



WWF activists welcomed delegates at the entrance of the just concluded UNFCCC conference on Climate Change in Poland with a 'theatre of giant eyes'. This was to bring home the fact that the world was observing the negotiations and charging the industrialised countries of coming there empty-handed.

‘Exhibition of climate hypocrisy’

Kim Carstensen is leader of WWF International's global climate enterprise since April 2008. He is leading the organisation's efforts towards the Climate Summit in Copenhagen in 2009 and beyond. This work includes focused efforts in eight key economies: Brazil, China, EU, India, Japan, Russia, South Africa and the USA.

Carstensen has been leading many WWF decision-making bodies over the years. Recently he has chaired WWF International's Conservation Committee between 2006 and 2008, the period during which it defined WWF's new Global Programme Framework. During the same period, he was a member of the organisation's highest decision-making body, the Network Executive Team.

Carstensen is also deputy chairman of the Board of the Danish Official Development Assistance, Danida, and is thereby engaged in broad discussion of social and economic development issues in all sectors. He spoke to **Marianne de Nazareth of Deccan Herald** in Poznan in Poland, at the UNFCCC conference on Climate Change, on issues relating to climate change and wildlife.

What do you consider the most pressing climate change concern, which will impact the world's wildlife?

Change in rainfall patterns and change in temperatures across the globe will affect wildlife. We are in a situation where we humans have made a lot of changes in nature and our world. Our urban areas have expanded hugely



and so wildlife find it impossible to live in the corridors and wildlife parks we have confined them to. So, they venture out into human habitation and that's where the conflict begins. You can see it happening with tigers and elephants in India, straying into human habitats since they border the jungles.

As the climate change talks come to an end, what is your reaction to the decisions made?

This was a moment in time when real leaders would have stepped up and taken the positions that would combat the economic and climate crisis at the same time, instead, industrialised countries preached sermons about the importance of climate protection in the Poznan plenary, while lacking or attacking policies to make it happen at home, a serious sign of climate hypocrisy.

The World Wildlife organisation welcomed ministers to the climate change conference with the 'theatre of eyes'. What were you conveying?

The World Wildlife organisation

wanted negotiators and decision makers who came to the conference to realise that climate change affects people all over the world. We wanted the negotiators to know that the whole world was watching them and that millions of eyes like our theatre of eyes, were watching their every move and decisions.

With reference to India, which wildlife in your opinion is most threatened in the country?

In India the Asian elephant, the Indian rhinoceros, the lion tailed macaque, the snow leopard and of course the most famous of them all, the tiger, are among the endangered species. The critically endangered are Salim Ali's fruit bat, the Namdapha flying squirrel, the Malabar large spotted civet, among others. Climate Change if there is a down turn for the worse will affect many more species in the country.

Do you think India is doing sufficiently enough for our own wildlife in the country?

The Indian government is aware of the effects of climate change on the wildlife in the country. That is why there is a big move that I have noticed in your industrial sector, from using 'dirty' to shifting to 'cleaner' modes of renewable energy. This is crucially important for India to do, find more and more solutions to tap renewable energy along with her booming economy. This will help cut back on greenhouse gas emissions and stall climate change, which finally helps saving wildlife and biodiversity in general.