



Contents

1. Sustainable Trade

- [International Workshop on Post-2012 Climate and Trade Policies, 8-9 September 2008, Geneva, Switzerland](#)
- [World Export Development Forum, 9 - 10 October, Montreux, Switzerland](#)
- [UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF launched its study on Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, 24 September 2008, Geneva, Switzerland](#)
- [ITF launches two new tools to facilitate trade in organic products, 6-7 October 2008, Geneva, Switzerland](#)

2. Green Economics

- [Launching of the Green Economy Initiative](#)

-

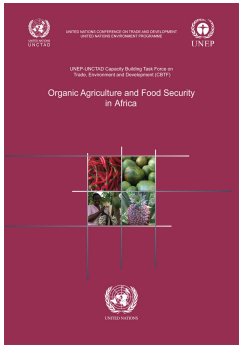
3. Energy Subsidies

- [Reforming Energy Subsidies
Opportunities to Contribute to the Climate Change Agenda](#)

4. Fisheries Subsidies

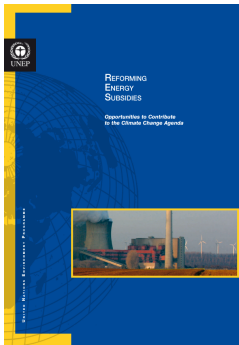
- [UNEP- ETB "Aliances Workshop" at IUCN World Conservation Congress: "Fishing for Sustainability: Maintaining Momentum for Fisheries Subsidies Reform", 6 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain](#)

New publications:



- **UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF):**

- **[Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa](#)**



- **[Reforming Energy Subsidies](#)**
[Opportunities to Contribute to the Climate Change Agenda](#)

- [Link to video press conference at UNFCCC in Accra](#)

- [UNEP Press release on 26 August 2008](#)

[Press clippings](#)

1. Sustainable Trade

International Workshop on Post-2012 Climate and Trade Policies, 8 - 9 September 2008, Geneva, Switzerland

An International Workshop on Post-2012 Climate and Trade Policies was organized by the EU-funded ADAM (Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies: Supporting European Climate Policy) project and the UNEP-ETB on 8-9 September 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland. Approximately 90 experts from international organizations, research institutes, academia, political institutions and civil society organizations participated in the discussion. The objective of the meeting was to provide a platform for participants to discuss trade and economic strategies in a post-2012 world and on the future interplay between the UN climate regime and the World Trade Organization.

More information about the workshop, including background documents and presentations, can be found at:
http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2008_Post-2012ClimateTradePoliciesSept08_09.php

Contact: benjamin.simmons@unep.ch

[back to top](#)

World Export Development Forum, 9 - 10 October 2008, Montreux, Switzerland

UNEP-ETB was invited to moderate a session on Buying Local: Miles Better? at the World Export Development Forum (WEDF). The Forum is the flagship event of the International Trade Centre (ITC).

The session focused on the issues of food-miles. By many, food miles do not fully reflect the environmental impacts of a product and may be used to exclude developing countries from attractive developed countries markets. For others, the food is traveling more and more miles which negatively affects the climate. Most other speakers highlighted, however, that both from an environmental and developmental point of view, food miles, which reflect only the transport part of a product's life, are a deficient indicator and that lifecycle analyses may better reflect carbon footprint of a product. A number of examples were shared where scientific data show that a number of agricultural goods produced in Southern countries and transported to the North can actually be favourable in environmental terms. In addition, the development impacts of air freighted products should be weighted along side environmental impacts. It was also argued that from an ecological justice perspective, it is fair to allow Africa to use some of its unused ecological space to benefit from these export opportunities.

Contact: asad.naqvi@unep.ch

[back to top](#)

UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF launched its study on Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, 24 September 2008, Geneva, Switzerland

UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF) organized a briefing session for Geneva-based Delegates in conjunction with the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board. At the briefing, which was attended by more than 30 delegates, the UNEP-UNCTAD study on Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa was launched by Mr. Hussein Abaza, of UNEP and Mrs. Lakshmi Puri, of UNCTAD. While addressing the ceremony, Mr. Abaza stated that 114 organic and sustainable agriculture projects analysed by the Food Security study clearly demonstrates that organic agriculture can provide for food security in Africa -- equal or better than most conventional systems and more likely to be sustainable in the longer-term, as it builds up levels of natural, human, social financial and physical capital in farming communities. He said that UNEP is involved in organic agriculture sector because it believes that organic agriculture is one of the best available options to promote sustainable trade, ensure food security and reduce poverty without compromising the environment. Mrs Puri, highlighted development aspects of the trade in organics and elaborated how it creates win win win options for trade, environment and development.

The achievements and impacts of the CBTF work were also shared with participants. The most significant achievement of the CBTF is the development of the East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS), which is the second regional organic standard in the world, after the EU and the first ever to have been developed through public private partnership. The initiative has developed a replicable model for national level public policy development in which all relevant stakeholders were actively involved.

UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF report can be found at :http://www.unep.ch/etb/publications/insideCBTF_OA_2008.pdf

For more information on UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF's work on Organic Agriculture: <http://www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf/>

Contact: asad.naqvi@unep.ch

[back to top](#)

ITF launches two new tools to facilitate trade in organic products, 6-7 October 2008, Geneva, Switzerland

UNEP has been regularly contributing to the efforts of ITF (The International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture) to harmonize the OA standards. At the 8th and last meeting of the ITF, the following two new tools were launched.

- The International Requirements for Organic Certification Bodies (IROCB), a reference norm that can be used by governments and private accreditation and certification bodies as a means of accepting certification of organic products outside of their own system.
- Guide for Assessing Equivalence of Organic Standards and Technical Regulations (EquiTool), a set of procedures and criteria for deciding when a standard applicable in one region of the world is equivalent to a standard applicable in another region.

The speakers and participants acknowledged that the unique real example of harmonizing the organic standard is the development of the East African Organic Product Standard that was facilitated by the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF). The ITF called for governments, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector to support, promote and implement the ITF's recommendations and Tools. Specifically, governments and private sector standards setting and conformity

assessment bodies should use the ITF Tools for assessing equivalence of standards and certification requirements and accepting organic products certified in different systems.

More information about the meeting: http://www.unctad.org/trade_env/ITF-organic/itf8.asp

Contact: asad.naqvi@unep.ch

[back to top](#)

2. Green Economics

Launching of the Green Economy Initiative

The Green Economy initiative – with the sponsorship of the Norwegian Government - is to communicate a global plan for a green industrial revolution to be supported by strong and convincing evidence of income generated, decent jobs created, and poverty reduced through investing in a new generation of assets including:

- Ecosystems (or environmental infrastructure);
- Clean and efficient technology;
- Renewable energy;
- Biodiversity-based products and services (such as organic foods);
- Chemical and waste management and mitigation technologies;
- “Green Cities” - tomorrow’s habitat for humanity - with ecologically friendly buildings, construction, and transport systems.

The Green Economy initiative will make recommendations for greening national economies, for creating new green jobs and greening existing jobs, and for a just transition from a brown to a green economy for enterprises and workers. The project will provide guidance to policymakers and other stakeholders on how to overcome these challenges, highlighting the important role of the government in the march towards a green economy.

In addition, the project will make and communicate a strong economic case for proactive investments and active labour market policies in such areas as water, forest, soil, and marine resource management, which are key components of ecosystem management, so as to preempt the environmental causes of conflicts, disasters, and poverty.

Finally, the project will reinforce the work on environmental governance and the need for a long-term global climate change response, by showing commitments to, and enforcement of, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The initiative will focus on facilitating the continuous engagement with and capacity building for different stakeholders.

The launch for the Green Economy initiative took place on 22 October 2008 in [London](#), and in [Geneva](#) from 1 to 3 December 2008.

Contact: hussain.abaza@unep.ch ; fulai.sheng@unep.ch

[back to top](#)

3. Energy Subsidies

Reforming Energy Subsidies *Opportunities to Contribute to the Climate Change Agenda*

Patterns of energy production and use threaten the stability of eco-systems and the health and well-being of current and future generations. Still, energy subsidies worldwide amount to around USD 300.000 billion per year, or around 0.7 per cent of GDP.

Fossil fuels remain the most heavily subsidised energy source. Encouraging the production and use of fossil fuels inevitably has some harmful consequences particularly related to climate change and air pollution. In addition, subsidies act as a drain on government finances, reduce the incentive to use energy efficiently and do not often reach those they are intended for. On the other hand, certain subsidies can be beneficial in terms of enhancing access to sustainable modern energy and promoting cleaner technologies.

This report summarises, in a non-technical language, the nature, types and impacts of subsidies on energy that undermine the pursuit of sustainable development. It also offers recommendations to policy makers on how to design and implement subsidies reform in an environmentally, socially and economically sound manner.

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

Contact: fulai.sheng@unep.ch

[back to top](#)

4. Fisheries Subsidies

UNEP- ETB "Aliances Workshop" at IUCN World Conservation Congress: "Fishing for Sustainability: Maintaining Momentum for Fisheries Subsidies Reform", 6 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain

UNEP, in collaboration with WWF, OCEANA and ICTSD, hosted a workshop on fisheries subsidies during the IUCN Congress in Barcelona. The aim was to raise awareness among the international conservation community about the contribution of fisheries subsidies to over-fishing and overcapacity and to provide insights to main issues and controversies in related WTO negotiations. The message was transmitted that fisheries subsidies have to be reformed urgently and that a strong sustainability basis of corresponding rules is realistic and feasible. Presentations showed that WTO rules are vitally needed and represent an unprecedented opportunity for this reform. However, it was highlighted that national reforms – either by governments acting alone or in regional contexts – are the key element and would strongly benefit from support and advocacy by a wide range of stakeholders.

After an introduction to the topic, key issues of WTO negotiations were presented in a 20-minute stage play. This was followed by a panel discussion, chaired by UNEP, on “Building Momentum Towards National & Regional Reforms”. Experts from ICTSD, Oceana, WWF and the University of British Columbia gave specific examples of subsidies policies from the EU and West African context. The subsequent discussion with the audience touched upon topics such as the link between ITQ systems and subsidies policies, the involvement of the private sector in reform processes, social implications of subsidies reform and the role of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) with regards to the implementation of potential fisheries subsidies disciplines.

More information of UNEP activities and publications on fisheries subsidies: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/fisherySub.php>

Contact: anja.moltke@unep.ch ; katharina.peschen@unep.ch

[back to top](#)

The UNEP-ETB e-bulletin is a quarterly publication of the Economics and Trade Branch/Division of Technology, Industry and Economics of the United Nations Environment Programme.

If you want to stop receiving the e-bulletin, please click on <http://www.unep.ch/etb/unsubscribe.php> and follow the instructions.

If you have any feedback or queries on the e-bulletin, please contact: desiree.leon@unep.ch.

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