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## 1. Environmental and integrated assessment

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### Promoting trading opportunities for organic agricultural products in East Africa

Uganda, 19-20 & 24 October 2005  
Tanzania, 25 October 2005

The UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force (CBTF) has initiated a project to support sustainable trade, environmental protection, food security and poverty reduction in three East African countries (Kenya, the Republic of Tanzania and Uganda) by promoting the production and export of organic agricultural products.

Organic agriculture (OA) can offer a range of environmental, social and economic benefits for developing countries and may also provide a trading opportunity, with major markets for organic products growing at rates of 10-20 per cent per year and price premiums available for a number of goods. To reap the benefits, however, governments must create an enabling environment that fosters the development of this sector. OA producers and exporters must overcome a number of obstacles, including lack of information, expensive certification systems, cumbersome import requirements, and small domestic markets. A series of launching events for the regional initiative and for national Integrated Assessment were held in October 2005 which included the following:

19 October 2005: East African Regional Launching Workshop of the UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF project titled "Promoting Production and Trading Opportunities for Organic Agriculture in East Africa". Kampala, Uganda

20 October 2005: First meeting of the East African Steering Committee Meeting of the CBTF project titled "Promoting Production and Trading Opportunities for Organic Agriculture in East Africa". Kampala, Uganda

20 - 21 October 2005: National Launching workshop of the Integrated Assessment component of the CBTF project titled "Promoting Production and Trading Opportunities for Organic Agriculture in Uganda"

24 October 2005: First meeting of the East African Regional Organic Agricultural Standards Group. Kampala

25 October 2005: National Launching workshop of the Integrated Assessment component of the CBTF project titled "Promoting Production and Trading Opportunities for Organic Agriculture in Tanzania". Dar es Salaam

Launching of the national Kenya project will take place in early 2006.

More information: <http://www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf/cbtf2/F1.htm>.

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## **Towards an international framework for integrated assessment/sustainability appraisal**

Geneva, 23 September 2005

A consultative meeting to discuss the possible development of an **international framework for integrated assessment/sustainability appraisal (IA/SA)** was convened in September. Participants welcomed the initiative, and ETB is currently updating a concept note on the international framework to incorporate comments and recommendations from the meeting.

The initiative's overall objective is to agree on a common set of principles and produce reference materials for countries undertaking IA/SA that can be used in the formulation and design of policies, plans and programmes in support of sustainable development. Central to this initiative is a commitment to build countries' capacities to undertake IA/SA.

More information: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/framework.php>

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## **IAP Initiative**

Geneva, 21-22 September 2005

The Second Review Meeting on the Initiative on Integrated Assessment and Planning for Sustainable Development took place in September. Team leaders and government representatives from the ten participating countries (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Russia, Tanzania and Uganda) presented their findings and discussed experiences.

Following the discussion, some key conclusions and lessons learned were identified:

- | Integrated assessment is a very ambitious undertaking for developing countries
- | Achieving a truly integrated assessment is difficult, and there are several levels of integration: procedural, substantive and policy
- | There is no single approach to IAP
- | A key aspect of the process is stakeholder participation

The reports for the ten country projects are currently being finalized, and will be published next year.

More information: [http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2005IAPSD21\\_22Sep.php](http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2005IAPSD21_22Sep.php)

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## **Launching of UNEP-sponsored studies on assessing the impact of trade liberalization on the rice sector**

Geneva, 20 September 2005

An international meeting was convened in September to discuss the findings of several UNEP-sponsored national studies assessing the impact of trade liberalization on the rice sector. The studies were conducted in China, Colombia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Vietnam. The national teams conducting the studies presented their findings and recommendations and suggested a number of follow-up activities. While varying in detail from country to country, the studies found that trade liberalization in the rice sector often led to negative environmental impacts where appropriate policies and institutions to mitigate such impacts were not in place. The studies showed that in most cases the trade liberalization contributed to overall national economic benefits, but that these benefits were not shared evenly among various stakeholders and were reduced when balanced with the long-term costs of environmental degradation.

More information: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2005IATRice.php>

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The published reports are available at: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/publications/riceStudies.php>

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## NISD Update

Geneva, 19 September 2005

At the Second Meeting of the **Network of Institutions for Sustainable Development** held in September, participants evaluated the progress the Network has made since its launch in March 2004, shared information and invited new institutions to become members. Over the last year and a half, the activities of the Network have covered three main areas:

- | Information exchange and outreach
- | Case studies and country projects
- | Training, education and reference manuals

Participants discussed the Network's future work programme by identifying gaps and opportunities for new activities. For example, the Korean Environment Institute (KEI) presented a proposal for a joint project on Integrated Water Management (IWM). The three-year study aims to develop a model for IWM of a target river basin and KEI invited NISD members to join the project and to share information and experience on similar studies.

During the meeting, parallel working group discussions were conducted on the following topics:

- | Valuation
- | Integrated assessment
- | Trade and environment
- | Economic Instruments

The NISD newsletter can be downloaded at <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/pdf/NISDnewsNo1.pdf> and the website can be consulted at <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/DesNISD.php>.

More information: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2005NISD.php>

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## NISD partnership project on regional economic integration in Asia

Hayama, 26-28 October 2005

IGES-Japan, together with McGill University-Canada, KEI-Republic of Korea, NIES-Japan and UNEP-ETB, have launched a project entitled **Promotion of Sustainable Development in the Context of Regional Economic Integration – Strategies for Environmental Sustainability and Poverty Reduction**. This joint research project will be carried out over the next three years by the four research institutes and in collaboration with a number of other resource persons and institutions from the Network.

An inception workshop held in October in Japan discussed activities to be undertaken, the role of each institution, funding requirements and schedule of activities. The NISD newsletter can be downloaded at <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/pdf/NISDnewsNo1.pdf> and the website can be consulted at <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/DesNISD.php>.

More information: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/IGES.php>

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## 2. Sustainable trade

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### Informal dialogue on the possible establishment of a Working Group on Trade and Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean

Quito , 17-18 November 2005

UNEP and the Organization of American States (OAS) convened an informal dialogue to discuss the possible establishment of a working group on trade and environment for Latin America and the Caribbean. The aim of the dialogue was to provide a forum where participants could discuss current needs and objectives in the region, the possible establishment of a working group to respond to these needs, and potential activities and modalities related to such a working group. Participants at the informal dialogue confirmed the need for an informal working group in the region and requested that UNEP and the OAS prepare and circulate a draft concept note for the working group based on comments made during the informal dialogue.

More information: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2005OAS18Nov.php>

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## Joint UNEP-UNIGE Colloquium on Trade and Sustainable Development – The Role of Law and Science

Geneva, 11 October 2005

A Colloquium on **Trade and Sustainable Development -The Role of Law and Science** was organized jointly by UNEP-ETB and the University of Geneva Faculty of Law (UNIGE). The purpose of the colloquium was to offer researchers and diplomats a forum to discuss the relationship between law and science in the development of trade and environment policies and in the implementation of related legal agreements primarily at the international level.

More information: [http://www.unep.ch/etb/pdf/Colloque\\_UNIGE\\_UNEP.pdf](http://www.unep.ch/etb/pdf/Colloque_UNIGE_UNEP.pdf).

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## WTO Symposium on Paragraph 51

Geneva, 10-11 October 2005

At the request of members of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), a **Symposium on Trade and Sustainable Development within the Framework of Paragraph 51 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration** was organized by the WTO Secretariat. The event drew on the contribution of representatives from various international organizations and other professionals with expertise on the specific issues addressed. UNEP-ETB presented the *Environmental Aspects of Fisheries Subsidies* and participated in the Roundtable on Capacity Building for Sustainable Development.

More information: [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/envir\\_e/sym\\_oct05\\_e/sym\\_oct05\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/sym_oct05_e/sym_oct05_e.htm).

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## 3. Fisheries

### ETB focuses on fisheries subsidies at Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference

Hong Kong, 13-18 December 2005

A high-level press event on fisheries subsidies will be jointly convened by UNEP and WWF in Hong Kong on 14 December during the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference. Ministers and other senior international figures will be invited to make statements in support of an outcome in the fisheries subsidies negotiations that offers a significant contribution to sustainable development. This event will be co-chaired by Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director, UNEP, and Mr. James Leape, Director General Designate, WWF International.

In addition, a joint UNEP-WWF workshop entitled, "Fisheries Subsidies Disciplines in the WTO: Challenges and Opportunities," will be held on 15 December in Hong Kong and will address some of the key developmental and environmental issues in the negotiations, such as artisanal fisheries and differential treatment for developing countries.

More information: [http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/UNEPWWFside\\_eventHK.php](http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/UNEPWWFside_eventHK.php)

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