



22 April 2010 – Geneva, Switzerland

Objective:

The objective of the Trade and Biodiversity Day is to explore strategies to address new and existing trade and biodiversity issues and provide inputs to the perceived lack of synergies between the two policy communities. As such, the day seeks to promote mutual support of trade and biodiversity policies in the context of sustainable development. The focus will be on areas where controversy has arisen in current negotiations and discussions in the World Trade organization (WTO), World Intellectual Property organization (WIPO) and in other Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on International Trade in Species (CITES). These include the new trade and biodiversity related issues in the transition toward a greener economy, in the upcoming regime on access and benefit sharing, in fisheries subsidies and management, in agricultural negotiations, and in relation to climate change negotiations and the Copenhagen Accord.

8.30-9.00 Coffee

9.00-9.30 Welcoming Remarks: Ricardo Melendez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, ICTSD and Steven Stone, Chief, Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP

9.30-10.00 Context-setting Opening Address: Jeffrey McNeely, Chief Scientist, IUCN

Plenary Session 1:

10.00– 11.30: The Green Economy, Biodiversity and Trade

Biological resources represent an important natural capital asset that provides a basis for wealth creation and livelihoods. A significant part of global trade consists of trade in natural resources, including agriculture, fishery and forest products. Trade policies and trade liberalization can be an important driver for global flow of such goods, but also critical regulatory tools that ensure the sustainable use of these resources. In this respect, trade policy makers have at their disposal, in addition to tariff regulation, tools including standards, certification and labeling schemes, and government procurement. These tools have been increasingly relevant in promoting Biotrade and creating markets for environmentally sustainable products. As such, trade and trade policies could act as a powerful enabling condition for a Green Economy, which is based on the production and consumption of environmental and biodiversity-friendly goods and technologies. A new Green Development Mechanism is also being established as part of the enabling context. This session discusses trade as a connector between global production and consumption, conducive to achieving objectives of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Moderator: Mark Halle, Director - Trade and Investment, and European Representative, IISD

Experts:

Gabrielle Marceau, Counsellor, WTO

Sheng Fulai, Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP

Frank Vorhies, Director, EarthMind

Lorena Jaramillo, BIOTRADE Initiative, UNCTAD

Joshua Bishop, Chief Economist, IUCN

Parallel Session 1:

11.30-13.00: The Upcoming Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing, Biodiversity and Trade

Discussions toward a new international regime on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are advancing and progress will be assessed in the Nagoya CBD COP 10 in October 2010. The content of a future regime will have an important impact on trade in genetic resources worldwide. Many of the issues currently under discussion – including the scope of the new regime, minimum standards for access and benefit sharing, obligations for providers and users, monitoring and enforcement, and links with intellectual property rights – could have important implications for the multilateral trade system, for current negotiations and discussions on the Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)/CBD relationship under the TRIPS Council and in text-based negotiations on genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions in WIPO. These parallel processes also raise serious concerns over outcomes in different fora and the coherence between them.

Moderator: David Vivas, ICTSD

Experts:

Hartmut Meyer, Consultant, GTZ

Sudhir Sunjay, Mission of India (WTO, WIPO)

Susanna Chung, Mission of South Africa

Maria Julia Oliva, Union for Ethical BioTrade

Parallel Session 2:

11.30-13.00: Fisheries, Biodiversity and Trade

Global fisheries subsidies have been recognized as one of the key drivers of over-capacity and over-fishing. The current levels of over-fishing are presenting serious risks of fish stock depletion and loss of

species, which is a major policy concern for conservation of marine biodiversity. The Doha Round of trade negotiations seeks to address the problem of fisheries subsidies and to contribute to strengthening management regimes in the fisheries sector.

Growing concerns over the risk of losing fish species have triggered a new debate in the context of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) on the possible ban of international trade in species such as blue fin tuna. All of these policy processes in the WTO and CITES and other policy fora will have critical implications for sustainable livelihoods around the world, in particular in developing countries. This session will address the current and emerging global policy responses to the risk of marine biodiversity loss.

Moderator: Benjamin Simmons, Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP

Experts:

Kamal Moustapha Gueye, Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP

David Morgan, Chief Scientist, CITES

Aimee Gonzales, Trade Policy Analyst, WWF

Anne Schroeer, Economist, Oceana

13.00-14.00: Lunch

Plenary Session 2:

14.00-15.30: Agriculture, Biodiversity and Trade

This session will share the outcomes of UNEP's Initiative on Integrated Assessment of Trade-related Policies and Biological Diversity in the Agriculture Sector, which assisted six African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to assess the impact of trade liberalization on agricultural biodiversity, and explore the impact, linkages and coherence between policy at the national and multilateral levels. The session will then explore the relationship between policies to safeguard biodiversity in the agriculture sector and WTO rules. How can good agricultural practices from a biodiversity point of view be effectively incentivized in manners that are compatible with WTO rules? Do subsidies for biodiversity-friendly practices fall under the Green Box? Such questions will be discussed in the context of the practical experiences of the six ACP countries that formed the core of the UNEP Initiative.

Moderator: Christophe Bellmann, Programmes Director, ICTSD

Experts:

Vera Weick, Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP

Eduardo Escobedo, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD

Jonathan Hepburn, Agriculture Programme Officer, ICTSD

Plenary Session 3:

15.45-17.15: Climate Change, Biodiversity and Trade

Forestry, agriculture and biofuels are topics that link climate change, biodiversity and trade. Timber and agricultural trade have major implications for biodiversity conservation, as well as for climate, both directly and indirectly through driving land-use change.

Agricultural practices and trade will affect and be affected by both climate change and biodiversity conservation. Especially, maintaining agrobiodiversity will be important for the future ability of the global food system to respond to the affects of climate change. Simultaneously, consumers have become more concerned about the carbon footprint of their purchases, and standards and labeling and for this purpose are sprouting. The debate has moved beyond “food miles” (which focused on the carbon footprint of air-freighted fresh produce) to a wider variety of products - and towards the eventual creation of a global market for low-carbon agricultural goods – as well as to consider implications beyond carbon. How can carbon labels on food and agricultural products also support biodiversity conservation? Are there win-win situations – and are there trade-offs to be made? How are the emerging standards and labeling schemes addressed in the WTO? How can the issues be handled in a fair and transparent way, so as not to create a new layer of non-tariff barriers?

As the debate on and understanding of biofuels has matured, policies that promote and that introduce checks and balances on these potentially clean and climate-friendly fuels have become more sophisticated. However, many questions remain. How can the certification of biofuels better guarantee their sustainability, especially when it comes to biodiversity conservation? How can issues such as indirect land-use change be accounted for in a fair and transparent manner? How can certification schemes be designed so as not to exclude small, poor and vulnerable actors and countries – those that often act as significant stewards of our global biodiversity heritage? This interactive session will explore these topics that lie at the cross roads of climate change, biodiversity and trade.

Moderator: Ricardo Meléndez Ortiz, ICTSD Chief Executive

Experts:

Vice Yu, Coordinator, Global Governance for Development Programme, South Centre

Cedric Pene, UN Economic Commission for Europe/FAO Timber Section

Sébastien Haye, Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

Alex Kasterine, International Trade Centre

17.15 Synthesis Jeffrey McNeely, Chief Scientist, IUCN

17.30 Closing Remarks