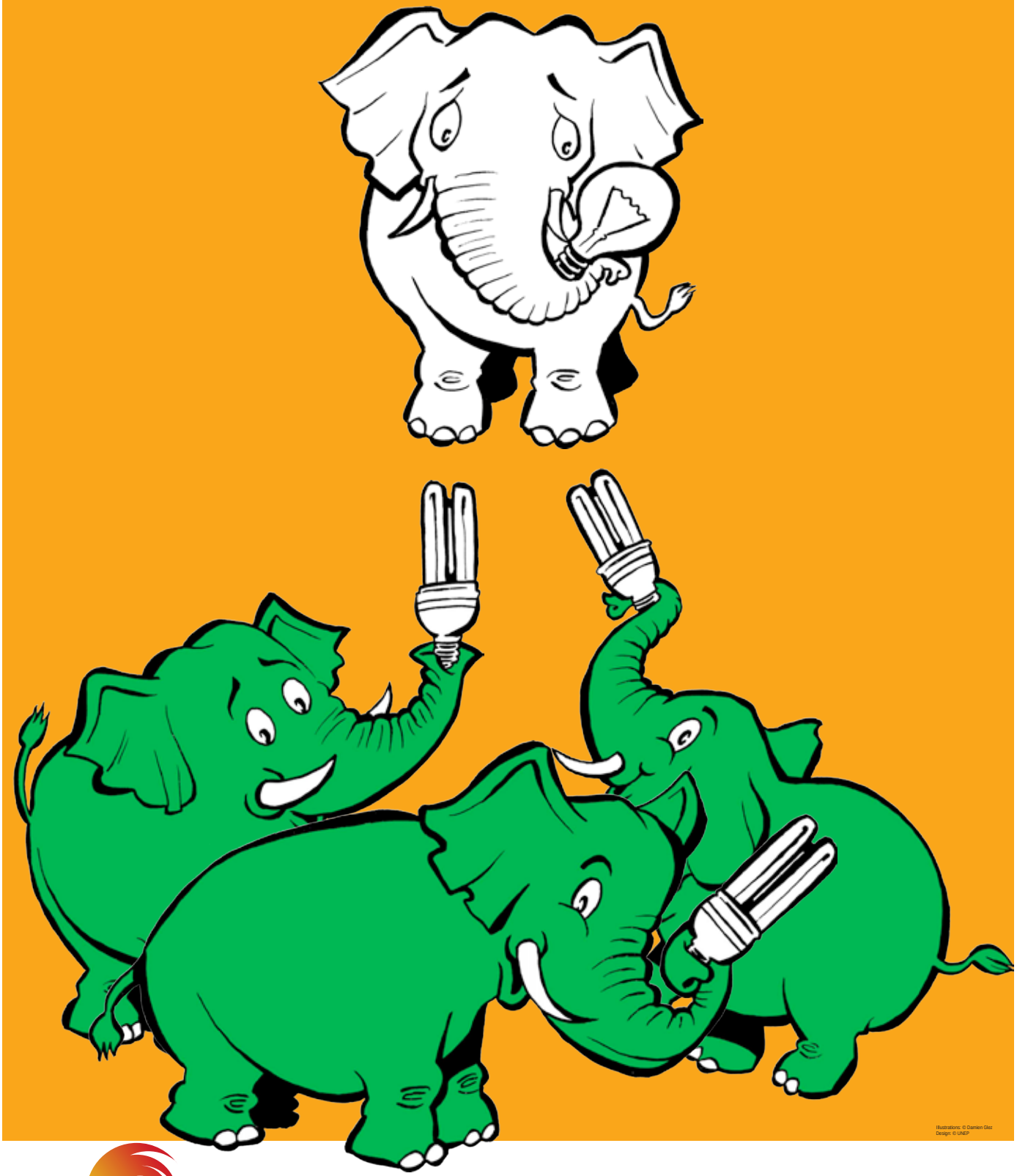
June 2010

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# EARTH CONSCIOUS



# Don't be the ODD one out



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Planning scenarios help West African fisheries adapt to climate change...

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ON OUR COVER
Magical Mountains of "Middle Earth" at Milford Sound in New Zealand's Fiordland National Park.
Photo by Mark Meredith.



# Countdown to Cancun

In less than six months, top climate change negotiators and world leaders will converge in Mexico's famous tourist resort, Cancun.

Their challenge: bridging the interests of industrialised, emerging economies and developing countries into a legally binding agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol which expires in 2012.

But very few countries are expecting a legally binding treaty to be signed by world leaders when they meet in Cancun in December but seem to be favouring 2011 for possibly striking a deal.

There's still a lot more that needs to be resolved and gain acceptance among countries and it's quite unlikely that the two climate change meetings leading up to Cancun can achieve the task.

Already, we've seen the two weeks of climate talks in Bonn, Germany which started off on a positive note with trust and confidence being restored after the Copenhagen chaos, ending on a rather sour note as piles of criticism were heaped on the latest blueprint for the UN treaty.

The Group of 77 and China described the latest text as "unbalanced" while the United States, among rich nations found some aspects of it "unacceptable."

Negotiators now have two meetings in August and October to refine the text into something that is acceptable by world nations and not turn trust – achieved in Bonn - into traction in Mexico as expressed by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

I was also privileged to attend the Bonn meeting, courtesy the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and witness the climate change dialogue among countries and the high and lows of emotion running through the conference.

One point of consensus and unanimity by all countries was taking a break on the final day of the conference to watch the opening FIFA world championship game between Mexico and South Africa.

Football unites, we all know. Well, for the sake of the health of the Earth, let's hope maturity and skilful manoeuvring can also prevail in the upcoming climate change talks.

The Earth Conscious team would also like to extend congratulations to the President of Guyana, Bharrat Jagdeo on being named one of six 2010 Champions of the Earth.

We would like to recognise former Barbados Energy Minister, Liz Thompson, also a 2007 Champion of the Earth winner for being nominated by her government for the UNFCCC Executive Secretary position.

Christiana Figueres of Costa Rica, a tireless climate change campaigner and negotiator was appointed Executive Secretary, replacing the indefatigable Yvo de Boer.

*Linda Hutchinson-Jafar*

# Heavy criticism for revised climate change text

The May 31-June 11 Bonn climate change talks held in Germany's 19th largest city seemed all set for an optimistic outcome until the final day when almost everybody seemed to be quarrelling over the latest draft text document.

It was an unexpected end to the climate change talks where negotiators were calling for a healing from the distrust and disunity that plagued the Copenhagen conference last December when leaders adopted an accord which fell far short of the stated climate change goals.

Negotiators made it clear that restoring confidence and trust was the first step towards any meaningful discussion on climate change talks that were being held at the Maritim Hotel.

Ambassador Qintai Yu, China's Special Representative for Climate Change said prior to the Copenhagen talks, some countries departed from the path of cooperation and dialogue and resorted to coercion and pressure.

"It did not work. What it produced was the fact that the atmosphere of constructive dialogue was basically destroyed and we may say the largest casualty from the Copenhagen exercise was mutual trust," he said.

"Looking ahead at the months of negotiations before us, I believe the first priority of all of us is to rebuild confidence and trust. We must return to the path of constructive dialogue and efforts to find consensus."




***Sustainable Markets Foundation – 350.org: 1.5 vs 2 degrees C – press briefing on latest science and the current debate (l-r): Hans Verolme,Chair of Climate Action Network International "Gigaton Gap" Group, May Boeve, 350.org Director, Carlos Fuller, Belize and Deputy Director of the CARICOM Climate Change Centre (CCCC), and Ronald Jumeau, Ambassador from the Seychelles to the UN***



*Pablo Soĺoń Romero Oroza, Bolivia, during a press conference discussing Bolivia's submission to the AWG-LCA*




*Dessima Williams, Grenada, speaking for AOSIS*

While countries will always differ on issues, the Chinese ambassador said it should not deter the negotiations from expanding into areas of consensus and strengthen the basis for future cooperation in battling climate change.

Ambassador GM Mauser, Head of the Indian delegation said a new climate change regime is not being negotiated and that countries should build on the convention rather than going for a whole new approach.

"Logically, it's not impossible for us to sit together and have a new instrument but it is very improbable that the new instrument will be any better than the convention that we have. I believe on building on what we have than going for a totally new approach," he said adding that countries need to listen to the concerns of each other.

Ambassador Collin Beck, Vice-Chair of the Alliance for Small Island States (AOSIS), a coalition of small islands and low lying coastal countries said after two years of talks in Bali, there was a lowering of expectations in Barcelona, while side activities in Copenhagen damaged multilateralism.

"I think what we all are saying is really the restoration of faith in multilateralism in listening to each other. We're trying to bring back that spirit," he said.

To advance the negotiations, Ambassador Beck said it will take a lot of goodwill and exchanges but which should not be taken for granted.

The first sign of discontent emerged when island nations strenuously opposed a move by Saudi Arabia to dismiss their concerns over a 1.5 degree Celsius rise in temperature and the impact this will have on this on their countries.

Ambassador Ronald Jumeau, Seychelles Ambassador to the United Nations said island nations, already feeling the impact of climate change will continue to push forward with the issue.

"If this was an attempt to silence the issue of 1.5, I don't think it is going to work. Small island states cannot afford to wait. They do not have the luxury of time," Ambassador Jumeau remarked.

Carlos Fuller, Deputy Chairman of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) said while global temperature over 100-150 years rose by 0.30 degrees Celsius, historical data showed at least a 1 degree rise in temperature in the Caribbean.

Mr. Fuller pointed to the bleaching of corals, damaging hurricanes, reduced annual rainfalls and devastating flooding as a direct consequence of climate change.

"We're seeing the impact of climate change already being devastated for us. If we continue to go towards the goal of 2 degree, the impact for us is going to be far worse. We will have a totally dead barrier reef which will impact totally on fishing,

mass migration out of the tropics, people will have no option but to move out. This is a threat that needs immediate attention," Fuller told journalists in Bonn.

Island nations have also been asking the Climate Change Secretariat to review the existing scientific peer review literature on rising temperature and convert it into an official document.

But Saudi Arabia supported by Oman, Qatar and Kuwait suggested that vulnerable countries can use Google if they want more knowledge about the scientific findings relating to their survival!

A disappointed AOSIS chair, Grenada diplomat, Ambassador Dessima Williams said the responses of the 'few countries' that opposed the AOSIS proposal border on alarming.'

"I find it incomprehensible that our simple request has been met with much opposition. But I find comfort in the fact that the opposition is only limited and look forward to a return of this issue in Cancun," said Ms. Williams.

Ambassador Beck from the Solomon Islands was disappointed but didn't want to let the decision of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) affect other important issues for small island states at the negotiations.

"In these negotiations, when we fall, we get up again and look for another window to keep pressing our issue. While the 1.5 degrees is central to our negotiating position, we need Parties to understand us and we understand them. We need to continue with the spirit of reaching out to each other that has begun here in Bonn,' said Ambassador Beck.

On the final day of the two weeks of talks, almost every negotiator, groups and non-government organisations was critical about the latest draft negotiating text.

Pablo Solon, Bolivia's Ambassador to the UN described the latest text as "unbalanced" and a "Copenhagen-plus accord."

"We are in the middle of a very complicated situation. This text as a base for negotiations is a one-sided text. It is not a text for negotiation," a clearly agitated Ambassador Solon told journalists.

Brazil was equally furious. "We are dismayed because the revised text did not bring the Parties to any consensus. Many of our views are deleted in this revision making this text less balance and therefore less acceptable for negotiations."

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) felt negotiators missed some important goals, while showing a much stronger performance than in previous rounds.

"In order to win the low carbon world cup we'll have to score a number of important goals in the very near future, such as reaching an agreement on adaptation to climate impacts and on ways to stop deforestation", said Kathrin Gutmann, Head of Climate Policy, WWF Global Climate Initiative.

In his final appearance before the international media, the Executive Secretary of the UN climate body, Yvo de Boer agreed that there are differences but the document can be used as a starting point for negotiations.

"Yes it has shortcomings but we can use it as a basis to continue talking to each other. Some feel that it is not balanced but it's not being totally rejected.

"The process here has resulted in many Parties talking to each other rather than at each other," said Mr. de Boer who demitted office at the end of June.

He said more work needs to be done and urged negotiators to up the tempo in the last two rounds of negotiations.

"The work here opens the way for Cancun to deliver a full package of operational measures that will allow developing countries to take part in stronger action across all areas of climate change but governments must make full use of the next two formal sessions.

"There is a real need for intense work at all levels including the highest level to provide guidance," said Mr. de Boer.




*Briefing by Mexican Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba on Mexico's expectations for COP 16*

# *Will Cancun Deliver a Deal?*

Mexico's Climate Change Ambassador to the United Nations Luis Alfonso de Alba suggested countries should consider adopting a package of legally binding decisions at the climate change summit in Cancun in December while continuing negotiations on other tougher issues.

"Be prepared, not everything will be solved in Cancun," he warned.

The Mexican ambassador said the accord reached at the Copenhagen climate change talks last December was not fully accepted because of the "immaturity" of some of the issues and lack of political will on others.

"For Cancun, we are going to be working from the other side. We are not going to close a deal that in the last minute we involve heads of state and highest decision makers," he told journalists at the UN climate change conference involving senior government negotiators from about 185 countries.

"(We) are changing from the bottom and going upwards but also in separating the issues. We are not over-simplifying the issue of whether we will have a legally binding treaty, yes or no. The question is much more complex and we are aiming at working on a number of decisions that need to be taken, some of them that can be translated into legally binding instruments," Mr. de Alba said.

Issues in each chapter of the negotiating document will be analyzed to determine how much progress has been made and how far behind they were lagging.

"We are all aware that at the end there is balance and it is a give and take and an effort that needs to be shared by all parties and sense of progressiveness that needs to be achieved," he added.




*Placards from NGOs*

The Mexican ambassador also said the negotiations will not end in Cancun but will be an ongoing process because of the complexity of the issues in the negotiations.

Brazilian Ambassador for Climate Change, Sergio B. Serra said while he did not think it was possible to have a legally binding document in Cancun, it did not mean that the summit will be a failure.

Instead Cancun should be seen as a step after Copenhagen and another step in the building process towards South Africa which will host COP-17 at the end of 2011.

“We have to aim at a broader and more transparent document in South Africa,” he added.

Quamrul Chowdhury, the principal negotiator for the G77 group of developing countries and lead coordinator for the least developed countries block (LDC), however is looking forward to Cancun to deliver a binding climate change agreement.

If Cancun could not deliver, Mr. Chowdhury remarked, “It will be tragic, a holocaust... I warn all the world that it will be at the expense of one billion people. We can’t afford to lose the battle.”

Ambassador Collin Beck, Vice-Chair of the Alliance for Small Island States (AOSIS) said after two years of talks in Bali, there was a lowering of expectations in Barcelona, while side activities in Copenhagen damaged multilateralism.

“When we look at Cancun for SIDS, we are working towards getting a comprehensive legally binding agreement,” he said noting that political will was needed by all countries to achieve this.

# Pragmatic and results oriented approaches to address environmental challenges



The Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Albert Ramdin shared the Organization's concerns of tackling environmental problems adequately and timely while addressing the opening ceremony of the Fifth Caribbean Environment Forum that took place mid-June in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Ambassador Ramdin affirmed that "this high level reflection will hopefully establish mechanisms for monitoring, implementation, evaluation and planning for next steps as part of the review of the outcomes of the Copenhagen Summit."

In that sense, he expressed concerns over the current environmental challenges affirming that "we need to be pragmatic and result oriented in our approach and action. The fundamental objective must be to make this place a better world for all of us."

During the conference, the OAS Assistant Secretary General referred to the need of addressing "as a matter of urgency and with creativity, the environmental challenges facing our nations and peoples. We have to ask ourselves if this is the legacy we want to leave behind for future generations" he commented.

He also called for a pragmatic consensus worldwide on the way forward on this issue. "We have to build on progress achieved, because as we all are in the same boat on the same sea, we all will be affected if we do not work together to address the causes of these challenges" he added.

***"we need to be pragmatic and result oriented in our approach and action. The fundamental objective must be to make this place a better world for all of us."***

Ambassador Ramdin also took the opportunity to reiterate the OAS commitment with the efforts of enhancing sustainable development in the Caribbean region in areas such as: water resources management, climate change adaptation, sustainable energy, land and biodiversity management, disaster risk management, and environmental policy, law and governance.

The Fifth Caribbean Environment Forum was organized in partnership by the Government of Jamaica, the OAS, the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDP), the Global Environment Facility-funded Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management in Caribbean SIDS (GEF-IWCAM) Project, Clean Islands International (CII) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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# Champions of the Earth

***Green Economy Takes Centre Stage at UNEP 2010 Champions of the Earth Awards.***

***Winners from Afghanistan, China, Guyana, India, Japan and the Maldives are Recognized as Pillars of Transition to a 21st Century Green Economy.***

***Editor's Note:*** *Another Caribbean national, former Energy Minister of Barbados, Elizabeth Thompson, now an Opposition Senator was among seven luminaries recognised as the 2007 Champion of the Earth by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the fight against global warming.*

The 2010 Champions of the Earth, the United Nations' highest awards for environmental leadership have been announced – and among the winners is President of Guyana, Bharrat Jagdeo.

The six winners, drawn from the worlds of government, science, business and entertainment, each exemplify how action, inspiration, personal commitment and creativity can catalyze a transition to a low carbon, resource efficient 21st-century Green Economy.

Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director announced the winners of this year's UNEP Champions of the Earth awards as:



***The President of Guyana and passionate forestry and ecosystem infrastructure proponent, Bharrat Jagdeo***



***Japanese earth scientist and pioneer of research into how the oceans cycle carbon, Dr. Taro Takahashi***



***The President of the Maldives and international climate change campaigner, His Excellency Mohamed Nasheed***



***Chinese actress and popular green life-style guru, Zhou Xun***



***Afghanistan's Director General of the National Environmental Protection Agency and avid sustainability advocate, Prince Mostapha Zaher***



***American venture capitalist, green energy entrepreneur and co-founder of Sun Microsystems, Vinod Khosla.***




***2010 Champions of the Earth***

The trophies were presented at a gala event in Seoul , Republic of Korea during Earth Day and in conjunction with the Business for the Environment Global Summit (B4E), which was attended by more than 1,000 representatives from business, government, and civil society.

Mr. Steiner said: "The six winners represent some of the key pillars upon which society can build Green Growth and a development path to unite rather than divide six billion people.

"Entrepreneur Vinod Khosla has made it a personal mission to realize a low-carbon path by establishing investments in clean and renewable energy start-ups."

"President Nasheed is not only an articulate voice for the vulnerable and the poor facing the challenges of global warming, but a politician who is showcasing to the rest of the world how a transition to climate neutrality can be achieved and how all nations, no matter how big or how small, can contribute."

"Dr. Takahasi has pioneered the science of climate change as it relates to the seas and oceans. In doing so, his work not only underlines the threats but also the policy choices governments and investors must make to ensure the marine realm remains healthy, productive and an ally against climate change."

"Prince Zaher has transformed environmental policy and laid the foundation for sustainability in one of the most challenging countries on the planet at this moment in history. He has balanced the day-to-day realities of Afghanistan with a determination that his country will have clean air and healthy water—backed by laws-- upon which a sustainable and peaceful society can be built."

"Zhou Xun is an actress and one of, if not the, most popular and acclaimed celebrities in China . Her well publicized statements, advice and life-style choices are influencing millions of fans to become more environmentally-conscious citizens and consumers."

"Last but not least, President Jagdeo is a powerful advocate of the need to conserve and more intelligently manage the planet's natural and nature-based assets. He has recognized more than most the multiple Green Economy benefits of forests in terms of combating climate change, but also in terms of development; employment; improved water supplies and the conservation of biodiversity," said Mr. Steiner.

The awards, first established in 2004, recognize achievements in areas of: Entrepreneurial Vision, Policy and Leadership, Science and Innovation, Inspiration and Action, and a special category for 2010, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management.

***The Champions of the Earth is an international environment award given out every year by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The award recognizes individuals who embody commitment and vision towards environmental leadership through their action and their influence. To date, the award has recognized 34 outstanding environmental leaders.***

**SPECIAL CATEGORY**
**(Biodiversity & Ecosystems Management)**

***President Bharrat Jagdeo, Guyana***

Guyana's 45-year old President Bharrat Jagdeo has gained international recognition for his position on environmental issues within his country and on the global scale.

As the President of a country with 40 million acres of untouched rainforest, Mr. Jagdeo has been working on inviting donors and investors to pay for the protection of the forests through the sale of carbon credits, or investments in eco-tourism and pharmaceutical discoveries.

With the money he expects to generate from this trade, President Jagdeo plans to improve the country's coastal infrastructure to protect it from the potential rise in sea levels.

He has proposed that the UN Reduced Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) program adopts Guyana's model on forest management and has encouraged the rest of the world to live in a way "where protecting forests is more economically prudent than cutting them down".

He served as Guyana's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance prior to winning the presidency in 2001 and 2006.

***Acceptance speech by***
***Bharrat Jagdeo, President of Guyana***

For years, the people of Guyana have demonstrated real commitment to the preservation of nature and biodiversity, most notably as it relates to our still largely intact tropical rainforest.

But they have also struggled against the global economic reality that long term national development and protecting nature are frequently competing, not complementary, objectives.



Without changing this reality, the world will fail to reverse today's dangerous trends of climate change and biodiversity destruction.

Regrettably, despite the very valuable efforts of many – and years of well-meaning philanthropy – much of the world's biodiversity has been lost and more than half of the world's tropical forests have been lost in the last 60 years.

I believe that this is because for too long, we focused on stopping the consequences of biodiversity loss, rather than addressing its drivers.

In Guyana, we didn't want to just despair – we wanted to prove that it is possible to change this economic reality. And the emerging climate change agenda's recognition of the importance of forests as an abatement solution provided us with an opportunity to maybe start changing things.
So three years ago, we proposed two ideas.



*Tropical rainforest valley, Guyana*

One – we said we would be prepared to put virtually our entire rainforest, which is almost twice the size of the Republic of Korea – under long term protection if the right economic incentives were created.

And two – we said we would use the payments we receive for our forests' services to re-orient our economy into a low carbon, environmentally sound trajectory.

Now, we are putting these ideas into practice. The Government of Norway is the first international partner to value some of the ecosystem services provided by Guyana's forest, and to start paying for them.

For our part, we are about to start investing those payments in our new economy.

Over the next five years, we will remove virtually our entire energy sector from fossil fuel dependence, and we will catalyze new economic sectors to provide our indigenous and other forest communities – as well as citizens across the country– with valuable economic alternatives that do not put pressure on our forests.

We have learned lots. We are also showing that it is possible to create a better, environmentally sustainable national economy without compromising our citizens' legitimate aspirations for increased prosperity.

Therefore by extension, a sustainable international economy is also possible. Many other forest countries are willing to step up.

If their efforts are supported by progressive international policies – where developed countries move their economies onto a sustainable path at the same time as helping developing countries who aim to do likewise – I believe that we can build out from national experiences such as ours; protect forests and by extension preserve biodiversity; unleash the biggest wave of green innovation the world has ever seen; and create real benefits and opportunities for people across the world today and for generations to come.

# A Note from JORDAN



## *Trying to be environmentally responsible at all times really takes a lot of effort, doesn't it?*

As a young nine year old, I find the most challenging is getting adults to take me seriously.

For instance, my mom took me to buy a pair of shoes recently and since I was going to put on the shoes immediately, I told the seller to keep the box to use for another unsold pair of shoes.

She looked at me as though I was an alien! My mom interjected and told her we didn't need the box and could the company recycle the box.

The seller shrugged her shoulders and said they don't recycle and it will go into the garbage bin.

Well, I was so disappointed again, I have to tell you.

Why can't the store change their policy, I asked my mom. She told me maybe I can write a letter to the company, which I plan to do.

In the meantime, we do our bit at home to recycle shoe boxes.

In our home, unwanted shoe boxes are used to save coins. My dad fixes the box with tape and a slot made in the top centre of the box to put the coin through.

My mom told me not to give up in my quest to make the Earth healthy. Everything I do must be done responsibly, from using water to buying my snacks. If I don't need a plastic bag for it, I don't take it.

I also try to walk with my bag, made of recycled cotton for my books when I borrow them at the library. If my family buys juice in plastic bottles when we forget to walk with our water from home, those plastic bottles are reused as water bottles which we take with us when we are going out.

***Simple things like these make a difference on the planet. I like to think that I'm making a difference, even if it is a teeny-weeny difference!***

What about you?

# Climate Change Briefing for Children

## What is the relation between greenhouse gases and climate change?

A careful balance of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, keeps the Earth warm enough for humans, animals and plants to survive. But today we are having problems keeping this balance. Because we burn fossil fuels such as coal, oil or gas, to create much of our energy, we are adding more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere and global temperatures are rising.

## Is Earth getting warmer?

Yes! Scientists may not all agree on exactly how much, but they do agree that some global warming has already taken place and there will likely be much more. Eleven of the last twelve years were among the warmest years since 1850. In the last 50 years the rate of warming has nearly doubled.

## What will happen if the climate changes?

By increasing the amount of 'heat-trapping' gases we are increasing the natural warming effect of the atmosphere. This will warm the planet and have a huge effect on all forms of life. Global sea levels will rise as ice caps and glaciers melt, damaging coastal regions through flooding and erosion. The climate in many regions may change too quickly for plant and animal species to adjust, meaning that many will become extinct.

## How will climate change affect people?

Extreme weather conditions, such as storms, heat waves and droughts, could occur more often and be more severe. Climate change could also affect our health. Big cities could have a rise in the number of extremely hot days. Air pollution problems would increase, and children, the elderly and people suffering with breathing problems, such as asthma, would be at greatest risk.

## How do we contribute to climate change?

We rely on cars, trucks, airplanes and ships to move us around and to move products from place to place. They all use fossil fuels. We also burn a lot of fossil fuels to warm or cool our homes, offices and schools. Generally, we use much more energy than we really need.

## How can we combat climate change?

There are many things we can do (see the factsheet 'Unite to combat climate change: what YOU can do'). The important thing to know is that every small thing counts, such as switching off lights and computers, and that everyone has a role to play.



# Energy and Climate Ministerial of the Americas



*Hillary Rodham Clinton*

## Secretary Clinton Announces New Initiatives under the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

Energy ministers from across the hemisphere gathered at the Energy and Climate Ministerial of the Americas hosted by U.S. Secretary of Energy Stephen Chu in April.

The Ministerial is part of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), which President Barack Obama invited all democratically-elected governments to join in April 2009 at the Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad.

ECPA is comprised of voluntary initiatives focused on energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner fossil fuels, infrastructure, and energy poverty.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton underscored the United States' commitment to help governments achieve low carbon economic growth.

She highlighted new initiatives that the Department of State is sponsoring under ECPA to expand energy and climate cooperation in the Americas.

The Secretary also announced the expansion of ECPA climate cooperation to include future initiatives that address sustainable landscapes (forestry and land use) and adaptation.

- Advancing Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean: Department of State assistance to the Organization of American States will support a dialogue with Caribbean energy officials and institutions, donor governments, multilateral institutions, and the private sector to explore Caribbean indigenous resources and the potential role of electrical interconnections via sub-sea cables. To accelerate clean energy deployment, the initiative will also provide legal and technical advice to governments considering new renewable energy projects.
- Strengthening Central American Energy and Environmental Security: Central America, like the Caribbean, is a region with significant renewable energy potential, but a high dependence on imported fossil fuels for power generation. The initiative will support Central America's long commitment to integrate power markets and activities that promote the region's clean energy development. The initiative will also help Central American and Caribbean partners start moving from plans to action on climate change adaptation.



*Luis Alberto Moreno*

## IDB to expand lending for renewable energy and climate–related projects in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Inter-American Development Bank, the leading source of long-term lending for Latin America and the Caribbean has announced its intention to increase its financing for renewable energy and climate-related projects to US$3 billion a year by 2012.

IDB President Luis Alberto Moreno made the announcement at a summit of energy ministers of the Americas held at the Bank's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Representatives from 32 Western Hemisphere countries attended the event, including U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu and Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton.

At the opening ceremony of the two-day event, Mr. Moreno said the IDB faced a surging demand for support from Latin American and Caribbean countries interested in developing their renewable energy resources and in combating the effects of climate change.

IDB lending for energy-related projects is likely to reach US$1.5 billion this year, up from US$457 million approved in 2008.

"Last month, as many of you know, our Board of Governors approved in principle a record general capital increase for the IDB of US$70 billion. As a result, when this process is concluded, the Bank will have the capacity to double its clean and sustainable energy lending again, to approximately US$3 billion a year, by 2012. And I am pleased to announce today that this is our intention," Mr. Moreno said.

The expanded lending will allow the IDB to focus on four broad areas: stepping up renewable energy investments in its poorest member countries; fostering energy integration throughout Latin America and the Caribbean; promoting energy efficiency measures across the region and helping governments establish climate change mitigation and adaptation frameworks.

As an example of the sort of projects the IDB intends to pursue, Mr. Moreno said the Bank would propose to the Haitian government the development of a new energy infrastructure to harness Haiti's wind, solar and hydroelectric potential.

Such an initiative could cost as much as US$1 billion, but would help the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere save hundreds of millions of dollars a year in fossil fuel imports.

In addition, Mr. Moreno said the IDB is teaming up with the U.S. Department of Energy and other agencies inside and outside the region to establish the Energy Partnership for the Americas Innovation Center, which will be staffed by some of the world's leading experts in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The center will serve as a clearing house for knowledge and an incubator for energy projects backed by governments and private sector investors.



*José Miguel Insulza*

## OAS Secretary General Calls on the Americas to "Facilitate the Transition to a More Sustainable Energy Reality"

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), José Miguel Insulza, has called on the governments of the Americas to "facilitate the transition to a more sustainable energy reality," in a spirit of multilateral cooperation, as a fundamental way of reducing poverty and with special emphasis on renewable energy sources.

"I believe all the nations and peoples in our Hemisphere should have access to clean, safe, sustainable energy for their development and their survival," the Secretary General stated, adding that "your governments cannot and should not forgo developing the energy potential of your individual countries. But, I hope that we can all work together to do so."

The Secretary General delivered his remarks during the opening ceremony of the second day of the Energy and Climate Ministerial meeting held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. Secretary General Insulza recalled that despite the progress achieved in recent years in many countries and the "enormous energy potential" of the region, "today some 40 million people still have no access to electricity."

This lack of electricity, he said, "translates into inefficient sanitation, weak education systems, and the inability to develop productive, income-generating activities," and warned that the problems caused by climate change would "exacerbate these challenges."

Overcoming the current challenges, he said, "requires political will, creativity, persistence and patience on the part of the governments and peoples of the Americas, and requires also very substantial collaboration among us."

He proposed, among other objectives, that "the region must redouble its efforts to improve energy efficiency," "pursue and promote integration of their energy systems to the extent possible," and "identify and develop sustainable sources of energy," an area in which the OAS has for some time placed great attention and resources.

In this context, the Secretary General highlighted the creation of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) proposed by the President of the United States, Barack Obama, during the 2009 Summit of the Americas, and reiterated that the OAS is at the center of follow-up work on the progress of the project and the release of information about it.

"We look forward to receiving your innovative partnership ideas and will work with you to establish a deep network on sustainable energy and climate that meets the needs of the Americas," he said.

"We are at a historic crossroads today, where the nations of the Americas must unite to radically transform the way in which we produce and utilize the energy available to us. The time has come to embrace a new technological and industrial revolution," the Secretary General concluded.




## Taking action for a sustainable future

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This spirit is at the heart of our environmental stewardship where employees engage in a number of initiatives to reduce, reuse and recycle, aimed at minimizing our carbon footprint. It's all part of taking positive action on environmental matters, not because we have to but because we want to.

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*Christiana Figueres*

# Christiana Figueres - new UNFCCC Executive Secretary

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Christiana Figueres as the new Executive Secretary of the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat based in Bonn, Germany.

The appointment was endorsed by the Bureau of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In announcing her appointment the UN Secretary-General said: “Ms. Figueres is an international leader on strategies to address global climate change and brings to this position a passion for the issue, deep knowledge of the stakeholders and valuable hands-on experience with the public sector, non-profit sector and private sector.”

Ms. Figueres’ leadership at the helm of the UNFCCC comes at a crucial time in global efforts to take effective action on climate change.

“I am honored by the designation of the Secretary General and I am thankful to the members of the UNFCCC Bureau for their vote of confidence. Most of all, I am humbled by the opportunity of the challenging task at hand,” said Ms. Figueres.

“As I take on my new responsibilities at the helm of the secretariat, I will have two immediate priorities:  to work with the Secretary General to strengthen trust in the process, and to support the Danish and Mexican COP Presidencies as well as all other Parties in the preparation of a successful COP16 in Cancun,” she added.

Ms Figueres has been a member of the Costa Rican negotiating team since 1995. She represented Latin America and the Caribbean on the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism in 2007, and was then elected Vice President of the Conference of the Parties 2008-2009.

She has served as Director of International Cooperation in the Ministry of Planning in Costa Rica, and as Chief of Staff to the Minister of Agriculture. She was also the Director of Renewable Energy in the Americas (REIA) and is founder of the Center for Sustainable Development of the Americas (CSDA).

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in turn commended Yvo de Boer:“I am grateful for his dedicated services and tireless efforts on behalf of the climate change agenda,” he said.

Ms. Figueres, 53, holds a Masters Degree in Anthropology from the London School of Economics, and a certificate in Organizational Development from Georgetown University.



*Elizabeth Thompson*

# Caribbean candidate feels honoured by nomination

Former Energy Minister of Barbados Elizabeth Thompson was nominated by her government and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for the UNFCCC Executive Secretary position.

Ms. Thompson, who was among seven luminaries recognised as the 2007 Champion of the Earth by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the fight against global warming said she was honoured to be among nominees for the UNFCCC post.

Here's what she told Earth Conscious:

***"I felt deeply honoured and was delighted to have been nominated and to carry the flag for Barbados. The endorsement of my candidature by all the Prime Ministers and countries of CARICOM was also very humbling. Then I was endorsed by the Pacific SIDS and received the support of AOSIS. It was a really special moment. It was therefore very gratifying to learn that it was felt that I was an excellent candidate and had "done my country (and the region) proud."***

The Caribbean candidate got on to the shortlist in a highly competitive field of candidates literally from all over the globe.

The candidates included a President's daughter who was also qualified in climate change negotiations, two UN insiders the Director of the Department of Sustainable Development and the Director of the Secretary General's Climate Change Support Team, three former Ministers, three or four current Ministers, a number of technical experts and one of the coauthors of the IPCC Report which got the Nobel Prize in 2007/8.

The shortlist was Barbados, Costa Rica, Hungary, India, South Africa, with the SG's choice being between Christiana Figueres of Costa Rica, who was appointed and Marthinus van Schalkwyck of South Africa.

What's next for Liz?

Well, I follow God's lead. I intend to continue serving this region which I love and out of whose bosom I have come.

In what capacity? That is yet to be revealed. For now I will continue in the Barbados Senate and with my legal and consultancy practice in oil and gas, energy and environment.

I am also now even more firmly of the view that that as a matter of strategic importance, the Caribbean must try to position qualified nationals in high level positions in international organisations with responsibility for areas which impact on our sustainable development; UNFCCC and climate change was certainly one of these."

# Using nature inside your house

***By Garfield King***



In an earlier Earth Conscious column I shared the experience of David Butcher and his eco-friendly house in St. George, Barbados.

David, a civil engineer with almost 30 years experience, says there were two underlying concepts for the project. Firstly, to design and build a house that is a home, a place of work and that serves the recreational needs of his family. Secondly, to bring the elements inside, in other words, as far as possible be at one with nature.

Dave is often reluctant to call his home eco-friendly, but inviting the environment into your home and being one with nature sounds pretty friendly to me.

Dave incorporated a basement apartment into the design. It's rented at the moment, thereby generating some revenue in the short term, and will likely serve as a retirement apartment in the future.

The house is on 3 levels, let's start at the top. The roof level includes an upper office, splash pool with terrace, recreation area, 'bridge deck' look-out and solar panels area.

A sky-light allows rain to fall through the roof directly into an indoor pond at the main level. So while people are patching their roofs, you decide to build a hole in yours,



I tease Dave. “I always felt that a roof should not just act as a ‘cap’ covering the house, but should be accessible and functional,” explains Dave. The sky-light has a hatch that can be closed should the rain get out of hand.

Large windows allow maximum natural lighting and ventilation. The upper office uses natural light exclusively during daylight hours. With the air, the sunlight and the earthen colour scheme of the house, the nature theme continues outside with a hedge made of one hundred casuarinas. These keep the surroundings cool with their thousands of leaves.

Water availability continues to be a concern in many parts of the world. In the Caribbean the conditions during the 2010 dry season were a powerful reminder that water cannot be taken for granted. Water rationing seems set to become a permanent policy in the region between the months of January and April. Because of it’s scarcity and the increasing cost of getting potable water to the population, water companies have been increasing their rates and this is very noticeable in Barbados says Dave. He’s on a mission to make his home totally independent of the public water supply.

Acknowledging this is a long term goal, he explained that currently water from the public supply is stored in a huge tank on the roof and distributed to the entire house via a submersible pump. The process is automated as the public supply is activated when the water falls below a specified level. It is shut off when the tank becomes full. The tank has a separate aeration pump that operates for 2 hours each day.

Rain water collected from the flat roof areas is channelled through a system of pipes into the lawn and other grassed areas for irrigation. Meanwhile, the rain water that falls on the non-accessible area, such as the slopped roof over the upper office, is stored in tanks and pumped back through the house



for flushing toilets and general washing as well as to a pipe outside for washing cars and windows. This water is not used for cooking or drinking.

This intricate system has allowed Dave and his family to minimise their dependence on the public water supply. The next step is the installation of a small water treatment system to treat all the collected water. This will be stored and pumped for use throughout the house. The public water supply would likely only be used during periods of below average rainfall.

Dave admits that such independence comes with a price, but he believes it would take between 5 and 10 years to recover the initial outlay. For an already built house the plumbing will have to be re-worked to accommodate this rain water feeding. One set of pipes will go to flushing toilets, etc. while another set of pipes will have to be dedicated to the kitchen sinks.

Okay, so Dave lives and breathes engineering, but what about the everyday homeowner who has been living in a conventional house for years, surely making the house eco-friendly is going to be beyond reach.

Dave says it's not that expensive, by his reckoning, for a conventional three bedroom, two bathroom house in Barbados the cost would be in the region of US $5,000 to US $6,000. That includes materials, labour and laying the pipes in the wall so that the end result is aesthetically pleasing.

Dave worked for many years in the British Virgin Islands and that's where he picked up many of the ideas he's using in his house. He says "The BVI does not have a good public water supply system. They have to build desalination plants to get water." That is costly, but delivery adds even more dollars, "Because the terrain is hilly it's very expensive to lay water mains and pump water to the houses in the hills. Almost every house in the BVI has a water tank built into it" explains David.

As is the case with many Barbadians, Dave has solar panels installed on his roof. A tax incentive has been in place for many years which allows home owners to claim tax rebates for a solar water heating system. This makes the systems very affordable and has played a significant role in building a local industry around manufacturing and installing solar water heating systems.

Using solar energy for electrical needs is not yet economically viable. But Dave intends to go that route in a few years. He says the capital outlay to install a system with its battery packs and other paraphernalia would be approximately US$20,000. Of course that money would eventually be recouped, but for now, it does put such a system beyond the reach of many homeowners. Also, while in the Caribbean it is possible to generate as much as 80% of one's electricity from solar panels, the pull from high voltage equipment like washing machines, dryers, electric cookers and even irons can cause problems.

Like all tech areas, solar energy technology is moving fast, as cost reduces, performance increases bringing such a system within reach and able to supply almost 100% of electrical power required.

Dave believes 10 years from now the level of self sufficiency he is seeking for his house will be a necessity not a luxury. The writing is already on the wall.



***Garfield King is an independent radio producer, presenter and writer with almost 30 years broadcast experience.As a trainer, he conducts workshops on public speaking, presentation skills and communication dynamics. inkings@tstt.net.tt***

# CARICOM continues to advocate for binding agreement on climate change at COP- 16

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) continues to make use of its diplomatic partnerships with third states to advocate for a legally binding agreement on climate change at the Sixteen Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (COP-16), scheduled for Mexico later this year.

As the global community prepares to participate in the COP-16, CARICOM was keen on "strengthening its voice and its partnerships with like-minded states to advocate its position on issues critical, not merely to its continued development, but to the very survival of its People," said Ambassador Lolita Applewhaite, CARICOM Deputy Secretary-General.

She was at the time speaking at the Turkeyen, Guyana Headquarters of the CARICOM Secretariat, at the Ceremony for Presentation of Credentials of His Excellency Mikko Pyhälä, Finland's Ambassador to CARICOM.

Expressing the region's concerns about its vulnerability to the climate change and natural disasters, Ambassador Applewhaite said, CARICOM was "only too conversant" with the "extraordinary vulnerability" of its Member States to natural disasters.

Against this backdrop, she told the newly accredited Finnish Ambassador that CARICOM was seeking his government's support of its call for the world temperature to be stabilised at 1.5˚ C."

"We view the pursuit of a legally binding agreement to address climate change as the most fundamental responsibility of our generation," she stated.

Most countries in CARICOM, Ambassador Applewhaite said, had been hit by hurricanes, floods and mudslides, which had resulted in "significant loss of life" as well as a severe impact on social and economic development.



*Ambassador Lolita Applewhaite*

"We are therefore gravely concerned that our region is becoming even more susceptible to such disasters, in part, as a result of the irresponsible stewardship of the environment practiced by many," she stated.

The Deputy Secretary-General said that the region's position in respect of climate change was that the "global phenomenon constitutes a very real threat to the countries of the Caribbean Community."

"More specifically for us, it is a threat to our very survival. Climate change and the related phenomena of bleached coral and ruined marine life, coastal erosion, rising sea levels and flooding, are not collateral damages that we can accept."

In this context, she said, "it is more than unacceptable that the global community should walk away from the negotiating table in Mexico, without a legally binding agreement."

She said that the region was also looking forward to Finland's support of its efforts to implement resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to protect the Caribbean Sea as a special marine environment.



Photo: Mark Meredith

*Sheep station, Mt Aspiring National Park in the South Island.*

# THEY SAY "MINE", WE SAY "OURS"

***By Mark Meredith***

***Mark Meredith spies Orcs on the horizon in the land of plenty that is Middle Earth, foes he hopes true Kiwis will see off on their own. Trinidad and Tobago, on the other hand, needs Gandalf the Wizard and some heroes.***

In 2003 we lived in Trinidad, in the Port of Spain suburb of Cascade in what used to be a forested valley just off the Queen's Park Savannah. That year, just like this year, fires blackened the mountainsides around us and the air hung smoky and heavy for months.

The day after crowds in Baghdad tore down Saddam's statue, we flew out of Trinidad – and the smoke that seemed to belong in Iraq – for a three-week scout of New Zealand, as somewhere we might move to.

***The Fellowship of the Ring*** was in the cinemas. ***Middle Earth*** was played by New Zealand. Our journey was like ***Lord of the Rings*** in reverse: leaving the wasteland of ***Mordor*** for the green pastures and promise of ***The Shire.***

Like desperate ***Hobbits***, we wanted to escape the wars in Trinidad and Tobago: the one being waged on citizens like us by criminals, and the war being waged on its natural world by the population as a whole.

It was as though the destructive hordes of ***Sauron's*** army had reached the Caribbean. ***Orcs*** at every turn, burning, littering, polluting, pillaging; turning tourism potential to tatters, sending the country plummeting to the foot of international environmental sustainability indexes.

Nothing has changed. Trinidad and Tobago is still going up in smoke. Magnificent tropical forest is turning to cinders, or quarries, while wildlife is pursued relentlessly over hill and dale. Protected turtles are slaughtered on the beaches of eco award-winning Tobago. Coral reefs, rivers and coastline are all under great stress, becoming ever less fit for human recreation or wildlife habitats.

* The armies of ***Mordor*** are on the march in T&T. It has chosen to shun the preservation of its natural environment and a viable tourism industry, for heavy industries like smelters that ***Saruman*** and his ***Orcs*** would have envied.

Well, we weren't hanging around for impossible odds to overwhelm us. Clean, green New Zealand, I'd been told; nuclear-free New Zealand; "100% Pure New Zealand", where the tourism industry is even bigger than agriculture. Would it provide a sustainable future for our family? Would it live up to the hype and its high rankings on a host of global sustainability indexes? Would it become our ***Shire***?

*****

January 2011 will mark five years since we emigrated to Aotearoa: ***Middle Earth*** at the bottom of the Earth. Sometimes I feel like Frodo or Sam: that I've been on a long journey of enlightenment and seen many remarkable things. Leaving full-on environmental apathy behind for what, some here will complain, is a zealous and over-protective attitude towards the environment has been an eye-opening voyage of Tolkienesque proportions.

This May Day I joined the largest demonstration seen in New Zealand in a generation, estimated at between 40,000 and 50,000 ordinary Kiwis — old, young, families, the disabled — all taking time out to tell the government: "No!"

It wasn't a demonstration for a political party, or a protest at high taxes or unemployment. It was a protest for conservation. "Hands off our National Parks!" screamed the banners. "They say Mine – we say Ours! The Nation's Parks not National's Parks!"

The National Government, in their pursuit of closing the economic gap with Australia, has floated plans to open up some of the most valuable areas of New Zealand's conservation estate, including National Parks, to mining: principally coal, lignite and gold.

They claim there are billions of dollars hidden under "them thar hills" which will see us

catch up with Australia's living standards. Business NZ chief executive Phil O'Reilly said, "New Zealand has in-ground natural resources worth thousands of billions of dollars and developing them could change New Zealanders' prosperity."

Energy Minister Gerry Brownlee is especially interested in 7,000 ha of prime "Schedule 4"- protected land, the most valuable type of conservation land, where mining is forbidden precisely because of its special features – the plants and animals, the habitats and special landscapes. The targets in the government's firing line are located in areas of ***extreme*** natural beauty. Places so lovely you could weep. Really.

There is the Coromandel Peninsula, Auckland's favourite retreat, a wondrous finger of forested mountains and mind-blowing beaches; and Great Barrier Island, the jewel of the newly created Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Greenpeace points out that plans for "digging up 3,000ha of the stunning Paparoa National Park" on the South Island's west coast come with the added irony of the very same coal "being burned here in clean green New Zealand".

Additionally, nearly half a million hectares of other National Park areas will be surveyed for future mining possibilities. These include eastern Kahurangi National Park (''treasured possession") and north-eastern Mt Aspiring National Park, both in the South Island. Also on the list, to many people's horror, is Rakiura National Park on Stewart Island, a unique and remote wilderness south of New Zealand.

Hardly a fit for our image, you'd have to say. All this fossil fuel mining, for burning here or in China — 70% of New Zealand's own energy requirements already come from renewable sources like hydro, geothermal and wind. And we haven't even tapped wave power, in a country with a coastline longer than that of the US.

Greenpeace NZ say the Government's vision is to "race Australia to the bottom of the mine pit", and is an example of the "19th century industrial thinking we used to do before the reality of climate change kicked in". They want to see "an economic vision for the 21st century that plays to the strength of our clean and green reputation and meets the challenges of climate change".

Many believe the mining policy will imperil the country's unique tourism brand: "100% Pure New Zealand". It was recently valued the 21st most valuable brand in the world.




*The "No Mining Pure New Zealand" march was the country's biggest demo in decades.*




*The Mirror Lakes in Fiordland National Park - 100% Pure "Middle Earth"*




*The Coromandel is being targeted for its mining potential*

The UK ***Guardian*** reports that our government's national marketing strategy is underpinned by a survey showing that tourism would be reduced by 68% if the country lost its prized "clean, green image".

Such is the importance of our multi-billion dollar tourism industry that the new Prime Minister, John Key — a self-made millionaire who made his luck as a money trader — also made himself Tourism Minister. He has just awarded the Tourism Ministry $30 million in the budget.

Already there are signs Key's Government is retreating, such was the impact of the unexpectedly large turnout for the May anti-mining demonstration. They underestimated Kiwi passion. The Government is currently receiving public submissions on its mining agenda, where New Zealanders get to have their say put on the record.

But the trouble for New Zealand's green brand, say some, is that the mining issue is not an isolated case, and is symptomatic of a deeper malaise. It is just the latest in a series of recent environmental criticisms levelled against us, when the charge of hypocrites has also been hurled our way.

We are accused of trading on our greenness to promote our two big industries, tourism and dairy exports, when such credentials are really an illusion: "100% Pure Hype". Trade Minister Tim Groser says this country's access to American markets for its produce is based on our positive environmental image: packets of butter or cheese adorned with the pristine splendour of the snow-capped Southern Alps.

There's no question about it: there are ***Orcs*** about in Aotearoa and we need to be aware.

"New Zealand was a friend to ***Middle Earth***, but it's no friend of the earth," wrote Fred Pearce in the ***Guardian***'s "Greenwash" section last year. "***Lord of the Rings*** country trades on its natural beauty, but emissions have risen 22% since it signed up to Kyoto."

Pearce said: "New Zealand turns out to be mining ever more filthy brown coal to burn in its power stations. It has the world's third highest rate of car ownership. And, with more cows than people, the country's increasingly intensive agricultural sector is responsible for approaching half their greenhouse gas emissions."

But the sacred cow (and sheep) of agriculture, whose emissions of methane and nitrous oxide from belching are such a problem, won't begin to have those emissions counted until 2015 in the country's emissions trading scheme due to kick in this year.

***The Economist,*** in a critique called "It's not easy seeming green", said: "The ruggedness of much of New Zealand's terrain may have protected its film-friendly uplands, but at lower elevations farming has stripped away forests, eroded hills and clogged rivers with silt and fertiliser run-off."

The agricultural industry's success continues to come at a price not readily visible to the eye: the run-off from armies of ruminants, and the fertilisers that power our impressive fruit and vegetable exports, have made some waterways unfit even for animal use.

So I've discovered New Zealand is not 100% pure, environmentally speaking. Given its history, this is not surprising: it's the owner of one of the world's most shameful environmental records — how that shaped the attitudes of today's New Zealanders towards their surroundings is an interesting story in its own right. But, I've also learned that we are still purer than many, and in a better position to adapt to the uncertain future of climate change than most.

Our small population (4 million) and large land mass, bountiful natural resources, and Kiwis' positive, proactive attitude to the environment — we are world leaders in many ecological and environmental initiatives — lead me to believe we've chosen a special place to live… even if it is oceans from anywhere.

"Us Kiwis Give a Shit!" said a banner at the May Day anti-mining march. It's true, we do. In ***Middle Earth*** you get used to these attitudes after a while. However, one soundtrack to life in ***The Shire*** that I have not got used to, but have grown especially fond of, like the call of the ***tui*** bird, is the morning song of the bottle truck.

Every other Tuesday I'm woken by the "Green Machine", a friendly monster with a mechanical arm that sweeps our streets of plastic wheelie bins we've filled with glass, plastic and tin. It lifts the bins high into the air with giant pincers and tips the contents into a cavernous hold with a tremendous crescendo of crashing, for recycling.

I think: "Take that, ***Dark Lord***. You and your army of ***Orcs."***

* In its manifesto, the new People's Partnership coalition government in Trinidad and Tobago said it will not pursue the aluminium smelter policy of the previous PNM administration.



***Mark Meredith is a writer and photographer who lives on Auckland's North Shore. A former environmental journalist for the Trinidad Express, he produced a Caribbean natural history and environmental magazine called Samaan. See (http://issuu.com/meredith/docs/samaan2)***

# CARIFORUM and EU to launch Conference on Climate Change



*Hon. José Luis Rodriguez Zapatero*

The Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) of African Pacific and Caribbean (ACP) States and the European Union (EU) have announced their intention to launch a joint special conference on Climate Change.

The Conference is scheduled to take place just ahead of the 16Th Conference of Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Frame Work Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) scheduled for Cancun, Mexico in November.

This announcement was made in Madrid in mid-May at a joint press conference following the Special Summit between the EU and CARIFORUM to discuss ways in which the bi-regional relationship between both regions could be strengthened, as both prepare for the Sixth EU-LAC conference set.

Chairman of CARIFORUM, Maxine McClean, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Barbados, in endorsing the announcement stated that the meeting between both regions was extremely productive and critical to building a long standing relationship.

Minister McClean added that both regions had recognised the grave importance of addressing the challenges of climate change, and in this regard had placed emphasis on finding concrete ways of dealing with those challenges.

This special Summit before the actual EU-LAC Summit, she stated, had served to ensure greater clarity between the two regions, especially as it related to the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

At the Press Conference, the EU was represented by the Prime Minister of Spain, the Hon. José Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, whose country is the current President of the EU; President of the European Council, Mr Herman Van Rompuy and President of the European Commission Mr José Manuel Barroso.

Mr .Van Rompuy in his statement to the Media announced that the Joint EU-CARIFORUM Meeting had validated the Joint Strategy titled Visions for Future Partnership which outlined a way forward in bi-regional relations; collaboration on the global stage and a long term approach to the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

Noting the necessity of advancing the region's Climate Change agenda, Mr Rompuy expressed hope that the joint Climate Change conference would allow for them to build on the "little successes" from Copenhagen in order to ensure more concrete results from the Cancun Conference.




# *Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) hosts Regional Workshop on Economics of Climate Adaptation*

***CCRIF has recently launched a project to produce a quantitative knowledge base for key climate change risks and adaptation strategies for decision making across the region, building on and contributing to the Review of the Economics of Climate Change (RECC) process.***

On 12 and 13 May, over 50 representatives from Caribbean governments and international agencies met in Barbados to discuss the initial results from a recent investigation into the Economics of Climate Adaptation (ECA) in the Caribbean. This study, part of CCRIF's technical assistance programme, will enhance the development of a fact base for developing sound climate change adaptation strategies in the region.

Since the launch of the project in February, a team composed of Caribbean Risk Managers on behalf of CCRIF, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5C's) and other regional partners, has been intensely involved in data collection and analysis for a number of countries with analytical support provided by McKinsey & Company and Swiss Re.

The workshop, which was held at the Caribbean Development Bank, provided an introduction to the Economics of Climate Adaptation approach and its application in the Caribbean and focussed on:

- sharing the findings of the study with the participants
- examining the key insights and results for wind, sea level rise/coastal flooding, inland flooding and salinisation of groundwater

The final outputs of this study will include a risk baseline which will provide transparency about current and future expected losses from climate risks under three climate change scenarios; and assessment of adaptation measures – identification of feasible and applicable measures to adapt to the expected risks based on quantitative analysis of total cost and expected benefits of risk mitigation and transfer measures.

The results of the study will assist decision makers throughout the Caribbean region in defining and developing sound adaptation strategies and business cases which can be incorporated into national development plans. The recent Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen reconfirmed the commitment to provide funding and technical assistance for climate adaptation to developing countries. The ECA study will help Caribbean leaders develop programmes that will be strong candidates for adaptation assistance.

The innovation of the ECA methodology lies in its positioning across different knowledge sectors, spanning climate science, the financial industry and economic research. The analysis is based on joining four main elements:

***1***
Climate change scenarios based on the most recent available scientific evidence

***2***
Hazard models forecasting the occurrence of hurricanes or other damaging events

***3***
Economic damage functions linking the intensity of events to economic impact

***4***
Value distribution models describing each country's economic and population exposure to hazards in a granular, precise way

# Hurricane Preparedness Tips for Homes

www.cdema.org

Hurricanes can be dangerous, listening to the hurricane warning messages and planning ahead can reduce the chances of injury or major property damage.

**BEFORE**

- Know your Emergency Shelters
- Contact the National Disaster Office for the closest shelters
- Have disaster supplies on hand
  - Flashlight and extra batteries; Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries; First aid kit; Non-perishable (canned food) and water; Non-electric can opener; Essential medicines; Cash and credit cards; Sturdy shoes
- Protect your windows: Permanent shutters are the best protection. A lower-cost approach is to put up plywood panels.
- Trim back branches from trees: Trim branches away from your home and cut all dead or weak branches on any trees on your property.
- Check into your Home and Auto Insurance: Confirm that policies are valid and coverage is appropriate.
- Make arrangements for pets and livestock: Pets may not be allowed into emergency shelters for health and space reasons. Contact your local humane society for information on animal shelters.
- Develop an emergency communication plan: Make sure that all family members know what to do. Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water. Teach children how and when to call police or fire department and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.

**HURRICANE WATCHES AND WARNINGS**

A hurricane watch is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours. A hurricane warning is issued when hurricane conditions (winds of 74 miles per hour or greater, or dangerously high water and rough seas) are expected in 24 hours or less.

**DURING A HURRICANE WATCH**

- Listen to the radio or television for hurricane progress reports
- Check emergency supplies
- Fuel car
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys, and garden tools and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside
- Secure buildings by closing and boarding up windows
- Remove outside antennas and satellite dishes
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings. Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly
- Store drinking water in clean jugs, bottles, and cooking utensils.

**DURING A HURRICANE WARNING**

- If you need to evacuate your home, lock up home and go to the nearest shelter
- Take blankets and sleeping bags to shelter
- Listen constantly to a radio or television for official instructions
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home
- Stay inside, away from windows, skylights, and glass doors
- Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy
- Avoid open flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light
- If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce power “surge” when electricity is restored.




## Regional Initiative - Biodiversity and Ecosystems Stakeholder Consultations Report

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) held a consultation for Caribbean nations in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in April.

It was part of a regional initiative entitled "Biodiversity and Ecosystems: Why these are Important for Sustained Growth and Equity in Latin America and the Caribbean" (the Initiative) to prepare a report on the role of biodiversity in wealth generation and support of wellbeing in the region.

Consultations were held last year in Mexico City, in Lima, Peru, Caracas, Venezuela, Quito, Ecuador, Bogota, Colombia and the sixth in Guatemala City, Guatemala in December. The final consultation is scheduled for Brasilia, Brazil at a date to be determined. Each seeks the inputs of national experts and stakeholders.

The Caribbean consultation included participants from Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Suriname as well as Trinidad and Tobago, representing government entities, conservation groups, protected areas and UNDP offices.



## Japan-CARICOM initiative to assess climate change impact on energy



*Edwin Carrington, Secretary General, CARICOM*

The Japan-CARICOM Friendship and Cooperation Fund under the Private Sector Fund has approved a US$267,466 project which will ultimately allow energy planners in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to assess the impacts of climate change on the sector.

The project is titled: Establishment of Regional Capacity and Expertise for Addressing the Impacts of Future Climate Change on Energy Demand in CARICOM Countries.

It will be managed by the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) and piloted in Barbados, Dominica and Guyana. However, it is anticipated that the model will be applicable region-wide.

The initiative is being pursued to improve the inadequate framework and build expertise in the Community to address adequately the impacts of climate change and climate variability on future energy demand and supply.

The project identifies several CARICOM countries as developing energy policies to guide their economic development over the next 20-25 years, thereby calling for "well-defined approaches" to help energy planners account for the effects of climate change on the sector.

Against this backdrop, the project's goal is to "enhance capacity and capability within the Caribbean Community to adequately inform national and regional decision-makers, policy specialists, and utility companies of the likely impacts of climate change and climate variability on the energy sector in the Caribbean."

In this attempt to boost CARICOM's capacity to forecast and prepare for the energy demands resulting from climate change, the project will utilise sector specialists who will work in tandem with the University of the West Indies (UWI) in research and analysis of the required data. This collaboration with UWI is expected to provide a cadre of future experts to bolster the region's capacity in this area.



## OAS Urged to Facilitate Cooperation to Address Climate Change



*Laurence Broderick*

Jamaica's Minister of State for Energy and Mining, Laurence Broderick, has called on the Organization of American States (OAS) to play its part in facilitating cooperation between oil producing and consuming countries in addressing climate change.

"There is an urgent need to demonstrate a greater resolve by the stronger nations in assisting the non-producing nations," Mr. Broderick stated as he delivered Jamaica's position at the 'Energy and Climate Change of the Americas Preparatory Ministerial Meeting' at the OAS headquarters in Washington DC in April.

This cooperation, Mr. Broderick said, is necessary in order to establish a workable framework agreement between the parties to strengthen and coordinate resources aimed at combating global climate change.

"This will require us to confront the various barriers, not the least of which is the provision of concessionary financing to energy poor states to radically improve their energy infrastructure," he noted.

Minister Broderick said that like many island states in the region, Jamaica is over 90 per cent dependent on imported fossil fuel to meet its energy needs and the sharp rise in oil prices during 2008 and general capriciousness in the price of the commodity have placed sharp focus on the need for the country to diversify its energy base.

The State Minister said that Jamaica welcomes and supports wholeheartedly the initiative led by United States President, Barack Obama and leaders from across the western hemisphere, to work together to mitigate climate change, promote energy security and efficiency and to end energy poverty.

The theme of the conference was: 'Caribbean Sustainable Energy; Developing Indigenous Resources and Building Interconnections.'

## OAS Launches Book on Sustainable Development in the Caribbean

The Organization of American States (OAS) has launched a book, titled, "Sustainable Development in the Caribbean, Contemporary Issues, Challenges and Opportunities" that seeks to gather the diverse initiatives in this area to increase the knowledge base and literature in this field and foster the exchange of information and experiences.

The book, financed with contributions from the People's Republic of China, was produced by the OAS Department of Sustainable Development and features technical papers and reports by specialists in the Department and in the Caribbean as well as speeches delivered in the last months by the leadership of the OAS General Secretariat on this issue.

OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza lauded the effort of producing the publication which he hoped would catalyze further exchanges of information and experiences so that lessons learned and best practices may be built upon and enhanced.

"There is a diverse array of opportunities and outlets for sustainable development in the Caribbean, many of which are already being advanced with a great degree of success. However, the future holds many challenges for the region, especially those posed by climate change that must be addressed with urgent and concerted action by governments and development partners," Secretary General Insulza said.

## Bermuda to Host 12th Sustainable Tourism Conference

Bermuda will host the next Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Sustainable Tourism Conference in 2011, the CTO has announced.

In a symbolic passing of the "baton", Bermuda's Junior Tourism Minister Marc Bean received the CTO Sustainable Tourism Mahogany Scroll from the Permanent Secretary in the Barbados Ministry of Tourism, Andrew Cox, confirming Hamilton as host of the 12th Annual Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development (STC-12).

"We are honoured to host STC-12 in Bermuda," said Sen. Bean at a news conference later. "We look forward to an action-based programme that builds on the recommendations coming out of STC-11."

The CTO - the organiser of the conference – and the Bermuda government have already begun discussion on a date, which is expected to be announced soon.

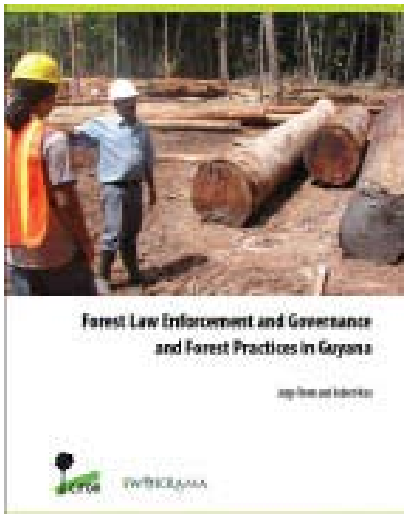
Work is also expected to begin on a programme shortly.

Over 250 delegates – including tourism industry officials and the media – participated in a series of seminars, workshops and study tourism aimed at setting the foundation on which to build a world class sustainable tourism product in the region.

The conference ended with a call to action by the CTO Secretary General, Hugh Riley. Mr. Riley called on delegates attending the conference, as well as citizens of the Caribbean, to take action to preserve the regions assets and to sustain the tourism industry.

The CTO secretary general said the conference achieved two of its immediate goals – presenting information and getting delegates to pay attention – but the region's tourism development agency was counting on everyone to help it achieve the third goal.

## CIFOR Publishes Study on Forest Law Enforcement and REDD in Guyana




The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), a member of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR), with funding from the Norwegian Government, has published a study on forest law enforcement and governance, and forest practices in Guyana.

The study was carried out within the framework of an agreement between Guyana and Norway to develop a mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD), and assesses the effectiveness and legitimacy of forest governance for achieving REDD.

Written by Jorge Trevin and Robert Nasi, the study reviews the Guyanese forest sector, legislation and policies, and assesses current management of forest concessions and protected areas, illegal logging, status of Amerindian land claims and tenure, and participation of forest-dependent people in the design and implementation of forest policies.

The study concludes that basic governance requirements, such as the beginnings of public participation mechanisms, have been developed in Guyana, but recommends strengthening forest monitoring, addressing land tenure claims, and maximizing the traditional uses of forest resources.

## IDB Fund seeks new sustainable tourism projects in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Multilateral Investment Fund (FOMIN) will approve as much as US$5 million in grants this year to finance as many as 10 new sustainable tourism projects in Latin America and the Caribbean

The FOMIN, which is an autonomous fund of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) that supports projects for small and microenterprises, will offer grants to finance the creation of small tourism business networks, train entrepreneurs in the region to offer high-quality services and market their services.

The MIF is working closely with The National Geographic Society and Ashoka Changemakers to launch a new call for proposals in the second quarter of the year.

The FOMIN will seek proposals in several categories including ones that are related to tourism and climate change; information technology and market access; and the development of sustainable tourism in the Caribbean.

"We want to help countries take full advantage of tourism in a way that will preserve their cultural heritage and environment while ensuring that small entrepreneurs run a profitable and high-quality business," said Santiago Soler, who heads the sustainable tourism cluster at the FOMIN.

Tourism accounts for 11 percent of the world's gross domestic product, 7 percent of all job opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean and it is among the top five sources for foreign currency for poor nations. It is a labor-intensive industry that offers an important opportunity to increase employment and reduce poverty, particularly among developing nations, Mr. Soler said.



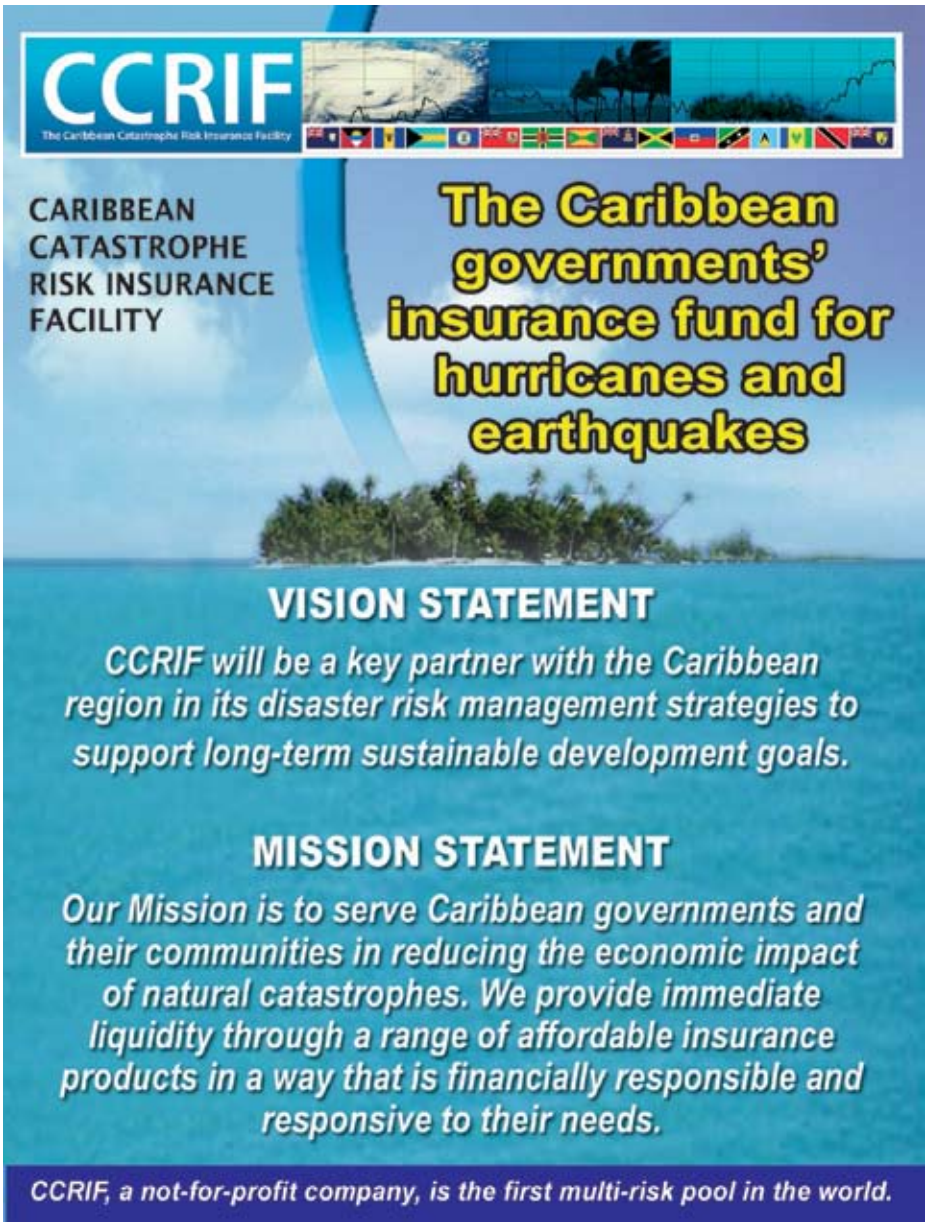
### FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean Discusses Climate Change

The 31st Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) met in Panama City, Panama in April and considered, among other issues, the impacts of climate change on agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the region.

The background document on climate change examined nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMA) in developing countries, requirements for monitoring, reporting and verification, synergies between adaptation, official development assistance and mitigation funding, and land tenure.

It offered three proposals for associating agriculture with climate change: including agriculture in NAMAs; ensure funding for mitigation and adaptation measures in agriculture by increasing the scope of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and establishing a new broader and more flexible funding mechanism; and move towards a comprehensive view of land use. It also noted the FAO's Framework for Action.

Additional meeting documents on challenges and outlook for South America and Central America highlighted the importance of actions at the subnational and local level in addition to actions under the UNFCCC. They also underscored the need for climate change plans of action on adaptation and mitigation.






# ECLAC highlights policies for LOW-CARBON ECONOMIES



*Alicia Bárcena*

The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Alicia Bárcena, highlighted the policies and strategies that may be adopted to eradicate sanitation and housing deficits in the region and promote low-carbon economies to contribute to sustainable development.

Ms. Bárcena participated in two sessions of the *World Economic Forum for Latin America 2010* held in Cartagena, Colombia: "Eradicating Housing Deficits" and "Towards Low-Carbon Prosperity".

The Executive Secretary set forth some of ECLAC's proposals for advancing towards low-carbon economies and implementing sustainable housing policies to ensure that land use and environmental concerns are addressed adequately.

In the session on low-carbon economies, Ms. Bárcena proposed supporting public-private partnerships in energy and infrastructure and fostering long-term fiscal strategies that consider the full cost of externalities caused by carbon emissions and using public expenditure to promote a low-carbon economy under fiscal sustainability criteria.

She also stressed the urgency to develop energy and food security agreement as well as an international agreement on carbon emissions.

"Green strategies and policies should improve output and income and generate green jobs, which are generally intensive in high technology, better paid and highly productive. This could lead to an increase in the average total productivity of the whole economy," said Ms. Bárcena.

During the session on housing and sanitary deficits, ECLAC's Executive Secretary mentioned several alternative models for financing housing in the region and suggested the use of microfinance schemes as well as increasing social expenditures.

Implementing proactive policies is needed to prevent the spread of marginal neighborhoods in the region's cities, with a population of approximately 117 million, said Ms. Bárcena. These policies should include spatial, economic, social, environmental, political and cultural aspects, she added.

Some ways of developing sustainable housing policies in the region include implementing urban planning schemes that reduce the ecological footprint of cities, which would diminish greenhouse gas emissions, stated Ms. Bárcena.

She also stressed the need for an appropriate legal, financial and institutional base, especially to address the problems of the most vulnerable.

Lastly, Ms. Bárcena warned of the consequences of extreme climatic events to which the region is frequently exposed. "Earthquakes, tropical storms, hurricanes, floods, droughts and volcanic eruptions must be taken into account in urban planning," she said.

# UNCCD Strengthens Cooperation with CARICOM on Sustainable Land Management

Amid looming challenges posed by climate change, and increasing concerns of prolonged droughts facing Member States within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) reaffirmed its commitment to support the Community in its efforts to promote and implement policies for sustainable land management.

In late March, Edwin Carrington, CARICOM Secretary-General met with Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, UNCCD, in discussions to chart a course of action in the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the CARICOM and UNCCD Secretariats in July 2002.

During the meeting Secretary-General Carrington highlighted several challenges the region faced as a result of the land degradation, which was heightened by improper land management practices including slash and burn agriculture; uncontrolled livestock grazing on fragile lands; poor road construction; and unplanned or poorly planned settlements in landslide-prone areas.

Mr. Carrington pointed out that problems associated with land degradation were particularly troubling to the agricultural sector and food security, as it had caused the erosion of valuable top-soil which was washed into canals, rivers and out to sea during heavy rains, resulting in loss of productivity in the sector. With such challenges and those associated with the tourism industry, several CARICOM Member States have become signatories to the UNCCD.

Those Member States are: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Haiti, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Belize, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and St. Kitts and Nevis.

The meeting discussed the need to review the MOU in respect of new development challenges facing the Caribbean, including the reconstruction of Haiti.

Mr. Gnacadja noted that the UNCCD had a keen interest in working with the Community in Haiti's reconstruction, particularly in the development of strategies to build land cover in Haiti, and to build its resilience to natural disasters and other threats associated with climate change.

The MOU between the Caribbean Community and the UNCCD was entered into due to acuteness of land degradation and growing problems of drought and water shortage in the Caribbean States and against the recognition that the problem of land degradation could not be targeted exclusively at the national level.

# *OAS Launches Project for Biofuels Development* in Jamaica



***Minister of Energy and Mining, James Robertson and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Hilary Alexander, look over their notes before the official launch of the Biofuels Development and Policy Support project***

The Organization of American States (OAS), through its Department of Sustainable Development recently launched a project that supports the development and implementation of biofuels policies and programmes in Jamaica.

The initiative — Technical Assistance for Biofuels Development and Policy Support in Jamaica — seeks to establish a strong legal and regulatory framework for a vibrant liquid biofuels industry, facilitate the sharing of perspectives among the respective stakeholders and advise on appropriate technologies.

"The OAS is committed to supporting Jamaica in the articulation of a sustainable bioenergetic policy," said Francisco Burgos, OAS Specialist on Energy and Sustainable Development.

"In this sense, the initiative we launched today seeks to strengthen the country's experience in the production of biofuels, placing special emphasis on the social, economic and environmental aspects that said industry demands."

The OAS is a partner organization in the U.S.-Brazil Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Biofuels Cooperation.

Currently, this regional organization helps to implement partnership activities in the third-party countries that are beneficiaries of the said agreement, including Jamaica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Guatemala, Honduras and St. Kitts and Nevis.

The OAS also supports other sustainable energy activities in the Caribbean.

These include the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP) for the development of national energy policies and implementation measures (in Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines), and the Eastern Caribbean Geothermal Project (Geo-Caraïbes), which supports assessment and market conditioning for the development of geothermal power in Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia.

Jamaica's Energy and Mining Minister, James Robertson said the project represented an important plank in a broader vision for the country. "Our biofuels policy represents an essential element of the broader energy revolution that is to come, as we seek to implement the National Energy Policy and the goals of Vision 2030," he said.

He pointed out that the project, using current and future technologies, will contribute to the development of the country.

"It will develop local expertise and knowledge of emerging technologies through scientific exchange, international industry and government internships, sabbaticals and professional seminars and conferences," he added.

"We cannot afford to fail, because to fail at a project such as this and policy implementation, would be failing our nation, our children and our future."

# World Governments Fail to Deliver on 2010 Biodiversity Target



These findings are the result of a new paper published in the leading journal Science and represent the first assessment of how the targets made through the 2002 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have not been met.

Compiling over 30 indicators -- measures of different aspects of biodiversity, including changes in species' populations and risk of extinction, habitat extent and community composition -- the study found no evidence for a significant reduction in the rate of decline of biodiversity, and that the pressures facing biodiversity continue to increase. The synthesis provides overwhelming evidence that the 2010 target has not been achieved.

The indicators included in the study were developed and synthesised through the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership -- a collaboration of over 40 international organizations and agencies developing global biodiversity indicators and the leading source of information on trends in global biodiversity.

Among these indicators was the Ecological Footprint, which measures the aggregate demand that human activities, through consumption of resources and emission of carbon dioxide, place on ecosystems and species.

***World leaders have failed to deliver commitments made in 2002 to reduce the global rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, and have instead overseen alarming biodiversity declines.***

"Our analysis shows that governments have failed to deliver on the commitments they made in 2002: biodiversity is still being lost as fast as ever, and we have made little headway in reducing the pressures on species, habitats and ecosystems", said Dr Stuart Butchart of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre and BirdLife International, and the paper's lead author.

"Our data show that 2010 will not be the year that biodiversity loss was halted, but it needs to be the year in which we start taking the issue seriously and substantially increase our efforts to take care of what is left of our planet."

"A better understanding of the connections between the Ecological Footprint and biodiversity loss is fundamental to slowing, halting and reversing the ongoing declines in these ecosystems and in populations of wild species," said Dr. Alessandro Galli, senior scientist for Global Footprint Network and co-author of the study.



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## FAO Publishes Key Findings of Global Forest Resources Assessment



The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has published the key findings of its "Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010" (FRA 2010). Among the findings, FAO reports that the world deforestation rate has decreased over the past ten years, but continues at a high rate in many countries.

Commenting on the findings, Mette Loyche Wilkie, FRA 2010 coordinator, stated that "a lower deforestation rate and the establishment of new forests have helped bring down the high level of carbon emissions from forests caused by deforestation and forest degradation."

She also called for putting in place effective and permanent measures to significantly reduce the current rates of deforestation and forest degradation to avoid the risk of a sudden return to the 1990's high rates of net forest loss and carbon emissions from forests.

The report finds that the net loss of forest area was reduced to 5.2 million hectares per year between 2000 and 2010, down from 8.3 million hectares annually in the 1990s.

South America and Africa had the highest net annual loss of forests in 2000-2010, while Asia had a net gain of 2.2 million hectares annually in the last decade, mainly due to large-scale afforestation programmes in China, India and Viet Nam.

Brazil and Indonesia, which had the highest loss of forests in the 1990s, have significantly reduced their deforestation rates.

FRA 2010 is the most comprehensive assessment of forests and forestry to date, examining the current status and recent trends for about 90 variables covering the extent, condition, uses and values of forests and other wooded land, with the aim of assessing all benefits from forest resources.

Information has been collated from 233 countries and territories for four points in time: 1990, 2000, 2005 and 2010. The results are presented according to the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management. The full report will be available in October 2010.

## EEA Publishes Signals 2010

The European Environment Agency (EEA) released its annual publication "Signals," which focuses on "Biodiversity, Climate Change and you." This year's issue was drafted in support of the International Year of Biodiversity.

EEA Signals 2010 features six eyewitness stories on: water from the glaciers of the Alps; the permafrost of the Arctic; and the delta of the Ganges.

The articles explain how climate change is affecting the ancient water cycle, and illustrate change, impacts and adaptation.

Commenting on the publication, EEA Executive Director Jacqueline McGlade stated that "We rely on the richness of life on this planet for our food, shelter and such basic needs as clean air. We are a part of this diversity and cannot live without it.

In Signals ordinary people observe how changes to their environment affect not only animal and plant life, but also their livelihood and lifestyle."



## Financing for Development Dialogue Discusses Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration

The Fourth UN High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, which convened in New York, US in March focused on "The Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: Status of Implementation and Tasks Ahead."

The High-level Dialogue was organized in the lead up to the forthcoming high level review on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), scheduled to take place in September this year at the same venue.

Addressing the Dialogue on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Ambassador Gyan Chandra Acharya, Permanent Representative of Nepal, requested the international community to come forward with additional, substantial and secure funding and technology to support LDCs' adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Also addressing the event, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon underlined that many developing countries will need considerable external assistance to support sustainable development, as part of the Global Green New Deal.

Recalling that the Copenhagen Accord called for new and additional predictable resources over the next decade, he stressed the need to "continue to press for a binding international agreement on climate change."

Secretary General Ban Ki Moon noted that he recently established a High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing to develop proposals on how to scale up long-term financing for mitigation and adaptation in developing countries.

He said the group will deliver its recommendations before the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Mexico at the end of the year

## IMO Environment Committee Focuses on GHG

The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) held its 60th session in March in London, UK, and focused on the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from international shipping.

Despite progress made on this issue at the meeting, the MEPC concluded that more work needs to be done before it completes its consideration of the proposed mandatory application of technical and operational measures designed to regulate and reduce GHGs emissions from international shipping.

The Committee decided to establish the following groups: an intersessional Working Group to build on the significant progress that had been made during the meeting on technical and operational measures to increase the energy efficiency of ships; and an Expert Group on market-based measures to undertake a feasibility study and impact assessment of the various proposals submitted for a market-based instrument for international maritime transport.

Both Groups are to report to the MEPC at its 61st session. Furthermore, participants agreed on draft text on mandatory requirements for the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) for new vessels and on the Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP) for all ships in operation, but underlined that issues concerning ship size, target dates and reduction rate in relation to the EEDI requirements all required finalization.

"Global issues demand global solutions. Let the world learn from the lessons of Copenhagen so that the same mistakes are not repeated in Cancun," IMO Secretary-General Efthimios E. Mitropoulos stated during his closing remarks to the meeting.

"At the same time, let us build on the undeniable successes Copenhagen has scored, by providing a forum for Heads of State and Government to listen to and understand each other's problems, concerns, worries and sensitivities and, thus, pave the way for a more successful next round of consultations."

## UNEP Collaborates on Report on Copenhagen Accord Targets Climate Change



The Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), has released a report titled "What do the Appendices to the Copenhagen Accord tell us about global greenhouse gas emissions and the prospects for

avoiding a rise in global average temperature of more than 2°C?"

Authored by Nicholas Stern and Christopher Taylor, the analysis outlined in the report suggests that, although the targets and intended actions included in the Copenhagen Accord are substantial, they would not be enough to limit annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 44 billion tons in 2020, which they label the "climate responsible target."

The pledges would collectively imply global annual emissions of about 48.2 to 49.2 billion tons, representing a reduction of 6.7 to 7.7 billion tons compared with the associated 'business as usual' forecast for emissions in 2020 of 55.9 billion tons.

However, the report notes that the two degrees Celsius goal could potentially still be achieved if greater and costly annual reductions of at least 4% per year were achieved for the decades after 2020.

## ACP Countries and EU Discuss Improved Partnership on Climate Change



The 20th session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly between African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the EU was held in Tenerife, Spain in April, to further discuss climate change cooperation, among other things.

Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for development, delivered a speech in which he stressed partnership as the only way to deal with global challenges, such as climate change, to which he referred as a key hurdle for development cutting across all Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

He also considered climate change a "test case" for the EU to build political alliances with all countries involved, to ensure that promised new resources, such as fast-start funding in the Copenhagen Accord, reach developing countries in an aid-effective way without creating new layers of bureaucracy.

Piebalgs proposed increasing cooperation in the area of climate change under the ACP-EU framework, and suggested that more countries be provided additional financial support during 2010 for priority capacity building and urgent investments in adaptation.

He also called for increased policy dialogue on climate change, to better understand needs and expectations, share positions, and possibly promote convergence of visions ahead of the next UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Cancun, Mexico, at the end of 2010.

## People's World Conference on Climate Change Adopts Declaration



*Evo Morales*

The People's World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth convened in Cochabamba, Bolivia over a four-day period in April.

An initiative of Bolivian President Evo Morales, the conference provided a forum to discuss the structural and systemic causes of climate change and propose substantive measures that facilitate the well-being of mankind in harmony with nature.

Representatives of civil society, the scientific community, governments, academia and social, indigenous, environmental and cultural organizations participated in the event.

The final 10-page declaration adopted at the Conference calls on developed countries to:

- commit to quantified emission reductions that will limit the global temperature increase to a maximum of 1°C;
- bear the costs and ensure technology transfer necessary to compensate developing countries for their lost development opportunities due to a compromised atmosphere;
- and take responsibility for climate change migrants, through the conclusion of an international agreement.

The final declaration also urges the approval of a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol in which developed countries commit to reduce domestic emissions by at least 50% against 1990 levels without resorting to market-based mechanisms.

It further calls for the recognition and integration of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the climate change negotiations.



# Caribbean Region Reviews MSI Implementation

The Caribbean Regional meeting for the Five Year Review of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (MSI+5) convened in St. George's, Grenada, for three days in March.

The event was hosted by the Government of Grenada and was jointly organized by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) as part of the regional preparatory process for the high-level review to be undertaken by the 65th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2010.

Participants noted that the continuing global economic and financial crisis has had dire consequences for the region's economies.

Challenges were also compounded by the global food and energy crises, the negative impacts of climate change, and the uneven and uncertain pace of their full insertion into global trade and development processes and persistent structural vulnerabilities.

They expressed concern about the inability to arrive at a far-reaching consensus agreement at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December 2009.

Delegates supported efforts through the two-track approach to UNFCCC negotiations to reach a favorable outcome for SIDS at the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the UNFCCC in Mexico in December, with legally binding commitments for developed countries.

As a way forward to address identified challenges, they supported among others:

- Identifying and assessing adaptation needs, building on the work already begun in adaptation to climate change and mainstreaming climate change adaptation concerns into national sustainable development strategies;
- Addressing the issue of access to low carbon technologies and enhanced technology transfer;
- Promoting energy efficiency and enhancing renewable energy resources and related services;
- Expanding current initiatives to transform existing economies into more environmentally-friendly ones, promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns and building capacity in valuation and costing of ecosystem resources and ecosystem services;
- Strengthening early warning systems and expanding a risk management framework that would be complemented by insurance and re-insurance schemes;

# THE FUTURE IS NOW: PLANNING SCENARIOS HELP WEST AFRICAN FISHERIES ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

***Better understanding of the likely effects of climate change on West Africa's valuable ocean fisheries is needed to guide the sustainable development of these resources in line with the aspirations and expectations of fisher communities...***

This was the finding of a workshop ***Envisioning 2050: Climate Change, Aquaculture and Fisheries*** in West Africa, which took place in April in Dakar, Senegal. The event attracted experts from Ghana, Mauritania and Senegal to debate critical issues facing their fisheries in the next 40 years. Participants concluded that the future will pose dilemmas and uncertainties. Can aquaculture address both national food security and macroeconomic growth? Should regional trade be promoted or access to global markets prioritized? How will climate change affect fishery resources, especially small pelagic fish like sardines, which are an important export commodity for Senegal and Mauritania? The consensus was that understanding the implications of various possible scenarios and developing strategies to address them now is urgently needed.

In West Africa, fish is important to food security, livelihoods and trade. Fish contributes over 30% of the animal protein consumed in the region and accounts for 27.8% of West African agricultural exports, earning indispensable foreign exchange. However, West African fisheries are under tremendous pressure from overfishing - pressure that may worsen with global warming. While strong evidence exists that accelerated global warming affects marine life around the world and the climate change is likely to alter West African fish-production systems, which depend on the upwelling of nutrient-rich deep ocean waters, models linking ocean-climate interactions and fish productivity in the region are still few and highly uncertain.

The organizers of the workshop - the WorldFish Center and the Leibniz-Centre for Tropical Marine Ecology - invited the experts to construct plausible scenarios for West African fisheries up to 2050. When forecasts and projections

are limited and uncertainty is high, scenarios are useful tools that, by creating visions of the future, allow researchers and policy-makers to develop alternative strategies to advance toward a chosen path or at least mitigate the pitfalls of possible future scenarios. The experts agreed that the best way to respond to the uncertain impacts of climate change was to work in a more coordinated way toward sharing science regionally, managing water resources more efficiently, and making every effort to develop inland aquaculture, taking into account the dual objectives of food security and income generation.

Scenarios are often used for strategic planning in the private sector, and increasingly so in the public sector in Europe and North America, but with few such initiatives in Africa, especially regarding fisheries. Experts at the workshop expressed the desire to see this type of planning process and creative thinking used more widely applied to fisheries, with special emphasis on the rigorous methods used in the workshop.

***In West Africa, fish is important to food security, livelihoods and trade. Fish contributes over 30% of the animal protein consumed in the region and accounts for 27.8% of West African agricultural exports, earning indispensable foreign exchange.***



*Kaylar beach landing site, Sénégal (sardines)*

Before and during the workshop, the WorldFish Center teamed up with the Mundus Maris Initiative, a non-governmental organization that mobilizes science and the arts to encourage young people to work toward sustaining healthy oceans and coasts.

WorldFish commissioned art created by a Senegalese youth group on the topic "Visions of the future: What are young Africans telling us?" Through their paintings and presentations, four high school students from the Senegalese fishing village of Kayar voiced their concerns, which included worsening desertification in their communities and lack of safety at sea. In one of the paintings, Massek Dieng and Madike Kane explored the issues of inundation and the destruction of bridges in coastal zones.

The painting aimed to raise authorities' awareness of these issues when planning future infrastructure development. "The message we want to share is that when we construct bridges we must be more careful," stated the artists. The four students were mentored by the renowned Senegalese artist Samba Laye Diop.

Under the theme "If we don't think about the future, who will?" the event provided a venue for open discussion about the future. It fostered knowledge-sharing and dialogue across countries and between youths and fisheries experts, two groups that normally do not have chances to interact. It was an opportunity to attract the attention of experts and remind participants that some of the future scenarios they were debating were already unfolding and being experienced by these youths.



***Photo credit:Jean Michel Abo'o Medjo, Cameroon***
***worldfishcenter.org***



*Photo credit: Randall Brummett*
*Lake Chilwa*
*worldfishcenter.org*

# The State of the Birds

## 2010 Report on Climate Change

### *Birds are telling us an important story about climate change*

The first ***State of the Birds Report*** in 2009 revealed troubling declines of bird populations in the United States during the last 40 years—a warning signal of the failing health of our ecosystems.
It also highlighted heartening evidence that concerted conservation efforts can make a positive difference in restoring habitats and reversing declines.

In this 2010 State of the Birds report, we consider one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time, climate change. How will climate change affect birds and their habitats?

Accelerated by human activities, climate change is altering the natural world as we know it and is diminishing the quality of our environment. Habitat loss and degradation not only threaten birds and other wildlife, but also threaten human and societal well-being.

Because birds are good indicators of environmental conditions, their predicted changes illustrate how ecosystems are likely to change and they are telling us an important story. Some bird species will adapt and succeed, others will struggle and decline, and some will disappear.

Instead of describing what has happened to bird populations, this report presents the first systematic analysis of what may happen to bird populations in each major biome of the United States as a consequence of climate change.

This new assessment will aid in prioritizing and planning for conservation management. As the world works to stabilize climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing lands, immediate actions are needed to give birds a fighting chance to survive.

This report contains information about birds and their habitats, gives examples of what could happen due to climate change, and outlines suggested solutions and efforts needed to help address these issues.

3% of Hawaiian birds and 62% of all U.S. Pacific island birds exhibit medium or high vulnerability; 49% of Caribbean birds also show medium or high vulnerability to climate change.

Characteristics of islands such as small size, frequency of natural disasters, and high degrees of bird endemism contribute to island birds' high exposure to impacts of climate change.

Increases in temperature and rising sea levels are expected to reduce natural habitats on islands where bird species have restricted ranges and a limited ability to respond to change.

Lower rainfall in the Caribbean will cause changes in the distribution of habitat types, reduction in the amount of moist forests, and disruptions in food supplies



*American Avocet*
*Photo: John Bedell*

### *Observations and Predictions*

Increases in temperature and rising sea levels are expected to reduce the extent of natural habitats on islands where many bird species have restricted ranges and a limited ability to respond to change. Species that depend on mountain forests, coastal wetlands, and low-lying islands are expected to be most severely affected by this direct habitat loss.

Over the last century, average annual temperatures in the Caribbean have increased by more than 1°F and during this century they are expected to rise by an additional 4°F. In the U.S. Pacific islands, temperatures have risen by 0.5°F during the past century and are expected to rise by an additional 4°F by 2090. The Caribbean has been drying in recent decades and this trend is expected to continue with a reduction in summer rainfall.

Tropical cyclones are expected to increase in intensity. Sea-level rise is expected to reduce the area of low-lying islands and eliminate or degrade inshore habitats, including mangroves and other coastal wetlands.

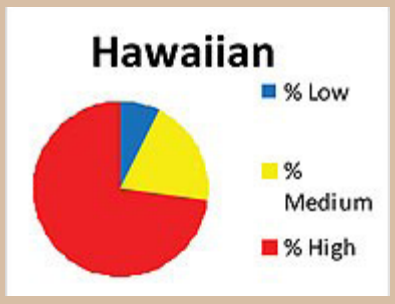
In addition, sea-level rise will cause saltwater intrusion into freshwater underlying islands, causing salinization of soil and freshwater wetlands, especially on low-lying islands.

### *Bird Species Vulnerability*

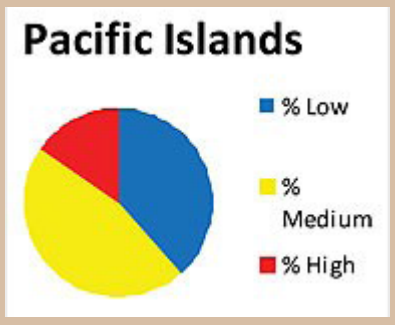
For this report, island birds refers to upland (for example, forest or scrub) and wetland birds occurring in Hawaii or on U.S. associated islands in the Pacific and Caribbean.

Hawaiian birds are severely threatened by climate change. Among the 42 native and endemic species of the Hawaiian Islands, only one is not considered of conservation concern.

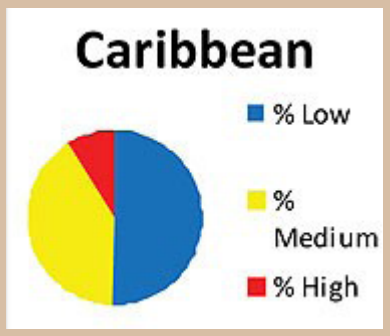
Multiple attributes contribute to their vulnerability to climate change. Attributes that are most important include single island endemism, reduced dispersal ability, and exposure to climate change of the habitats on which these birds depend, particularly high-elevation mountain forests.



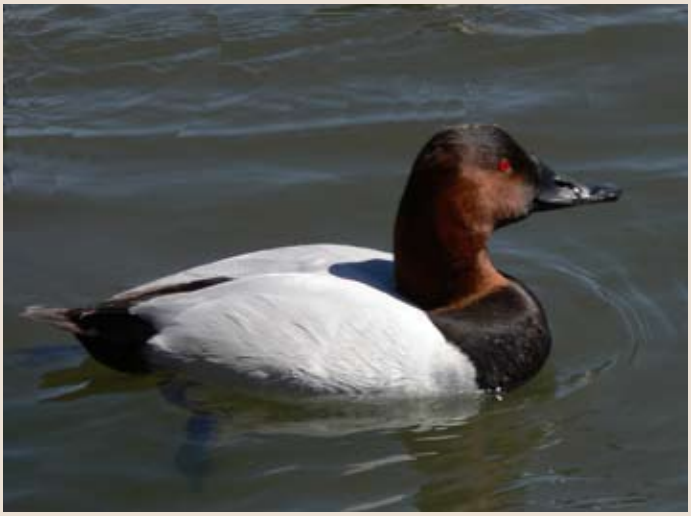

***93% of Hawaiian birds exhibit medium or high vulnerability to climate change***




***62% of all U.S. Pacific island birds show medium or high vulnerability.***




***49% of U.S. Caribbean island birds assessed have medium or high vulnerability to climate change.***



***Canvasback, courtesy USFWS***



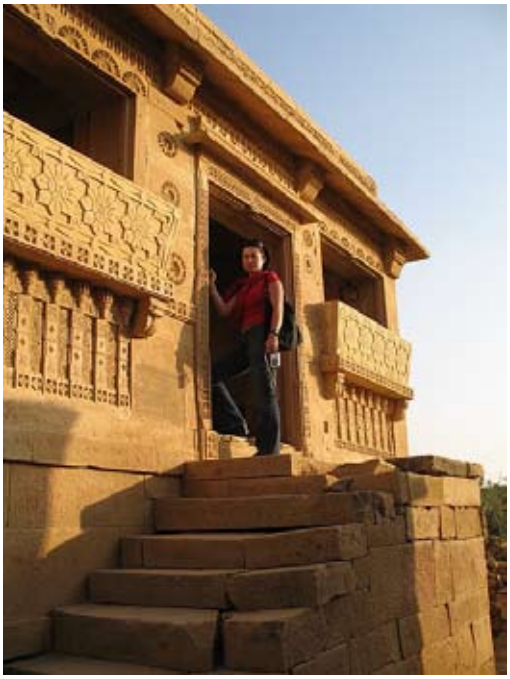
***Laysan Duck***
***Photo: Roy Lowe***

# The forgotten realm

**By Bogusia Sipiora**



*Bogusia is a Polish citizen living in Delhi, India*





One winter sunny afternoon driving in the Indian desert state of Rajastan, we found a place which still breathes with medieval story of the most bizarre migration I've ever heard about.

Not more than 20 km from the city of Jaisalmer we stopped at Kuldahara, village of Paliwals community, famed for Vedic knowledge and for the stunning, ethereal beauty of their women. It is said that the first made them rich and the second proved the cross.

The Paliwals were native inhabitants of a small kingdom Pali in the Thar desert of India.

One day sometime in XIII century they migrated to the erstwhile state of Jaisalmer and settled into 84 villages around the city.

With their hard work of agriculture they managed to transform that piece of desert into an oasis using sheer diligence and intelligence.

They knew the art of growing a water intensive crop like wheat in the Thar desert and they could identify areas with gypsum rock layers running under the ground surface to ensure water was retained for the crops.

Paliwals' prosperity became famous and that caused them to become targets of Mughal invasions.

The community bravely fought off most of these invasions until the last one sometime in XVIII century when large numbers of Paliwals were martyred and when the Mughal invader ordered to put animal carcasses into all the wells which Paliwals used to get their water from.

This caused this staunch religious Brahmin community to migrate from these villages. Overnight, they left the villages of Kuldahara and moved to other places. They also seemed to have left a curse on the village the fear of which stops the locals from venturing near these villages even till date.

Today Kuldahara is a heritage site with stone remains of a string of ruined houses which greets you as you enter the village built with a great sense of geometry and urban planning in XIII century.

In many ways the houses in a Paliwals' village could be compared to more evolved urban houses, the street pattern was like a grid with straight, wide streets to which the houses were directly connected and they had a garage for the carts in front.

Highly evolved forms of house, temples, stepwells, and other structures clearly indicate the long period of development which was stopped overnight!

Until about 30-40 years ago, the 84 villages stood just as they had been left. Neighbouring villagers refused to set foot in these cursed villages. Then the government started distributing permits to take away the carved stones from the houses. Today the former prosperity due to Paliwalas is forgotten and the region survives on tourism.

# Reducing the things they carry



*By Danielle Nierenberg*
*Nourishing the Planet Co-Project Director*

The majority of farmers in sub-Saharan Africa— in some areas up to 80 percent— are women. The average female farmer in the region is responsible not only for growing food but also for collecting water and firewood—putting in a 16-hour workday.

Deforestation and drought brought on by climate change have further increased women's time spent doing activities like gathering firewood and collecting water for bathing, cooking, and cleaning. Many women in Africa lack access to resources and technologies that might make these tasks easier, such as improved hoes, planters, and grinding mills; rainwater harvesting systems; and lightweight transport devices.

In Kenya, the organization Practical Action has introduced a fireless cooker to reduce household dependence on wood charcoal and other forms of fuel. Made easily by hand and at home, fireless cookers use insulated to store heat from traditional stoves that can then be used to cook foods over a longer period of time. Meals that are placed in a fireless cooker in the morning are baked with the stored heat and ready to eat later that day, reducing the need to continuously fuel traditional cook fires.

Meanwhile, biogas units that are fueled by livestock manure can save, on average, 10 hours of labor per week that would otherwise be spent collecting wood or other combustibles. The Rwandan government, recognizing the value of this time savings, hopes to have 15,000 households nationwide using biogas by 2012 and is subsidizing installation costs.

The "Mosi-o-Tunya" (Pump that Thunders) pressure pump, produced by International Development Enterprises (IDE), is a lightweight pump that sits on top of a well and is operated by foot. The pump's weight makes it easy to operate as well as to transport by foot or bike.

Veronica Sianchenga, a farmer living in Kabuyu Village, Zambia, explained how, in addition to improving her family's diet and income, the pump gave her more independence: "Now we are not relying only on our husbands, because we are now able to do our own projects and to assist our husbands, to make our families look better, eat better, clothe better—even to have a house."

In Ethiopia, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) helped women living in the rural lowlands near Ajo improve their incomes and livelihoods by creating a milk marketing group.

Before the USAID-funded project was implemented, women were carrying 1–2 liters of milk for seven or eight hours to sell at the nearest market in Dire Dawa.

The milk would sell for only some 20 cents a liter, and after spending the night in town, the women returned home only to make the same trip again days later, forcing them to neglect their homes and gardens. Now, the women take turns selling each other's milk at the market, making the long trip only once every 10 days and keeping all of the profits from the day, putting some of the money into savings and using the rest to pay for food, school, and household supplies.

# Conscious? How conscious?

*By Barbara King,*
*The Parent Support Centre, Arima, Trinidad*

Conscious parenting is something I have advocated in my adventures in parent education over the last 15 years. I would define it as a style of parenting where parents make clear and informed decisions about the raising of their children.

Conscious parenting involves being aware of your child's stage of development, aptitudes, interests and potential. It includes being aware of one's own limitations and finding ways to compensate in the interest of the child. It would involve planning ahead, preparing yourself and the child for various transitions in life. Its alternative would be ill-considered decisions based on the moment and the mood; a kind of haphazard, inconsistent progress through the course of shaping the adult the child is to become.



It recently struck me that there are many parents who fit the description of "Conscious Parents" in that they are very aware of what they are doing and why. They are clear on their goals and their desires for their children, sure of the kind of person they want the child to be; sure of the child's talents and potentials, but their conscious child rearing causes discomfort for some observers and can become the topic of heated debates.

We all know of the parents whose lives revolve around the child or children. They work at jobs they don't necessarily enjoy, because they are intent on providing for the current needs of their children and the funding for the type of life they want their children to have.

They work hard in order to give their offspring a better childhood than they had “back in the day”. For example, there is a parent who consciously lavishes material things on his children because he remembers the times he had to go to school without shoes. He gives them whatever they ask for because he remembers his parents not being able to give him the bike or the toys some of his friends enjoyed. The hardships he remembers created in him a character that served to make him a wealthy man, a millionaire in fact. His children, by the age of twelve, were unbearable brats who depended on maids to do everything for them.

Then there are the parents who are very consciously creating successful models of humanity. They are ambitious for themselves and their children, so the children are being shaped to fit a particular kind of résumé. There is the selection of the “right” school. There are the extra lessons in music or dance. The children must join the right clubs, in the right communities to be among the right people. The parents may even select their place of worship based on the people that attend. They see their children as proof of the type of people they are, as is the brand of car they drive and the clothes labels they wear. They brag about their accomplishments at every opportunity and where the opportunities don’t arise naturally, they create them. Their children may be delightful, but one wonders if they can survive and thrive under the pressure of their parents’ expectations.

Then there are parents that recognize their children’s strengths and are so determined that their child must do well that they are prepared to cheat and teach the child to cheat in order to achieve recognition. There is a story I heard recently of a parent supporting her child at a spelling bee. Desperately wanting her child to win, she and other relatives sat in the audience prompting her. The poor child couldn’t work out who to look at, became totally confused, fumbled and was eliminated early in the event.

Then there are the talent-manager and sports-coach parents whose children must be winners and stars. The child’s life is a strict schedule from dawn till night. Life is a competition. See the poolside parents feeding their son an energy drink before a race, or the diva parent looking for every opportunity to put her child in front of an audience to show how well the child can sing or “wine down de place”. The child is seen as an investment, a ticket to a lifestyle they could not make for themselves.

Parents have always had a wide variety of reasons for having children. There is nothing wrong with that. For centuries children have been viewed as additional hands for the family business. Most parents want their children to have a better life than they did. The talents of children have been used to enrich parents – we can see that every day on television. And there is no doubt that the children benefit from the experiences. But we also see and hear about the young adults who are burnt-out in their twenties, the substance-addicted and the confused young people who yearn for a lost childhood; and the spoiled, entitled youngsters who burn up the hard earned millions of their parents in a few short years.

Conscious parenting requires us to check our motives and think about how our decisions and actions will impact on the child. Not just in the present, but in years to come.



*Barbara King is a professional facilitator and parent educator. She is the presenter of Baby Talk on Music Radio 97, conducts parenting talks and workshops for T&T Innovative Parenting Support and* Creative Parenting for the New Era and is editor of Parenting Support Newsletter. Email: baking@tstt.net.tt

# *Listen to her cry for help*

***By Ramanathan Menon***

I am NATURE and my message has to do with Guardianship, the Guardianship of you to the Earth on which you live.

Just as you understand that all things within your environment are connected as you are to one another, so also is your Earth connected to others, to other worlds, to other Galaxies, to other Universes of which you know not.

It is of Supreme importance at this time that you assume your Guardianship for this planet. FOR IT IS IN NEED.

There has been some recognition of this of late, but I must compel you, I must implore you, to recognize that the extent to which this is true is far greater than what you know.

While it is true that the way in which mankind evolves does not affect the earth on which man lives and produces changes, thereby, it is also true that the body of earth must be nurtured and cared for as your own body must be nurtured and cared for. It must be given attention and love.

It must be nourished according to its own needs, not according to human needs, if it is to serve human needs. You must understand that responsibility for this Guardianship rests upon you.

It is more evidently your responsibility than others because you have awareness, because you profess to be internal beings as well as external beings, because you have the power that is yours and have learned to use it for yourselves.

You must realize that, that which you call Earth is in its Middle Ages and needs to be helped, you must decide, therefore, what you will do. Will you accept your responsibility in caring for the Earth or will you leave it to its own resources and take from it what you will and be left with nothing – sooner than you planned?

Each individual is a power unto him or her, each individual has the power and the strength of the creative essence within them.

What one person decides to do – and does – impacts ten more, which in turn impact ten more and as this multiplies, so things are changed.

It is urgent that each one of you assume the power of many and do what you wish many should do. Do not worry about what others are doing, but see about what you are prepared to do.



***Give your attention to this planet, project healing to this planet. Think of it as becoming whole again.***

Put your ear to the ground of mother Earth and listen to her cry for help, hear it in nature, hear it in the sound of the wind, hear it in the way that evolution is happening to Earth itself. Make your decision as to whether or not you will accept this challenge, each person who accepts this challenge creates far more power than he or she knows.

Give your attention to this planet. Project healing to this planet. Think of it as becoming whole again. Project strength to it and give it energy. You have taken of its energy and continue to do so.

You must will plants to grow, you MUST cause trees to grow, you must reach into the subsoil of the earth and nurture those ingeminated life forms there, and it can be done.

Consider the Earth as a living, breathing essence, which it is, observe it as you drive on its roads, see its openness, see its willingness to be the Great Mother, and give it love and appreciation with your mind. The combined effort of physical action and mental projection will create a reversal of these urgent problems.

I tell you this much, if the challenge is accepted by those of you who hear, not only will the Earth receive what it needs but the changes that will occur within yourselves as you affect this change are beyond what you can imagine at this point of time.

Therefore, by the changing and the evolving and the expanding of yourselves, by the nurturing of Earth itself, and these things in combination, will indeed effect changes that you cannot at this point of time conceive.

*The author has more than two decades of experience as a journalist. Currently he is working as Sub-Editor for a quarterly energy magazine 'Energy Manager' in India.*

## *Punjab Cricket Association hosts first-ever*

# GREEN CRICKET MATCH

The Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) hosted cricket's first-ever carbon neutral match in April at the Mohali Stadium in Punjab, India.

The green game was organized by the Indian Premier League (IPL) as part of the 'Batting for the Environment' initiative, which was launched in March in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The Punjab Cricket Association has ensured that the carbon footprint from the game was kept as low as possible by offsetting an estimated 580 tonnes of match-related CO2 emissions.

Some US$10,150 will go towards supporting an internationally recognized residual biomass project in Rajasthan, India.

The power generation project will not only reduce emissions of CO2, SO2 and soot, it will also contribute to sustainable development by generating income for regional farmers selling agricultural residues.

Kings XI Punjab Captain Kumar Sangakkara said: "I am proud to be a part of this exciting environmental initiative, and I look forward to participating in many more climate neutral cricket matches in the future."




I.S. Bindra, the Head of the Punjab Cricket Association, said: "The PCA is proud to be hosting and funding the first-ever climate neutral cricket game, and we are delighted to be part of this new green era for the great game of cricket."

Viswajeet Khanna, the Secretary, Environment, Government of Punjab and Vice President of the Punjab Cricket Association, added: "We welcome this partnership with UNEP and we look forward to helping raise green awareness among millions of cricket fans."

Talking about the initiative, IPL Chairman and Commissioner, Lalit Modi said: "The IPL is conscious of its environmental obligations. Due to this, we are working with the UN Environment Programme in efforts to green the IPL and encourage our fans, franchises and partners to take care of our planet."

In calculating the amount of emissions generated from the match, UNEP and the PCA took into account the travel, accommodation and food consumption of all the players, officials as well as local fans travelling to the venue.

Other simple measures put in place to minimize waste and emissions from the game included the prominent distribution of waste bins throughout the stadium.

As a part of its green initiative, the Punjab Cricket Association took a decision to harness solar power in order to reduce the dependence on fossil fuels and conventional power. The rooftop of the stadium was used for this to generate 100 KW of solar energy.

The Mohali match, saw the Kings XI Punjab play the Mumbai Indians, and was the first of five climate-neutral games being played across India under the 'Batting for the Environment' initiative which pledges to increase environmental awareness among millions of cricket fans and the

# BOOKS

## Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

is pleased to announce two new publications on oversight under the Reformed Financial Mechanism proposal:

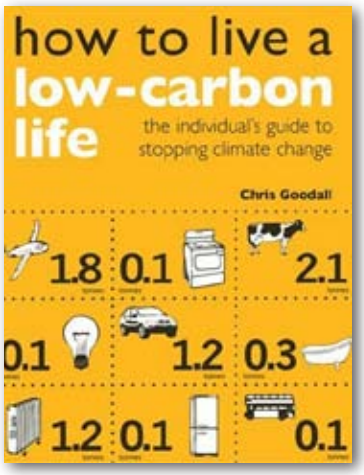
Anju Sharma, ***The Reformed Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC: Renegotiating the role of civil society in the governance of climate finance***, OIES EV50, March 2010. Available at www.oxfordenergy.org/pdfs/EV50.pdf
To what extent have existing institutions for climate change finance succeeded in bringing the voices of poor and disadvantaged sections of civil society to the decision-making table? This paper by Anju Sharma analyses the models for civil society engagement adopted by the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds. It finds that both do little more than provide an occasional venue for a poorly defined entity called 'global civil society' to voice concerns, where interactions are limited to one-off events rather than a continuous and integrated process of mutually beneficial engagement. The paper calls on civil society to use the strengths and legitimacy they bring to the process to renegotiate the terms of their engagement, calling particularly for a more 'bottom-up' process for bringing local voices to the fore; resources for sustaining and improving the quality of civil society engagement; and formalised processes of mutual accountability.

Luis Gomez-Echeverri, ***The Reformed Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC: Promoting Transparency & Accountability***, OIES EV 51, March 2010. Available at www.oxfordenergy.org/pdfs/EV51.pdf
The fight against climate change needs the full engagement of developing countries. And for this to happen argues Luis Gomez-Echeverri national institutions with the capacity to identify priorities and manage the resources for action are urgently needed. The report focuses on the institutional needs and best practices already found.

Earthscan is pleased to announce the publication of these new books.
If you are a journal review editor and would like to review any of the titles listed below, please email Alice.Haworth-Booth@earthscan.co.uk with the details of your publication.

### *How to Live a Low-Carbon Life (Second Edition)*

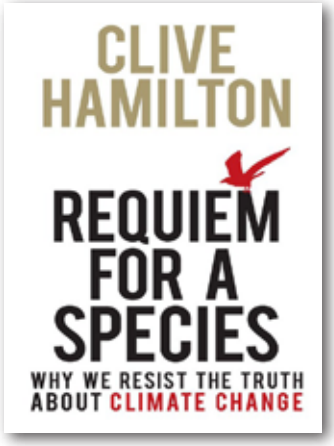
By Chris Goodall




Drastic reduction of carbon emissions is vital if we are to avoid a catastrophe that devastates large parts of the world. Governments and businesses have been slow to act - individuals need to take the lead now if we are to avoid climate chaos. Each Westener is responsible for an average 10 - 20 tonnes of carbon emissions each year (depending on where you live). In How to Live a Low-Carbon Life, Chris Goodall shows how easy it is to take responsibility, providing a comprehensive, one-stop reference guide to calculating your CO2 emissions and reducing them to a more sustainable 2 tonnes a year.
This fully revised and expanded new edition takes into account new government targets on emissions reductions and includes up-to-date calculations and extensive graphics clearly laying out the path to a low-carbon life.

***Requiem for a Species: Why We Resist the Truth About Climate Change***
By Clive Hamilton

This book does not set out once more to raise the alarm to encourage us to take radical measures to head off climate chaos. There have been any number of books and reports in recent years explaining just how dire the future looks and how little time we have left to act. This book is about why we have ignored those warnings, and why it may now be too late. It is a book about the frailties of the human species as expressed in both the institutions we built and the psychological dispositions that have led us on the path of self-destruction. It is about our strange obsessions, our hubris, and our penchant for avoiding the facts. It is the story of a battle within us between the forces that should have caused us to protect the Earth - our capacity to reason and our connection to Nature - and those that, in the end, have won out - our greed, materialism and alienation from Nature. And it is about the 21st century consequences of these failures.




***Natural Capitalism: The Next Industrial Revolution***
By Paul Hawken, Amory B. Lovins and L. Hunter Lovins
Second Edition

On its first publication 10 years ago, Natural Capitalism rocked the world of business with its innovative new approach - an approach that fused ecological integrity with business acumen using the radical concept of natural capitalism.

This 10th-anniversary edition features a new Introduction by Amory B. Lovins and Paul Hawken which updates the story to include the successes of the last decade. It clearly sets out the path that we must now take to ensure the future prosperity of our civilisation and our planet.






# 100% Renewable Electricity Report

A new study demonstrates how the opportunity exists to power Europe and North Africa exclusively by renewable electricity by 2050, if this is supported by a single European power market united with a similar market in North Africa.

The study, by international energy and climate experts from Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP in collaboration with researchers of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the European Climate Forum (ECF) has formulated the first policy roadmap towards a 2050 goal of achieving a 100% renewable power sector in Europe and North Africa.

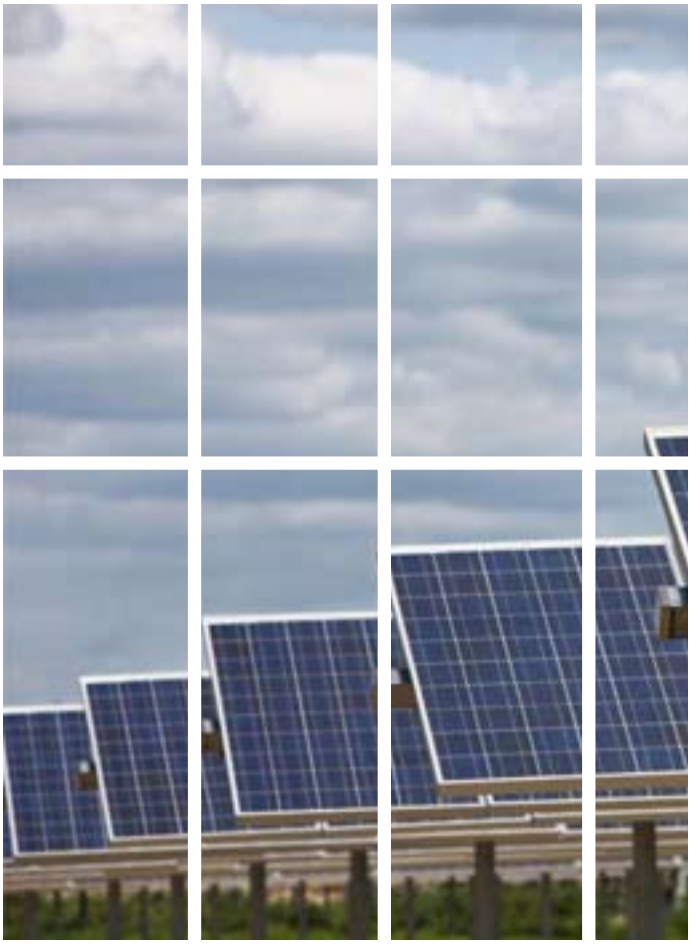
A transformation of the power sector based on 100% renewables would address energy security and supply concerns while decarbonising electricity generation and at the same time contribute to a substantial reduction in energy poverty.

Taking into account existing infrastructure and electricity generation capacities and recognising the need for a cross-national power system, the proposed SuperSmart Grid would allow load and demand management for power, independent of when and where the power is generated.

Making the most of natural resources and established weather patterns it would incorporate:

- The vast concentrating solar potential of southern Europe and
- the arid deserts of North Africa,
- the hydro capability of Scandinavia and
- the European alps
- Onshore and offshore wind farms in the Baltic and North Sea
- The continent's ocean tidal and
- wave power Biomass generation across Europe.

The researchers studied the policy, markets, investments and infrastructure leadership needed



to achieve the 100% renewables goal in terms of financial, infrastructure and government policy milestones for policy makers and business.

The study focused the examination on a 100% renewable electricity supply to consider the market and infrastructure potential of natural resources, but recognised that in addition to renewables, there are other routes to achieving a low carbon future.

Amongst the most significant, the expansion of nuclear power and the development of carbon capture and storage (CCS) for the burning of fossil fuels.

"Europe and other parts of the world are arriving at a crossroads where we have the choice and ability to achieve renewable power at scale. Opportunities to use clean and affordable natural sources of electricity have been flirted with over

the past 150 years. This study lays out a clear framework of how this time could be different, “said Gus Schellekens, director, sustainability and climate change, Price Waterhouse Coopers LLP.

Anthony Patt, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, comments: “The combination of increased demand for electricity and security of supply is a very powerful driver of major power sector change in Europe and worldwide. The study and the roadmap have been formulated to stimulate a debate about energy and climate change possibilities in Europe.”

Currently, the European power system is dominated by fossil fuel (55%) and nuclear (30%) electricity. Some 15% of Europe’s power supply is from renewable electricity dominated by old hydro power stations. Expansion of renewable energy including onshore wind, and biomass has been modest at best to date.

Despite this, the technological capability for developing renewable forms of power generation is already in place or emerging and envisaged, and the economics of the key technologies is improving, albeit in a difficult financing environment.

A renewables powered Europe would change the landscape for consumers and business. Electro-mobility could be introduced on a mass scale, leading to day-to-day transport of people and goods without the CO2 penalty associated with fossil fuel.

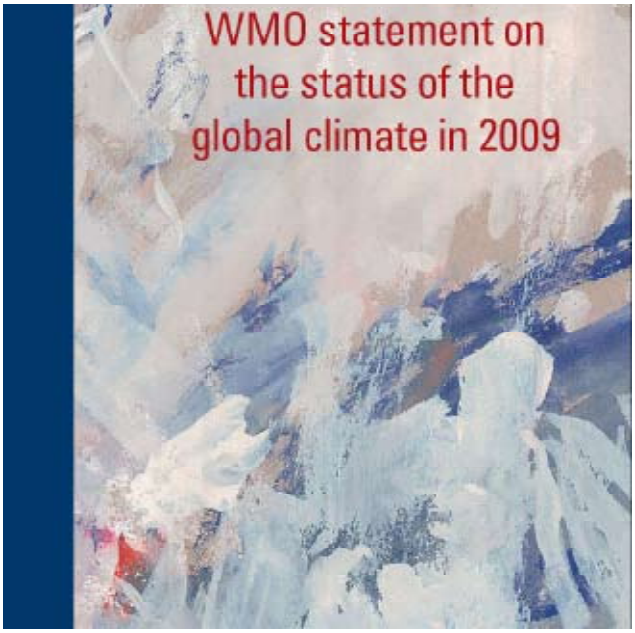
In North African countries, the provision of reliable and potentially unlimited solar electricity could provide the basis for substantial social and economic development across the region.

By 2050, with renewable technologies deployed at scale across Europe and North Africa, significant cost reductions would make the renewable power sector a major employer of skilled workers in both Europe and North Africa, and cost competitive, providing affordable electricity across the region.

Developing a strong cooperation for large scale renewables will also decrease dependency from energy imports and develop strong interdependencies between Europe and its neighbours.



# WMO statement on the status of the global climate in 2009




***The past decade was the warmest on record, UN weather***

***2009 recorded as the 5th warmest year since 1850***

The first decade of the new millennium was the warmest on record, the United Nations weather monitoring agency has announced.

"The decade of the 2000s was warmer than the decade of the 1990s, which in turn was warmer than the 1980s," said Omar Baddour, Chief of the Data Management Application Divisions at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The new findings are part of the WMO Statement on the Status of the Global Climate, an annual survey by the agency about the weather and climate change.

The decade between 2000 and 2009 included one of the warmest years on record – last year, which was the fifth hottest year since records began.

"The current nominal ranking of 2009 places it as the fifth-warmest year since the beginning of instrumental climate records [in 1850]," Mr. Baddour said.

Last year also brought extreme weather, ranging from devastating droughts to severe floods, extreme heat waves and cold waves, in many parts of the world, according to the newly released WMO Statement on the Status of the Global Climate.

The Southern Hemisphere was particularly warmer than the long-term average, while the Northern Hemisphere cooled at the end of 2009 with heavy snowfall in Europe, North America and northern Asia.

The information is based on climate date from a network of data collected from some 10,000 land stations, 3,000 aircraft, 1,000 upper-air stations and 1,000 ships and nearly 70 satellites.



Robert B. Zoellick

## World Bank President:
## Green Growth Can Pull Millions Out of Poverty

Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank Group said climate change policy can be linked to development and win support from developing countries for low carbon growth, "but not if it is imposed as a straitjacket."

He was at the time giving a lecture on "The End of the Third World? Modernizing Multilateralism for a MultipolarWorld," at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, in Washington DC, US in April.

Mr. Zoellick stressed the need of developing countries for support and finance to invest in cleaner growth paths.

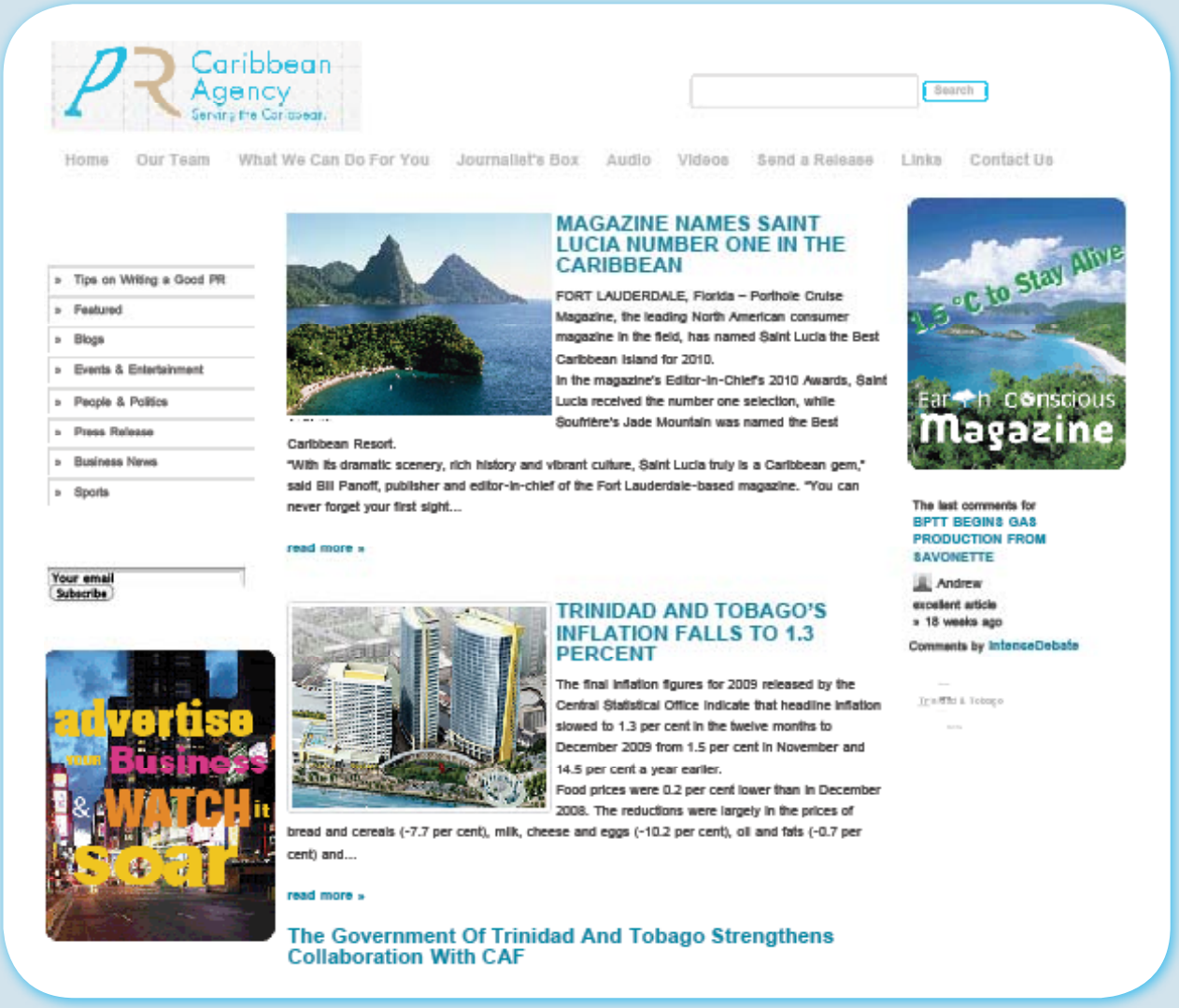
Underlining that 1.6 billion people lack access to electricity, he said the challenge is to support transitions to cleaner energy without sacrificing access, productivity and growth that can pull hundreds of millions out of poverty.

He emphasized that the world needs to pursue policies that reflect the price of carbon, increase energy efficiency, develop clean energy technologies with applications in poorer countries, promote off-grid solar, innovate with geothermal, and secure win-win benefits from forest and land use policies.

He underscored that "while we must take care of the environment, we cannot consign African children to homework by candlelight or deny African workers manufacturing jobs."

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