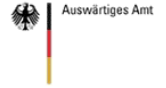


## International Conference



### **Moving forward from Cancún**

### **The Global Governance of Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development**



**30 – 31  
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2003  
Berlin  
Germany**

## **Integrating Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development with Nature Conservation in Poland in the Light of Trade Liberalisation**

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Poland

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Abstract  
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### **Integrating Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development with Nature Conservation in Poland in the light of trade liberalisation.**

The situation of Polish agriculture currently plays a special role – at the time of the last preparations for the accession day to European Union, the CAP Reform and moving forward WTO agreements. These important processes are influencing not only global food commodities, but also local markets and the individual socio-economic situation of each farming family. The changing impact of the traditional structure of Polish agriculture on the environment is also crucial.

Polish agriculture is a source of income for 20% of working population, but creates only 4% of GDP. Thus, when talking about agriculture in Poland one should consider rural populations, rather than a commodity market. In this situation, it is important to find sustainable solutions for both agriculture and social stability and conservation of nature and landscape in rural areas. The policy of the European Union offers a wide range of positive instruments, such as Rural Development measures, especially agri-environmental programmes.

Although environment is not a priority of the WTO, the non-trade arguments should be used more intensively during the trade negotiations. Poland can deliver a long list of social arguments, which should be considered as improving living conditions in the countryside, supporting family farms, integrating rural development, increasing food safety and food security.

The Multilateral Environmental Agreements are equally important to ensure that trade liberalisation will not encourage the farmers to use unsustainable and environmentally harmful farming practices.

For IUCN, the World Conservation Union, as well as the broader conservation community, the conservation and equitable sharing of benefits of natural resources has become a priority. IUCN, with its unique network of member organisations: states, government agencies, NGOs, scientists and experts, will support the work on sustainable solutions to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.