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A periodic update on the Geneva Environment Network and the International Environment House, Geneva

CITES rules on elephants, whales, turtles

by Willem Wijnstekers,
Secretary-General, CITES

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, whose secretariat is located at the International Environment House, held its 11th Conference of the Parties at UNEP's Nairobi headquarters in April. Since COPs are held only every two-and-a-half years, they are much-anticipated events on the international environment calendar. This year's meeting was attended by close to 1,400 participants, including around 700 delegates from 145 governments, 250 journalists, and 400 members of 157 non-governmental, UN, and intergovernmental organizations.

COP 11 adopted decisions on how best to protect dozens of animal and plant species from being over-exploited as a result of international trade. It also adopted a five-year strategic plan for helping governments to conserve and sustainably use threatened species so that these species will not require stronger trade protection. The plan seeks to strengthen national trade enforcement measures in order to reduce and ultimately eliminate illegal trade. It also aims to promote greater public understanding of CITES and to strengthen collaboration between CITES and other conventions and organizations dealing with conservation and biodiversity.

One of the meeting's most closely watched issues was whether to lift or continue the ban on elephant ivory sales. It was finally agreed that the elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe should remain on CITES Appendix II (which permits trade controlled through permits) but with a zero quota for ivory sales. Africa's other elephant populations will remain on Appendix I, which bans trade.

The African states where elephants live (known as range states) will continue to seek a

continent-wide consensus on a long-term conservation strategy for the elephant. In addition, efforts will be made to improve data on elephant populations and poaching incidents. The ivory ban will be reviewed by the next CITES meeting.

The ban on international trade in whales, in place since 1986, will also be maintained. Opponents of renewed trade argued that action by CITES must be consistent with the International Whaling Commission, which is the intergovernmental body responsible for the sustainable use and conservation of whales. The IWC is now making progress on developing a global management plan for whale stocks.

Cuba's efforts to open up trade in Hawksbill turtles and their shells failed, as did proposals by Australia, the UK and the US to regulate trade in the oceans' three largest sharks (the whale, great white, and basking sharks). The shark proposals raised concerns amongst a number of governments about bringing species that are targeted by commercial fisheries into the CITES regime.

A number of species have been up-listed from Appendix II to Appendix I. This means that trade bans will now apply to the Australian dugong (sea cow), New Caledonia's horned parakeets, the coelacanth (a "living fossil" fish), additional populations of Asia's urial (wild sheep), and Argentina's monkey puzzle tree.

Other species, such as Asian box turtles, China's hwamei (a songbird), the Malagasy poison frog, Asian ginseng, and the desert-living cistanche (a parasitic herb) were for the first time added to Appendix II and will require a permit before being traded.

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Additional species were downlisted from Appendix I to Appendix II or removed completely from the CITES Appendices. These species have recovered sufficiently in numbers to be no longer threatened by extinction, or they are not subject to international trade. Still others, in particular a number of plants listed in the 1970s and early 1980s, have been removed from the Appendices as part of a house-cleaning exercise.

In addition to adjusting the Appendices, the meeting adopted a number of decisions dealing with enforcement and national management plans for highly endangered species. An important decision was adopted on improving conservation and enforcement efforts in tiger range states for this highly endangered species, as well as on reducing demand in the consumer countries. Decisions were also adopted on bears, bushmeat, crocodiles, seahorses, and other species and issues.

The next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES is scheduled for the second half of 2002. In the meantime, CITES will continue to monitor international trade and support national efforts to protect many of the world's most endangered creatures.

NatureNotes

You probably know that Ramsar is the Convention protecting wetlands of international importance. But did you know you have a Ramsar site right on your doorstep?

Geneva's lakeside, from the Botanical Garden around to the beach (Genève-plage) is listed for its waterbirds and migrators.

And there is another Ramsar site at the other end of the lake near Villeneuve, called Les Granges.

(MAP)

GEN Roundtable: The Biosafety Protocol

— Pekka Haavisto, UNEP representative
to the Cartagena Biosafety negotiations

When the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was adopted in the early morning hours of 29 January, it was widely hailed as a groundbreaking agreement. The Protocol promises to protect the global environment from any potential risks posed by the transboundary transport of living modified organisms (LMOs). Advance Informed Agreement (AIA) procedures will ensure that recipient countries have both the opportunity and the capacity to assess these risks. The Protocol's role in setting the rules of the game for trade in bio-engineered crops could have major implications for the biotechnology industry – which is likely to become one of the most powerful forces of the 21st century.

But many questions remain. While environmental agreements are premised on the precautionary principle, decisions under trade law require "sufficient scientific evidence": How will the Protocol square this circle? Could Governments applying its terms be challenged in the WTO? How will the Protocol's AIA procedures operate in practice? How will the precautionary principle work in practice? Will the Protocol have an important effect on trade flows and agriculture?

The Geneva Environment Network organized a roundtable on 31 March to begin exploring some of the answers. The roundtable brought together some 70 participants for a lively two-hour discussion. It was chaired by myself, and featured the following panel members, who made introductory presentations: Mohan Kumar from the Permanent Mission of India; João Magalhães from the World Trade Organization (WTO) secretariat; François Pythoud of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests, and Landscape; Andreas Seiter of Novartis International AG; and Matthew Stilwell from the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL).

The debate was wide-ranging and did not attempt to draw conclusions. While there were a number of dissent-

ing voices, the following summary attempts to capture the essence of the meeting in the form of answers to three general questions.

Does the Protocol matter?

As the first-ever international agreement on biotechnology, the Protocol's adoption in January 2000 marked the beginning of an effective global strategy for facing the potential risks posed by living modified organisms (LMOs). The Protocol will help to ensure that modern biotechnology has a sustainable relationship with the Earth's biological diversity. It will enable many developing countries to develop the kinds of legislation and control systems that already exist in developed countries.

Some of the problems posed by the Protocol are that, like any regulatory system, it may give large companies that can afford to respond to regulation a competitive advantage over companies that lack resources because they are small or based in developing countries. And because the negotiations produced potentially conflicting statements about the precautionary principle and the Protocol's relationship to WTO, many of the Protocol's real implications must still be tested through implementation.

Does it conflict with the WTO?

The once highly divisive trade and environment debate has started to mature – as indicated by the successful adoption of the Biosafety Protocol. To date, there has been no challenge in WTO to a Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA), and indeed the WTO does not ban the use of trade measures in MEAs.

It is also widely recognized that the WTO rules do not have – and do not claim – competence over environmental matters. Another reason why it



NatureNotes

In autumn the lakeside abounds in migratory birds stopping off for a rest and a meal, like any tourists. You can see sandpipers, gulls, pochards and mergansers. Other species choose to stay over for the winter, including divers, grebes and an amazing array of ducks.

Grebes are easy to recognize. The largest is the great crested grebe (pictured), with blackish ear-tufts and, in breeding season, a brown and black frill on each side of its head. In spring it anchors its floating nests on vegetation in lakes, reservoirs and gravel-pits.

Other grebes you might see are the little grebe, black-necked grebe and red-necked grebe. You might even see the beautiful and rare Slavonian grebe, with its broad golden mask during the breeding season..

should be easy to avoid a dispute in WTO over biosafety in particular is that the Protocol has weak provisions on trade with non-Parties. Ultimately, it is up to the members of the WTO and the Protocol – the governments themselves – to ensure that the two regimes are mutually supportive.

But while there is no fundamental legal conflict, efforts must be made to ensure that the Protocol is implemented at the national level in a way that supports both sets of rules. In many areas this will not be difficult. For example, both WTO and the Protocol set out provisions for risk assessments, and both include the precautionary principle, if with different degrees of emphasis.

On the other hand, whereas the Protocol recognizes the socio-economic impacts of trade as a legitimate issue for decision-making, the WTO's regime

on sanitary and phytosanitary measures (the SPS Agreement) does not. There is a potential tension here, and the elaboration of decision procedures under the Protocol will determine whether or not this becomes a problem.

What are the next steps?

The Intergovernmental Committee on the Cartagena Protocol (ICCP) will now start preparing for the first meeting of the Parties. It will also focus on encouraging ratification and ensuring that all the necessary procedures are elaborated in detail by the time the Protocol enters into force.

One of the first key priorities is to establish the Biosafety Clearing House for information sharing. Another priority is building the capacity of all Parties so that the Protocol can be

implemented at the national level. Most developed countries already have legal and policy frameworks for LMOs, but many developing countries do not. It is essential that capacity-building efforts be coordinated. Meanwhile, the private sector must be involved in capacity building and in implementation, and all stakeholders must be included in the national decision-making process.

The successful conclusion of the Protocol required increased cooperation between trade and environment ministries within each country. As governments prepare for the implementation phase, this cooperation needs to be expanded and strengthened, for example during the process of drawing up the documentation requirements for commodities. The successful handling of these implementation details will be vital to ensuring that the WTO and Biosafety regimes remain compatible.

Looking beyond the Protocol itself, a great deal remains to be done to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the Earth's biodiversity. Difficult as the biosafety talks were, the next issues to be tackled under the Convention on Biological Diversity – including access to genetic resources, benefit sharing, and technology transfer – promise to be even more challenging. With an effective biosafety regime in place, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity must build on this success by moving forward to address these urgent issues.

New GEN members

GEN membership has recently grown to include:

Bellerive Foundation	www.bellerive.org/
Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, University of Geneva	www.unige.ch/ses/
Graduate Institute of Development Studies	www.unige.ch/iued/
Green Cross International	www.gci.ch/

The full list of GEN members may be found at
www.environmenthouse.ch/network.html.



GEN Roundtable: From Malmö to Rio+10

— Aniket Ghai, Geneva Environment Network

Over 100 environment ministers gathered in Malmö, Sweden from 29-31 May for the first-ever Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which also served as the Sixth Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council. The Forum ended with the adoption of the action-oriented Malmö Declaration. The Declaration will serve as a crucial input to this month's UN Millennium General Assembly and to the Rio+10 summit in 2002, which together are expected to set the global agenda for environment and sustainable development for years to come.

To commemorate World Environment Day (5 June), the Geneva Environment Network convened a roundtable to review the outcome of the Forum and to discuss what needs to be done over the next several years to strengthen global environmental governance and to tackle priority issues. Mark Halle, Director of Trade and Investment at the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD), moderated the roundtable, while presentations were made by panel members Gamani Corea, former Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); Charles di Leva, Director of the Environmental Law Centre of the World Conservation Union (IUCN); Claude Fussler, Director for Stakeholder Relations at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD); Maritta Koch-Weser, Director-General of IUCN; and Beat Nobs, Head of the International Affairs Divi-

sion of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape.

Several of the panel members brought first-hand perspectives from Malmö. Their presentations were followed by a general discussion with the 45 participants from Permanent Missions, UN bodies, non-governmental organizations, academia, and the local Geneva community. A short summary of the discussion is provided below.

The Malmö Declaration

Participants at the Malmö Forum spoke highly of the informal style of the talks there, where Ministers discussed issues in a closed-room setting. The resulting Declaration was noteworthy in the importance it accords to the role of civil society and the private sector, in contrast to many intergovernmental texts containing throwaway sentences on the role of stakeholders.

Large sections of the Declaration are devoted to outlining ways in which these sectors of society should contribute to addressing environmental challenges. The Declaration's emphasis on technological innovation diverges from the traditional focus on finding solutions through policy-making. The roundtable agreed with the singling out of the effects of poverty and wasteful consumption as priority areas for the Rio+10 conference.

The Declaration's call for a summit-level review of the implementation of the 1992 Earth Summit (UNCED) outcome – including Agenda 21 and the

NatureNotes

Birdwatchers know to expect the unexpected: in 1998 greater flamingos began turning up in Fanel, a bird reserve on the Lake of Neuchâtel – the first time they were recorded in Switzerland since 1924!

climate change and biodiversity treaties – was broadly supported. So too was its request for injecting urgency into the quest for sustainable development.

The Rio +10 preparatory process

Some roundtable participants were pleasantly surprised at the degree of enthusiasm shown by environment ministers at Malmö for accelerating action on the global environmental agenda. The solidarity among environment ministers must continue throughout the process leading up to Rio+10 if environment issues are to receive their due priority. A strengthened UNEP could support this endeavour by playing a major role in the Rio+10 preparatory process. Could establishing a World Environment Organization provide the eventual solution? Or revamping the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD)? These remain open questions.

The roundtable discussions acknowledged the progress that has been achieved over the past 30 years. The debate has advanced a long way since

Ramsar signs Memo of Cooperation with Cartagena Convention

Mr Delmar Blasco, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and Mr Nelson Andrade, Regional Coordinator for the United Nations Environment Programme's Caribbean Action Plan, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on 1 May 2000 at the International Environment House. The Memorandum is intended to help Parties strengthen conservation efforts aimed at those sites that are relevant to both Conventions. The text of the Memorandum is posted at

http://ramsar.org/key_cartagena_moc.htm.



1972; the focus on pollution clean-up has evolved into efforts to integrate environment and development in policy-making and to pursue an equitable form of development. Issue-specific multilateral treaties and programmes have been fleshed out, often with strong economic content.

Nevertheless, the 1992 vision of environmentally sustainable development is far from being achieved. In the light of this, the preparatory process for Rio+10 will be critically important, especially for encouraging the implementation of the commitments contained in existing agreements on environment and sustainable development.

What should
Rio-plus-10 do?

The 2002 summit should identify milestones and set clear deadlines for implementation. Governments must mainstream their own policies while integrating civil society into these efforts through voluntary agreements. The challenge facing the private sector is to find ways of making markets work for everyone, and not merely those above a certain per-capita income.

A new development model may be required, one that allows for sustainable lifestyles in all parts of the world. The roundtable echoed the Malmö Declaration's call for completing, ratifying, and implementing environmental conventions – including the forthcoming treaty on persistent organic pollutants (POPs), the Rotterdam Convention on trade in hazardous chemicals, and recent protocols on greenhouse gas emissions targets, biosafety, and a liability and compensation regime for hazardous wastes. Newer issues, such as freshwater resources and forests, should also be tackled. Above all, mainstreaming at the national level should aim to put environment ministers on an equal footing with economic ministers in the dialogue on sustainable development.

Many recognize that the environmental agenda is advancing despite weaknesses in many areas. Taking the cue from the Malmö Forum, the Rio+10 process should focus and build upon successes, rather than dwell on disappointments. In this spirit, the 2002 summit could be approached as a trade fair for creativity in environment.

“Earth Times Europe” launched

The Earth Times and the Tribune de Genève are teaming up to launch a new joint European edition of “Earth times”. The paper will be published out of Geneva twice a month in print, and daily on the web at <http://www.earthtimes.org>. The first print issue was released in early September. Each issue will extensively cover the UN and multilateral communities in Geneva, as well as NGOs and the business sector. Other areas of coverage will include Bonn, Brussels, Copenhagen, Geneva, The Hague, Helsinki, London, Oslo, Paris, Rome, Stockholm and Vienna, among other places. Its focus will be on the human environment and its links to economic, humanitarian and social issues. For further information, contact Pranay Gupte, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher, at pranaygupte@att.net.

NatureNotes

The ducks seen around the Lake include pochards, teals, mallards, scoters, tufted ducks, scaups, mergansers, shelducks, wigeons and goldeneye.

If you're lucky, this winter you might see the beautiful red-breasted merganser, with its white collar and unusual 'hair-style'

Great fun to watch are the black-throated and red-throated divers, which can swim underwater like fish.

In recent years ornithologists were excited to see some rare long-tailed ducks – usually seen on salt water – in Prévèrènges, a good place to see waterbirds on the other side of Morges.

Another common Geneva waterbird that's easy to recognize is the coot, with its white bill and shield.

If you don't have a bird guide to help you sort these birds out, you can make your own sketches and look them up during your next trip to the library.



UNEP and UNCTAD intensify collaboration on trade, environment and development

— Hussein Abaza, Chief, Economics and Trade Unit, UNEP

UNEP and UNCTAD have been cooperating actively on trade, environment and development since 1997, by organizing joint expert meetings, undertaking policy-oriented studies and implementing country projects. Both developed and developing countries have recently expressed their interest in UNEP and UNCTAD stepping up their joint efforts to further strengthen country capacities to promote trade expansion and develop their economies in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner. The UNEP and UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF) was conceived in response.

Objectives

The CBTF aims to strengthen the capacities of countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to address effectively trade-environment-development issues. To support this aim, the CBTF will help beneficiaries, at their request, to:

- undertake comprehensive analyses of the relationships between trade, environment and development;

- assess the environmental and developmental impacts of trade policies, as well as the trade and developmental implications of environmental policies with a view to maximising the potential benefits;
- develop and implement policy packages to promote integrated national trade, environment and development policies;
- explore approaches to address trade-environment-development issues at the domestic level with national stakeholders, and at regional and global levels with international experts, practitioners and negotiators;
- participate effectively in trade-environment-development discussions;
- access information from, and build cooperation with, relevant organisations working in the trade-environment-development domain.

Activities

The CBTF will facilitate five integrated and complementary activities, specifically designed to meet the expressed needs of CBTF beneficiaries and which will be constructed around a collaborative partnership-based approach, including:

- *Thematic Research* on major issues in the trade-environment-development domain and on practical approaches to sustainably address them, bearing in mind the development priorities of countries;
- *Country Studies* to enhance countries' capacities to develop mutually supportive trade, environment and development policies (in its initial three-year period, it is planned to support the implementation of 16 country studies);
- *Training* to enhance countries' appreciation of the relationship and complementarities between trade, environment and development (in the initial period, technical assistance will be provided for training programmes in 8 countries)
- *Policy Dialogue* to facilitate awareness raising, consultations and the exchange of perspectives among experts, practitioners and negotiators at the national, regional and international levels (in the first three years, 3 conferences of international experts, 9 national/regional seminars or workshops and 9 national/regional briefings or round-tables will be organized);
- *Networking and Information Exchange* to provide technical and operational support at the national and regional levels and to widely disseminate the results of CBTF activities (by publishing outputs of activities, newsletters describing current and planned activities, research and country study publications, training manuals and interactive courses, databases, and policy dialogue reports, dissemination of which will be complemented by the creation of a new a CBTF website).

While resources will be contributed in the form of staff time by both UNEP and UNCTAD, CBTF activities will be financed through extra budgetary resources. The required fund raising has begun in earnest, with a view to starting the implementation of activities in October 2000.

For additional information see <http://www.unep.ch/etu/cbtf/>.

NatureNotes

There are more nearby places to see waterbirds and other wildlife this autumn and winter. Les Grangettes, where the Rhône enters Lake Léman, offers a combination of biotopes and excellent opportunities to observe nesting, migrating and wintering birds - some 265 species recorded so far, including the great white egret (pictured). The Lake of Neuchâtel has four bird reserves: Fanel on the north end, and Chavornay, Champ-Pittet and Yverdon-Thielle on the south.

You'll find more complete directions in a useful guide called *Où voir les Oiseaux en Suisse*, Delachaux et Niestlé, S.A. Lausanne-Paris 1998. ISBN: 2-603-01082-4, available in local bookshops. An English version is published by XXXX.



Millennium International Children's Conference on the Environment

— Wondwosen K. Asnake, UNEP/Regional Office for Europe

Under its global slogan, “**LEAVE IT TO US!**”, UNEP's Millennium International Children's Conference on the Environment (MICC) took place from 22 to 24 May in Eastbourne, United Kingdom. More than 700 children aged between 10 and 12 years old from 111 countries participated in the conference.

The conference is one of UNEP's flagship initiatives in support of the direct involvement of children and youth in environmental matters. Through such conferences, UNEP works to increase and strengthen environmental awareness of children, and demonstrates its commitment to including children in the process of sustainable development. These initiatives give children of the world a platform to discuss environmental issues of concern to them, and an opportunity to present those concerns to governments, ministries, environmental groups, citizens and the media.

The conference was organized by UNEP's Children Programme, which

helps to empower young people to play a leadership role in protecting the environment and being advocates for their future. The programme includes a children's network that reaches out to over 800 groups in over 100 countries.

The Millennium conference focused on three themes: Sharing the Planet, Water is Life, and Living in Cities. The conference provided an opportunity for the participants to learn more about environmental issues and to voice their views. A total of 18 projects in line with the themes of the conference were presented and discussed by the children. Thirty-five workshops were conducted on a range of environmental issues, including the green family, eco-schools, hazardous waste, noise pollution, environmental health, to mention but a few.

UK Environment Minister Michael Meacher, who attended the conference, urged the children to continue to play their part because their contribution is vital in the protection of the environment. UNEP's Executive Director,



Klaus Toepfer, encouraged the children to raise their voices to fight poverty, war and over consumption so that they could ensure their own future would be a good one.

At the end of the conference, the participants developed “challenges” for governments, the United Nations, peoples of the world, and themselves, which were presented at the Global Ministerial Environment Forum held in Malmö, Sweden. The conference attracted worldwide attention and media coverage, attesting to the influence of children and the important role they can play in protecting the environment.

An International Environmental Museum in Geneva

The Geneva Environment Network is supporting a project proposal for an International Environmental Children's Museum in Geneva by hosting brainstorming meetings and contributing ideas for developing the concept. A survey is currently being conducted to explore the possibility of establishing such a museum in Geneva. The Museum would house permanent exhibits on the themes of energy; the oceans; animals; pollution; plant life; the world, weather and habitats; and recycling. In addition, temporary exhibition areas would be devoted to other specific topics on the ever-changing face of the environment and sustainable development. Through an entirely hands-on approach, visitors would be encouraged to interact with display materials and use all of their senses in their discovery process.

So far, over 110 exhibit ideas have been proposed by survey respondents, ranging from oversized natural habitats of animals, such a giant bird's nest or crawling through an ant maze, to the complex issues of recycling tin cans on-the-spot, or demonstrating how the shift towards living in urban areas has strained city resources. If you would like to complete a survey questionnaire, receive a copy of the full project document, make an entry to the Name Contest for this new centre, or if you have ideas or opinions on the possibility of building such a facility in the Lake Lemman region, please contact Tracey Tokuhama-Espinosa. Survey questionnaires (in French, English, German and Spanish) and other information on the project are available at

<http://www.multi-faceta.com/museum/musindex.html>



Environment-related meetings and events in Geneva area

Date	Event (Organizer/contact)
6 October	WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (Ms. Vivien Liu, Tel: +41-22-739-5455, Email: vivien.liu@wto.org)
9-11 October	Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment, Meeting of Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (UN/ECE, Tel: +41 22 917 44 44, Fax: +41 22 91705 05, Email: info.ece@unece.org)
12-13 October	Basel Convention: 17th Session of the Technical Working Group and the 2nd Session of the Legal Working Group (Basel Convention Secretariat, Mr. Pierre Portas, Technical Unit, Tel: +41-22-917-8217, Email: pierre.portas@unep.ch)
22-27 October	Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention secretariat, Tel. +41 22 999 0170, Fax +41 22 999 0169, Email ramsar@ramsar.org)
24-25 October	WTO Committee on Trade and Environment in Geneva, Switzerland (Ms. Sabrina Shaw, WTO, Tel: +41-22-739-5482, Email: Sabrina.shaw@wto.org)
30 October – 3 November	Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent procedure, Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee - Seventh Session (Rotterdam Convention Interim Secretariat, Tel: +41 22 917 8184, Fax: +41 22 767 3460, Email: pic@unep.ch)
10 November	WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (Ms. Vivien Liu, WTO, Tel: +41-22-739-5455, Email: vivien.liu@wto.org)
27 November - 1 December	WTO Council on TRIPs (Mr. Peter Ungphakorn, WTO, Tel: +41-22-739-5412; Email: peter.ungphakorn@wto.org)
4-7 December	Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (UN/ECE, Tel: +41 22 917 44 44, Fax: +41 22 91705 05, Email: info.ece@unece.org)
4-9 December	Fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants (Johannesburg, South Africa), (UNEP Chemicals, Tel: +41-22-979-9111, Fax: +41-22-797-3460, Email: dodgen@unep.ch)
23 October	Meeting on Enhancing the Mutual Supportiveness of MEAs and the WTO (UNEP/ETU, Tel: +41 22 9178243, Email: desiree.leon@unep.ch)
30-31 October	Expert Meeting on the Environmental Impact of Trade Liberalization in six countries (UNEP/ETU, Tel: +41 22 9178243, Email: desiree.leon@unep.ch)
1 November	Fourth Expert Group meeting on the Reference Manual for Integrated Assessment on Trade-Related Policies (UNEP/ETU, Tel: +41 22 9178243, Email: desiree.leon@unep.ch)

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