

The Nagoya Summit: Implications for Biodiversity

On Saturday, October 30, 2010 the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit came to an end as the participants of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a new ten year framework, to protect natural habitats around the world from the threats of climate change and industrial processes.

The summit was host to 18,000 participants, representing 193 different nations (the US is not a signatory country), who convened to agree on a legally binding protocol, aimed at limiting future pressures to biodiversity around the world.

Some of the targets adopted include: the restoration of at least 15% of degraded areas, the protection of 10% of marine, and 17% of terrestria areas.



Although the targets fail to meet the EU's initial expectations (which hoped for the protection of 15% of marine and 20% of terrestrial areas), the convention represents a positive step in the world's future conservation of biodiversity. The EU has also asserted itself as an important leader in this effort. The convention's next summit will be held in India in 2012.

Zoom in on... an EEA report



On November 30th, the European Environment Agency (EEA) published the fourth European Environment State and Outlook report. The report is divided into four categories: thematic assessments, global megatrends, country assessments, and a synthesis of all three. It promotes strategic frameworks for the implementation of environmentally conscious policy and practice for policy makers.

[Read more...](#)

Spotlight on Low Noise Machinery



A workshop on low-noise machinery took place in early November, organised by the European Council, the European Commission, and the current Belgian presidency. The workshop addressed:

- the issue of noise pollution within the EU and the rising number of complaints and health concerns due to loud machinery;
- the lack of public awareness on this issue and the need to stimulate the demand side;
- the need to avoid focusing on one environmental issue such as noise or emissions,

to the detriment of others.

The members of the workshop decided to take a more global approach to solve the problem of noise pollution. First, it will be important to develop technology that muffles sound, while maintaining a low environmental impact in other ways. The whole life-cycle of the machinery, its production, transport, and purchase, should respect sustainability standards. During the workshop, the participants also discussed what effective economic incentives may exist for businesses to choose low-noise machinery in a professional context.

The importance of GPP criteria was also acknowledged. Garden machinery is one of the product groups covered, but extending the GPP product group list to a wider range machinery would have positive effects, including perhaps, a quieter environment.

Zoom in on... German ink ban

The German government is currently drafting national controls on printing ink used on food packaging in order to prevent consumer health risks.

Despite having failed to gain EC support for control regulations throughout the EU, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection decided to prepare for implementation at the national level.

These measures will include a list of consumer friendly substances, tested and approved by scientific experts, that may be used to print on food packaging. Carcinogenic, reprotoxic (CMR), mutagenic, and nanomaterials will be banned.

Zoom in on... EU ban on phosphates

The European Commission has proposed banning phosphates in domestic laundry detergent products, throughout the EU.

The ban is expected to begin in January 2013, and aims at decreasing the environmental damage caused by the leakage of phosphates into waterways.

Laundry detergent is included in the Cleaning Products and Services product group in the first set of GPP criteria.

Revision of the EU GPP criteria for Cleaning Products and Services will take place in 2011.

[More information...](#)

Zoom in on... a GPP conference

Over 40 representatives from public authorities across Germany came together in Bremen on 18 November to exchange best practices, learn how to build on the outcomes of a training series on GPP and get the necessary support to implement capacity-building and other actions.

A highlight of the event was the marketplace session, where small groups of participants received advice on legal queries, learnt how to effectively set up a Procurement Policy and exchanged on practical ways to verify compliance with environmental criteria for a variety of products.

[More information...](#)

GPP in Practice

The Latvian Ministry of Environment goes for green investments

The Latvian Ministry of the Environment awards approximately €50 million per annum under the Climate Change Financial Instrument (CCFI) based on revenues from the international emissions trading scheme under the Kyoto protocol. In order to ensure the environmental benefits of the projects financed, the Ministry applies the GPP criteria for construction works and services. These criteria are applied both at project application stage and during a five-year monitoring period after the contract.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

Framework agreement for ecological paper (Lombardy, Italy)

The Central Procurement Agency in Lombardy, Italy has recently held a tender competition for the supply of paper to all 1600 public bodies in the region. Environmental criteria have been included in both the technical specifications and award criteria for the framework – which is worth approximately €5.5 million over a period of 18 months. Both 100% recycled paper with a high percentage of post-consumer recycled fibres and non-recycled paper coming from sustainably managed forests will be purchased.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

Working with suppliers to deliver green furniture (Basque country, Spain)

Ihobe, the Basque Environmental Management Agency, has been working with both supply and demand side to encourage the application of Ecodesign principles to office furniture purchased in the region. A tender procedure was carried out in 2006, which focused on sustainable production, use of recycled materials and recyclability of the end product. This approach has since been adopted by other authorities in the region, including the Basque Water Authority and the City of Bilbao.

Download the GPP example [here](#).