of organic agriculture. For example, in Tanzania, the agriculture policy is currently under review and for the first time, it will include a section on organic agriculture. In Uganda, a multi-stakeholder process including the key public and private sector actors is in the process of developing an organic agriculture policy that is very much in line with the recommendations of country project supported by the initiative. In Kenya, the food and nutrition policy is under review and the Permanent Secretary has decided to include a section on organic agriculture in the draft policy document.

For more information: <http://www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf/openDaressalaam2.htm>

Contact: asad.naqvi@unep.ch

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2. Sustainable Trade

UNEP Side Event at the CITES Conference of the Parties for the joint initiative on "Enhancing National Capacities to Review Wildlife Trade Policies"

5 June 2007, The Hague, The Netherlands

UNEP in conjunction with the CITES Secretariat, organized a side event at the 14th Meeting of the CITES COP on the joint project on Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews. Welcoming remarks for the event were provided by Bakary Kante, Director, UNEP DELC, who emphasized UNEP's interest in and support for this initiative. These remarks were followed by a brief introduction of the initiative by the CITES Secretariat and presentations by representatives of the four pilot countries participating in this initiative (Madagascar , Nicaragua, Uganda, Viet Nam). The presentations provided an opportunity for the pilot countries to update CITES Parties on the status of project implementation. There was widespread support for the project by participants and several other CITES Parties noted their interest in joining the project.

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

Contact: benjamin.simmons@unep.ch

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Draft Manual on Incorporating Biodiversity into Integrated Assessment of Trade Policies in the Agricultural Sector available online

The Manual builds on earlier integrated assessment work by UNEP and others and aims to provide guidance on how to incorporate biodiversity into the assessment of trade-related measures in agricultural sector. The Manual was developed in close collaboration with UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC) and the Convention on Biological

Diversity (CBD) and consists of two Volumes: Volume I presents a practical step-by step approach to undertaking integrated assessment of trade policy in the agricultural sector, while prioritizing biodiversity. Volume II is 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. Volume II also contains additional supporting information on both procedures and substance to support efforts to undertake integrated assessment focused on biodiversity, including biodiversity indicators and valuation techniques.

The development of the Manual is part of UNEP's Trade and Biodiversity Initiative, which currently supports six African Caribbean and Pacific Countries (Jamaica, Cameroon, Mauritius, Madagascar, Uganda and Papua New Guinea) to assess the impact of a select trade measure and develop agricultural trade policies that maximize development gains while minimizing impacts on biodiversity. It is a working draft and will be revised based on the experiences gained at the national level through the implementation of the country projects.

For more information on the UNEP's Trade and Biodiversity Initiative: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/biodivAgriSector.php>

Contact: vera.weick@unep.ch

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Joint Workshop on Environmental Goods and Services 12 July 2007, Geneva, Switzerland

On behalf of the Geneva International Academic Network-funded Project on Technology Transfer, Trade & Environment, the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva, IUHEI, UNCTAD, UNEP and INECE are organizing a small, informal roundtable on Thursday 12 July 2007 to explore a set of issues arising in the environmental goods negotiations at the Special Session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment under paragraph 31(iii) of the Doha Ministerial Declaration. The roundtable forms part of a larger set of activities conducted by the project's co-sponsors, including HEI, the University of Geneva's Faculty of Law, UN Environment Programme, UN Conference on Trade and Development and International Network for Environmental Compliance & Enforcement.

At this informal roundtable, a draft working paper entitled *Advancing WTO Environmental Goods Negotiations: Options and Opportunities* will be presented for feed back and input. The paper sets out the author's views on a range of issues relating to the "project/integrated" and "list/convergence set" approaches to the negotiations, as well as on related issues of technology transfer, special and differential treatment, environmental activities and categories, and so on.

The roundtable will be conducted informally and will seek to draw on the expertise of policy practitioners in governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia and business.

For agenda and further information: <http://www.ruig-gian.org/research/projects/projectlg.php?ID=136>

Contact: benjamin.simmons@unep.ch

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Technical Expert Group on Technological Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation, 10-12 September 2007, Geneva, Switzerland

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with UNEP and UNCTAD, is convening a Technical Expert Group meeting with a view to collect, analyse and identify ongoing tools, mechanisms, systems and initiatives to promote the implementation of Articles 16 to 19 of the Convention, and to propose strategies for practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation. Representatives of stakeholders and other international organizations will be invited to share their knowledge and experience as well as to report on pertinent activities of their organizations.

Contact: benjamin.simmons@unep.ch

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3. Economic Tools

Informal Expert Meeting discussing IPES and Avoided Deforestation work programme being pursued by UNEP-IUCN and the potential for collaboration with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH)

31 May 2007, Geneva, Switzerland

This meeting discussed the IPES and Avoided Deforestation work programme being pursued by UNEP-IUCN and the potential for collaboration with existing work programmes at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich. Three experts in the field of IPES and avoided deforestation were invited: Thomas Köllner, Institute for Environmental

Decisions (IED), Natural and Social Science Interface (NSSI), ETH Zurich; Michelle Grant, International Student Initiative for Action on Climate Change (ISIACC) Forest Policies Project, ETHSustainability, Zurich; and Esteve Corbera, Senior Research Associate at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK. The meeting achieved three major outcomes:

- Invitees described their work and how it related to UNEP/IUCN goals for IPES. They proposed possible contributions each could make to the UNEP/IUCN IPES research agenda and an intention was set for collaboration on the document.
- UNEP's side event at the CBD Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI 2), Paris (9-13 July) was discussed, along with the possibility for a future UNEP/IUCN sponsored workshop on avoided deforestation.
- Feedback was accepted on a UNEP/IUCN draft paper (accepted to the BioEcon Conference 2007) on potential methods of emphasizing the carbon sequestration – biodiversity protection double dividend avoided deforestation provides.

Contact: fulai.sheng@unep.ch

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UNEP shared the progress of the UNEP-IUCN joint initiative on IPES at the Poverty and Environment Partnership Meeting 18-20 June 2007, Copenhagen, Denmark

UNEP attended the 11th Poverty and Environment Partnership (PEP) Meeting on 18-20 June 2007, Copenhagen to share DTIE's work on international payments for ecosystem services. This meeting discussed how environmental improvement strategies can help foster poverty reduction and sustainable growth. Specifically, the meeting examined climate change as a potential approach and explored new investing and financing instruments such as payments for ecosystem services. Participants included representatives from international development and environmental organizations such as WWF, IUCN, IIED, World Bank, WHO, OECD, CIDA, DFID, CARE and Irish Aid.

As a consequence of this meeting, UNEP became a member of the "Poverty and Environment Partnership" working group on Avoided Deforestation (AD) and poverty, which informs country positions in preparation for COP 13 in December 2007. As a member of this working group, UNEP will play a critical role informing countries of the poverty reduction benefits possible through AD and will help make the intersection of poverty and AD an issue at COP 13.

Contact: fulai.sheng@unep.ch

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UNEP Side Event on Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) focusing on payments for avoided deforestation at CBD Working Group on the Implementation of the Convention 9-13 July 2007, Paris, France

UNEP and IUCN are convening a side event at the upcoming second meeting of the ad hoc working group on the implementation of the CBD convention on the topic of scaling up payments for ecosystem services (PES) and the relevance for current debates on avoided deforestation/ Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD).

This UNEP side event will offer participants the opportunity to discuss REDD's potential to provide biodiversity protection gains if incorporated into voluntary or regulated carbon markets. Two presentations, including a general presentation on the link between IPES and avoided deforestation and a follow-up presentation of UNEP's avoided deforestation working paper, will be made, followed by informal discussion and group-work on the below topics:

- REDD as a means of halting deforestation,
- Examining the claim that REDD can address both carbon sequestration and biodiversity problems,
- Differentiation of forest supply for avoided deforestation schemes through certification,
- Options for internalizing biodiversity benefits in avoided deforestation schemes.

Aside from having a forum for discussion on these issues, the key objective of this event is to establish contacts within the international, policy-making and academic communities for future collaboration avoided deforestation. The side event will be designed to appeal to newcomers to the topic, as well as those with experience in the fields of PES and avoided deforestation.

Contact: fulai.sheng@unep.ch

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Avoided Deforestation paper to be presented at BIOECON: IX - Annual Conference 19-21 September 2007, Kings College, Cambridge, United Kingdom

As part of a wider UNEP-IUCN initiative to promote international payments for ecosystem services (IPES) and Avoided Deforestation (AD), UNEP ETB and IUCN are currently preparing a paper on the opportunities reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) provide for establishing biodiversity payments at the international level. The paper: "Seeing REDD: The Opportunity for a Carbon Sequestration and Biodiversity Conservation Double-Dividend through REDD", explores the potential double-dividend REDD offers for both biodiversity protection and carbon emissions reduction. The draft paper has been accepted for presentation at BioEcon IX, Kings College Cambridge, 19-21 September 2007.

Contact: fulai.sheng@unep.ch

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4. Integrated Policymaking

UNEP Consultations on the draft "Operational Manual on Integrated Policymaking for Sustainable Development" 14-15 May 2007, Geneva, Switzerland

A review meeting on 14-15 May 2007 provided a platform for experts to exchange views on the first draft of the "Operational Manual on Integrated Policymaking for Sustainable Development", prepared by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (National University of Singapore) for UNEP. Fifteen people attended the review meeting, including representatives from inter-governmental agencies, national governments, think tanks and civil society. Appreciating the insights from the public policy sciences, they provided comments to improve the manual and make it usable for public policy makers and analysts.

Among others, they suggested to give guidance on different entry points for different actors in actual policy situations, to incorporate capacity-building elements in each chapter, to emphasize synergies among the three dimensions of sustainable development, to identify linkages to previous assessment work and to highlight public participation as a consistent theme throughout the manual. Moreover, they recommended laying out a typology of different IPSD applications - such as trade policy, organic agriculture or post-tsunami reconstruction - with their respective scopes and audiences. These comments will be integrated in a revised version, expected to be available in mid-July 2007 for further review.

For more information: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2007TechDiscusOManual1415May.php>

Contact: fulai.sheng@unep.ch

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5. NISD Update

McGill Masters in Environmental Assessment going into its second term - 15 August Deadline for Applications for 2008 programme

The McGill University International Masters (MSc) in Environmental Assessment is offered in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Canadian International Development Agency. This one-year, non-thesis programme in which McGill academic staff work closely with expert practitioners from Canada and other parts of the world provides an outstanding opportunity for participants to further their knowledge of environmental assessment and related fields while being actively involved in lecture-seminars, internships and projects.

Candidates interested in entering the programme in January 2008 must apply in time to meet the application deadline of August 15, 2007.

Information on the environmental assessment masters is provided at <http://www.mcgill.ca/nrs/graduate/environment/>

Potential applicants can also contact Brandee.Diner@mcgill.ca (Programme Coordinator) or Mark.Curtis@mcgill.ca (Programme Director) for additional details.

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*Hussein Abaza, Chief
Economics and Trade Branch (ETB)
Division Technology Industry and Economics (DTIE)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
11-13 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
Switzerland
tel: +41 22 917 8179
fax: +41 22 917 8076
e-mail : hussein.abaza@unep.ch
Website: www.unep.ch/etb*