



CLIMATE – NEWS

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ICFRE – CLIMATE CHANGE NEWS From the Biodiversity and Climate Change (BCC) Division, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, P.O: New Forest, Dehra Dun – 248006

CLIMATE CHANGE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

THE CARBON CYCLE RIDE

Paroma Basu, 3 October 2007

(<http://www.nature.com/news/2007/071003/full/449522a.html>)

India's blooming carbon market has emerged as the hottest destination for companies in the industrialized world seeking to do their bit in the fight against global warming. But as one of the first nations to move aggressively into carbon trading, India has also been the first to collide with the teething troubles of the fledgling market.

“There is a problem with the process of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) itself that no one has been able to remove”, says Chandra Bhushan, Associate Director of the Centre for Sciences and Environment in New Delhi. “Independent oversight, to ensure that the processes are clean, just isn't there yet.”

WHO WILL TAKE THE LEAD IN LOW-CARBON DIETING?

20 October 2007

(<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21520022~menuPK:34457~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>)

Developing countries are on track to become, eventually, the biggest contributors to global warming and climate change, but they won't modify their rapidly growing carbon appetite unless developed nations show more will in curbing their own. That was one of the major themes of a seminar “Low Carbon, High Hopes: Making Climate Action Work for Development” held Friday, 19 October during the Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund.

The seminar brought together four panelists representing major forces in the international movement to stop or at least slow down climate change, which, many scientists say, could

cause major, irreversible damage to the planet by the second half of the century. The burning of fossil fuels, agriculture, and deforestation have been identified as the chief man-made causes of climate change.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – co-winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore – says emissions must be cut by 50 percent by 2050 to avoid disastrous levels of climate change.

WHO CALLS FOR GLOBAL ACTION TO "PROTECT HEALTH FROM CLIMATE CHANGE"

Geneva, 23 October 2007

(<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2007/pr58/en/index.html>)

As momentum for action on climate change continues to grow, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced today that it will focus its World Health Day 2008 theme on "protecting health from climate change."

The World Health Organization was born out of international commitment to build global security and peace. Sixty years later, that same sense of vulnerability and solidarity is bringing the global community together to address the growing threat of climate change to public health security.

"Just as health and wellbeing was seen as a defining aspect of peace and security," notes Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General, "so too, the health and wellbeing of populations must become the defining measure of the impact of climate change and our efforts to address it effectively". Climate change is finding itself in an increasingly central position on the international agenda, as most recently evidenced by the Nobel Prize awarded to former US Vice President Al Gore and a team of UN experts for their work on the subject. Today, it is becoming clearer that sustainable development leads to healthy environments and enhanced public health.

DECLINE IN UPTAKE OF CARBON EMISSIONS CONFIRMED

CSIRO, 23 October 2007

(<http://www.csiro.au/news/CarbonEmissionsConfirmed.html>)

A decline in the proportion of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions absorbed by land and oceans is speeding up the growth of atmospheric CO₂, according to a paper published today in the US Journal: Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

Lead author and Executive Director of the Global Carbon Project, CSIRO's Dr Pep Canadell, says the acceleration is due to three factors: global economic growth; the world's economy becoming more carbon intense and a deterioration in the land and oceans' ability to absorb carbon from the atmosphere at the required rate.

Dr Canadell says the results have major implications for the current and future growth of atmospheric CO₂.

CSIRO's Dr Mike Raupach, a co-chair of the Global Carbon Project, says "The carbon cycle is generating stronger-than-expected and sooner-than-expected climate 'forcing' – that is,

mechanisms that 'force' the climate to change. In turn, climate change itself is feeding back to affect the carbon cycle, decreasing land and ocean sinks."

STEINMEIER: CLIMATE CHANGE GROWING THREAT TO PEACE

Erik Kirschbaum, Reuters, 23 October 2007

(<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSL2333181720071023?sp=true>)

Climate change is a growing threat to world peace and has led to rival territorial claims in the Arctic that could turn into a Cold War, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said on Tuesday.

Political solutions are needed now to problems posed by climate change that threaten peace in areas ranging from Africa to the Middle East and even the Arctic, Steinmeier told a conference on climate change.

"There's a 'Cold War' at the North Pole that we have to prevent," he said. "Climate change is a threat to worldwide peace and security. "Policies to fight climate change can, and will, become an important part of peace policies. We have to be aware of it and look for solutions..." he added.

"Climate change is not a far-away problem," Steinmeier said. "It's dramatic and our window to act is even smaller than we thought just a few years ago. We need more courage and more creativity, not just in technology but also politically."

NEW CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE WILL BENEFIT MILLIONS OF WORLD'S POOR - UN Agency

UNITED NATIONS, 8 November 2007

(<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=24579&Cr=climate&Cr1=change>)

A planned partnership between the European Union and developing countries will help millions of the world's poorest to tackle the effects of climate change, the head of the leading UN agency on weather and climate issues said. "Climate change is a global issue, but the world's least developed and other poor countries are the most vulnerable to the possible effects of climate change," said Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). "Therefore, a partnership with the European Union, like the Global Climate Change Alliance, can indeed be a way forward, since its benefits will also be global," he told participants at the European Development Days event in Lisbon, Portugal, according to the text of his statement issued at UN Headquarters in New York.

Jarraud welcomed the Initiative to establish a Global Climate Change Alliance between the European Union and poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, which was proposed by European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Assistance Louis Michel.

Projections show that least developed and vulnerable countries, along with small island developing States, will be the hardest hit by climate change.

WORLD SHOULD UNITE IN FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Editorial, The Standard, 25 November 2007

(http://www.eastandard.net/hm_news/news_s.php?articleid=1143977949)

Climate change dominated the agenda of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kampala, Uganda. The Commonwealth Secretary General Don McKinnon and Malta's Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi, who addressed the opening ceremony as the outgoing chairman, set the tempo for debate on what is seen as the world's next biggest headache. They spoke before the first executive meeting of the leaders drawn from 53 nations, mainly former British colonies. Gonzi urged delegates to send a strong message to the forthcoming United Nations climate change conference, in Bali early next month.

He advised that if the world wants to avoid taking drastic measures in future, then the time to act is now. The dignified presence of the leaders representing a quarter of the globe, including the Queen of England, also discussed the burning issues of modern world. The meeting, which ends today, discussed; democracy, human rights, the millennium development goals, need for fairer world trade, and terrorism.

OXFAM SAYS CLIMATE CHANGE HITS POOR HARDEST

Tendai Maphosa, London, 26 November 2007

(<http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2007-11/2007-11-26-voa56.cfm?CFID=247909582 & CFTOKEN =66910213>)

A new report by the international humanitarian agency Oxfam says weather-related disasters have quadrupled during the past two decades. It calls for governments to take measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which scientists blame for the crisis.

The Oxfam report, called Climate Alarm, says natural disasters have risen from 120 annually in the 1980s to as many as 500 today. The report notes that while crises such as the African famines of the early 1980s, the Bangladesh cyclone of 1991 and the Asian tsunami caused an enormous loss of life, the new worrying trend is the increase in small to medium-sized disasters.

One short disaster after another, even if relatively small, the report warns, can push poor people and communities into a downward spiral from which it is very difficult to recover. It says the tendency of rich countries is to prioritize their aid spending on more high-profile emergencies. They also focus on countries that are seen as being in line with their foreign policy priorities, the report says.

CLIMATE IS RIGHT TO TACKLE IMPACTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Clive Williams, The Canberra Times, 27 November 2007

(<http://canberra.yourguide.com.au/news/opinion/opinion/climate-is-right-to-tackle-impacts-of-environmental-change/1093355.html>)

There are now few sceptics about global warming, given that the effects are apparent even to flat-earth proponents. The focus is now on how rapid (or delayed) climate change might be, the extent to which human countermeasures can mitigate the effects, and consideration of best and worst case scenarios.

In Britain, on November 12, Prime Minister Gordon Brown in his first major foreign policy speech as PM noted that "The unprecedented impact of climate change transforms the very purpose of government. Once quality of life meant the pursuit of two objectives: economic growth and social cohesion. Now there is a trinity of aims: prosperity, fairness and environmental care." And "As we move to a post 2012 global climate change agreement, we need a strengthened UN role for environmental protection". He noted that "without environmental sustainability, justice and prosperity are both imperilled and that the best route to long-term economic growth lies in action to tackle climate change".

In April this year, the UN Security Council addressed the issue of global warming for the first time, warning about its potential to be a conflict catalyst. London-based conflict resolution group International Alert has identified 46 countries at risk of violent conflict and a further 56 facing a high risk of instability as a result of climate change.

In Asia and the South Pacific, the main climate change concerns relate to food and water security, infectious diseases, natural disasters, sea-level rise, energy security, environmental degradation and population displacement and the economic consequences of all of the above.

We need to recognise that climate change has the potential to generate major humanitarian crises in Asia through a greater frequency and intensity of natural disasters, particularly severe storms and flooding. Extreme weather events can result in mass mortality and grave subsistence complications for affected communities, as we have seen recently in Bangladesh.

UN'S ONE BILLION TREES GOAL MET

28 November 2007

(<http://carbonpositive.net/viewarticle.aspx?articleID=916>)

A campaign to plant one billion trees around the world in 2007 has achieved its goal, its UN sponsors say. Kenyan environmental campaigner and Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai led the programme, aimed at turning the tide of deforestation that has seen millions of hectares of forest logged for timber and cleared for farmland in recent decades.

The programme passed the one billion mark in planting pledges back in May and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) now says it has assessed that the magic number has now been planted. At that time, only 14 million tree seedlings had been planted but now six months later more than a billion are estimated to be in the ground thanks mainly to plantings on a huge scale in Ethiopia.

Around 700 million trees alone have been planted in Ethiopia this year as the country tries to reverse decades of deforestation, Reuters reports. Other contributors include Mexico planting 217m trees, Turkey 150m, Kenya 100m, Cuba 97m, Rwanda 50m, South Korea 43m, Tunisia 21m, Morocco 20m, Myanmar 20m and Brazil 16m. Pledges for 1.5 billion trees in all have been received.

UN REPORT: SEVERE CLIMATE CHANGE MAY NOW BE 'INEVITABLE'

Zoe Kenny, Global Research, 29 November 2007

(<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=7484>)

The fourth and final report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) along with all the "usual" warnings about the dangers of climate change — the increase of extreme weather conditions such as droughts, floods, fires and storms and the escalation of human suffering due to hunger, malnutrition, disease and displacement — the report contained another crucial finding that has profound implications for humanity. It warned that we may have already passed the threshold beyond which dangerous climate change is inevitable.

The language of the synthesis report is stronger than previous IPCC reports, which have been criticised for their overly conservative assessments of the threat posed by global warming. The latest report, however, warns of "abrupt or irreversible" impacts due to global warming.

BALI CLIMATE TALKS ADVANCE DESPITE SQUABBLING

Gerard Wynn, REUTERS, Tuesday, 4 December 2007

(<http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSL048169220071204?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>)

A 190-nation climate meeting in Bali took small steps towards a new global deal to fight global warming by 2009 on 4th December amid disputes about how far China and India should curb rising greenhouse gas emissions.

Yvo de Boer, the U.N.'s top climate official, praised the December 3-14 meeting of 10,000 participants for progress towards a goal of launching formal talks on a long-term climate pact to succeed the U.N.'s Kyoto Protocol

RUDD CALL ON US TO RATIFY KYOTO

Peter Williams, Karen Davis and Andrew Drummond / 5 December, 2007

(<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,22875181-1702,00.html>)

The Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has called on the US to ratify Kyoto but has dodged questions on how he will raise the subject with US President George W. Bush.

Mr Rudd's election has brought a change of direction on climate change, with his first act as prime minister on Monday being to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. He said the US – the only developed nation not to have endorsed the global greenhouse treaty – should follow suit. "Our position vis-a-vis Kyoto is clear cut, and that is that all developed and developing countries need to be part of the global solution," Mr Rudd said. "When it comes to developed countries, we need to see our friends in America as part and parcel of that as well." And therefore we do need to see the United States as a full ratification state when it comes to Kyoto."

THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE GOES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Oslo, 10 December, 2007
(<http://www.ipcc.ch/>)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Albert Arnold (Al) Gore Jr. were awarded of the Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change. Dr. R.K. Pachauri Chairman IPCC received the prize on behalf of IPCC.

US SETS TERMS FOR CLIMATE TALKS

BBC News, 15 December 2007
(<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7145608.stm>)

Delegates at the UN summit in Bali have agreed a deal on curbing climate change after days of bitter wrangling. Agreement was reached after a U-turn from the US, which had wanted firmer commitments from developing countries. Environment groups said they were disappointed by the lack of firm targets for reducing emissions.

The "Bali roadmap" initiates a two-year process of negotiations designed to agree a new set of emissions targets to replace those in the Kyoto Protocol. The EU had pressed for a commitment that industrialised nations should commit to cuts of 25-40% by 2020, a bid that was implacably opposed by a bloc containing the US, Canada and Japan.

The final text does not mention specific emissions targets, but does acknowledge that "deep cuts in global emissions will be required to achieve the ultimate objective" of avoiding dangerous climate change. It also says that a delay in reducing emissions will make severe climate impacts more likely.

ICFRE NEWS

DG, ICFRE NOMINATED AS JURY MEMBER FOR PRESTIGIOUS CLIMATE CHANGE AWARD

Climate change has become a real concern of recent times cutting across nations, communities, groups and individuals. Times of India, the leading newspaper group has been highlighting topical issues of climate change in its regular column. JSW – Times of India has constituted JSW-Times of India Earth Care Awards for the enterprises and communities who have contributed to bringing excellence in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Mr. Jagdish Kishwan, Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) has been nominated on the Jury panel for the award. The jury will be chaired by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan. Among other important members of jury are Dr. R. K. Pachauri and Dr. A. S. Manekar. Shri Kishwan is a distinguished forestry professional has actively contributed in the fields of forest policy development, agroforestry, joint forest management, climate change and forests, environment related forestry research, and extension. He is the originator of the concept of “Compensated Conservation” seeking rewards for the countries implementing strong conservation policies resulting in improvement and enhancement of forest cover, and thereby locking of more carbon.

The award will be given in three categories

1. Mitigation of greenhouse gases in small, medium and large enterprises
2. Community-led action for management of water resources, land use change and forestry
3. Innovation for climate protection

The committee is expected to meet at least twice a year. The first Earth Care Award Ceremony is scheduled on the occasion of International Earth Day, i.e., 22 April 2008.

PARTICIPATION OF DG, ICFRE IN THE EXPERT INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP, GLOBAL CARBON MONITORING SYSTEM, FOREST BIODIVERSITY MEASUREMENT AND ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Shri Jagdish Kishwan, Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education attended the expert International Workshop on Global Carbon Monitoring system, Forest Biodiversity measurement and assessment methodologies, in Tuczno (Poland) on 18 and 19 October, 2007.

INTERNATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON REDUCING EMISSION FROM DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION (REDD)

Brussels, Belgium, 24 October 2007

Shri V R S Rawat Scientist D, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, ICFRE Dehradun attended the INTERNATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON REDUCING EMISSION FROM

DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION (REDD) in developing countries in Brussels on 24 October, 2007 which was organized by Climate Focus BV, The Netherland and CATIE (Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre at Le Chatalain Hotel in Brussels.

PARTICIPATION OF ICFRE DELEGATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP 13/MOP 3) BALI, INDONESIA

3 - 14 December 2007, Bali, Indonesia

Bali hosted the Third meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 3), in conjunction with the Thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 13), from 3 to 14 December 2007. The ICFRE delegation, comprising Shri Jagdish Kishwan, DG, ICFRE, Shri Sandeep Tripathi, Secretary, ICFRE and Advisor, BCC, ICFRE, Dr. Renu Singh, Head, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, and, Dr A. Ramachandran, Forest Utilisation Officer, Tamilnadu participated in the COP 13 along with the Government of India Delegation. The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the association of all the countries that are Parties to the Convention.

About 180 nations participated in the conference. The ICFRE Delegation actively participated in different agenda items of the COP, COP/MOP and SBSTA assigned to it during the Bali conference. In particular, the delegation was fully involved in the negotiations in agenda items 5 (reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries – REDD) and 9(b) (implications of possible changes to the limit for small-scale afforestation and reforestation clean development mechanism project) of the SBSTA related to forestry during the conference.



In Bali, the Indian Delegation achieved a breakthrough in putting forth India's concern of forest conservation as a mitigation measure on the center stage of the REDD. India was putting forth the concept of 'Compensated Conservation' since Nairobi COP, through workshop in Cairns, and SBSTA meeting in Bonn. The Indian proposal on forest conservation/sustainable management of forests, and increment in forest cover as a *policy approach to enhance carbon stocks found place not only in the preamble but also in the operative part (paras 3 and 7) of the COP decision on REDD*. Similarly, COP decision on BAP contains reference, inter-alia, to *policy approach and positive incentives relating to the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CLIPORE Workshop – The Climate Change Challenge

22 January 2008, at 10 am in Uppsala, Sweden. Department of Government at Uppsala University

The aim of this workshop is to examine the societal challenges of responding to climate change. The contributions of the workshop participants will explore the role of key actors such as the EU, the connections between the climate issue and sustainable development, the interplay between climate change and world trade policy, and bottom-up as well as top-down processes that are driving climate change policy.

Please contact Charles Parker (Charles.Parker@statsvet.uu.se) or Christer Karlsson (Christer.Karlsson@statsvet.uu.se)

FOURTH AUSTRIAN JI/CDM WORKSHOP

24 January 2008 - 25 January 2008 Vienna, Austria.
(www.iisd.ca/upcoming/linkagesmeetings.asp?id=5)

This Austrian Workshop on Joint Implementation (JI) and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol will bring together project developers, investors, validators and governmental authorities with the aim of updating participants about recent developments and future perspectives after the UN climate change conference in Bali. The workshop is aimed at companies and institutions interested in exchanging information and lessons learned. For more information contact: Peter Koegler, Kommunal Kredit; e-mail: p.koegler@kommunalkredit.at; Internet: <http://www.ji-cdm-austria.at/en/portal/index.php>

DELHI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT (DSDS) 2008: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE:

7 - 9 February 2008, New Delhi, India.

DSDS will offer a platform for leading figures from North and South to address the vital issues of climate change and sustainable development, and to set the stage for an intensified search for global solutions during the year. For more information contact: The Summit Secretariat, TERI; tel: +91 11 24682100 / 41504900; fax: +91 11 24682144 / 24682145; e-mail: dsds@teri.res.in; Internet: <http://www.linux.teri.in.org/dsds/2008/index.htm>

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON “FORESTRY PROJECTS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION IN INDIA: STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE AND CAPACITY BUILDING”

21 and 22 February 2008, New Delhi

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education is organizing a two day workshop on “Forestry Projects for Climate Change Mitigation in India: Stakeholder Dialogue and Capacity building” at New Delhi on 21-22 February 2008.

The workshop will provide an opportunity to know more about existing CDM regulations, their applicability to forestry projects, available markets, and how various stakeholders can develop meaningful projects for host country approval, and subsequently for CDM

registration. For more information contact: Dr. Renu Singh Head , BCC Division, ICFRE.
Email:renusingh@icfre.org Tel.: 0135 2750296, Fax: 01352750298 , 01352755353.

4TH ANNUAL BRUSSELS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Brussels, 26 and 27 February, 2008

After a series of high profile events related to climate change throughout 2007 such as the G8 summit or the major economies meeting, the climate change negotiations during the COP13 in Bali are expected to agree on a roadmap for the negotiations for a post-2012 climate change agreement. After taking stock of the state of negotiations, this joint CEPS/Epsilon conference will explore the key issues for the post-2012 agreement.

The 4th Annual Brussels Climate Change Conference focuses upon EU and global issues relating to climate change, and in particular looks at the following issues:

- Post-2012 after Bali and before the Hokkaido G8 summit
- Progress of EU integrated energy and climate package, burden-sharing renewables and technology
- EU Emissions Trading Review with a focus on investment
- Transport

For more information contact: James Wilmott, Managing Director, Epsilon Events Ltd, 2 Alexandra gate, Ffordd Pengam, Cardiff, UK, CF24 2SA, Tel: +44 (0) 2920 894 757, Fax: +44 (0) 2920 894 755, Email: jwilmott@epsilonevents.com, Web: www.epsilonevents.com/ www.climate-policy.eu

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH AND BIODIVERSITY (COHAB 2):

25 - 28 February 2008, Galway, Ireland.

COHAB 2 will explore health-biodiversity linkages through the framework of the UN Millennium Development Goals and findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Conference workshops will focus on three areas: disaster prevention, relief and recovery; integrating biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management into disease prevention and control programmes; and meeting nutrition security and poverty challenges with biodiversity. The conference outputs are expected to be submitted for consideration at subsequent conferences on health, environment, development and climate change, including COP meetings of related MEAs. For more information contact: COHAB Initiative Secretariat; e-mail: info@cohabnet.org; Internet: <http://www.cohabnet.org>

WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE (WIREC) 2008:

4 - 6 March 2008, Washington DC, United States of America.

The US government will host WIREC 2008 at the Washington Convention Center. The WIREC 2008 event will aim to advance goals on energy security, climate change, air quality, and sustainable development, including agriculture and rural development. It will also seek to demonstrate global leadership in renewable energy research, policy development, technology innovation, commercialization and development, and to foster industry and government collaboration. WIREC 2008 will include five related events, including a ministerial meeting, legislators meeting, side events, business conference, and trade show exhibition. For more information contact: American Council on Renewable Energy; tel: +1-202-393-0001; Internet: <http://www.wirec2008.org/>

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON “DEVELOPING METHODOLOGY TO ACCOUNT FOR ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST CARBON STOCKS DUE TO CONSERVATION, AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS”

7-8 March 2008, New Delhi

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education is organizing a two day international workshop on “Developing Methodology to Account for Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks Due to Conservation, and Sustainable Management of Forests” on 7-8 March 2008 at New Delhi.

The International Workshop will discuss the possible methodological approaches, and modalities and procedures for assessing positive increment in forest carbon stocks due to i) increase in forest cover, and ii) sustainable management of forest/conservation. The event will also provide an opportunity to the countries that support compensation for forest conservation, forest stabilization, and increment in forest cover as mean for reducing emissions from deforestation under international negotiations, to share views, put together their ideas, present an agreed consolidated front and garner support for forest conservation in the current and future negotiation under Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). For more information contact: Dr. Renu Singh Head, BCC Division, ICFRE. Email: renusingh@icfre.org Tel.: 0135 2750296, Fax: 01352750298, 01352755353.

INTERNATIONAL DANBIF CONFERENCE

Biodiversity Informatics and Climate Change Impacts on Life

5-6 April 2008, University of Aarhus, Denmark.

The Danish Biodiversity Information Facility (www.danbif.dk) is the Danish node of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF, www.gbif.org). DanBIF hosts a series of international conferences on the application of biodiversity informatics. Global climate change is becoming the great challenge of our time. A key issue is how the looming climate changes will impact Earth's rich biodiversity. This issue is closely tied up to the basic research question "What determines species diversity". The role of past and present climate as determinants of biodiversity and the potential impacts of future climate on biodiversity are the topics that this conference will focus on. These issues are the kind of complex large-scale problems that are very difficult to study by the traditional experimental approach to science.

Instead an informatics approach is necessary, and this conference will provide the best possible insight into results, possibilities, and challenges to biodiversity informatics studies of climate change impacts of life. The conference will run over two days and will present a series of leading scientists in biodiversity informatics studies of climate change impacts and related fields. For more information contact: DanBIF - Danish Biodiversity Information Facility, University of Copenhagen, Universitetsparken 15, DK-2100 Copenhagen Phone: +45 3532 1024, email: lendsleff@snm.ku.dk , web: www.danbif.dk

RECENT STUDIES

RISING SURFACE OZONE REDUCES PLANT GROWTH AND ADDS TO GLOBAL WARMING

Science Daily 27 July 2007

(<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/07/070725143612.htm>)

Scientists from three leading UK research institutes have just released new findings that could have major implications for food production and global warming in the 21st century. Experts from the Met Office, the University of Exeter and the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, have found that projections of increasing ozone near the Earth's surface could lead to significant reductions in regional plant production and crop yields. Surface ozone also damages plants, affecting their ability to soak up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and accelerating global warming.

Near-surface ozone has doubled since 1850 due to chemical emissions from vehicles, industrial processes, and the burning of forests. Dr Stephen Sitch, a climate impacts scientist at the Met Office Hadley Centre and lead author of the article, said: "Climate models have largely ignored atmospheric chemistry but in this research we have identified a cause of potentially increased warming with elevated levels of surface ozone likely to suppress plant growth."

Plants and soil are currently slowing--down global warming by storing about a quarter of human carbon dioxide emissions, but the new study suggests that this could be undermined by further increases in near-surface ozone. As a result more carbon dioxide would accumulate in the atmosphere and add to global warming. Co-author, Professor Peter Cox of the University of Exeter, explains: "We estimate that ozone effects on plants could double the importance of ozone increases in the lower atmosphere as a driver of climate change, so policies to limit increases in near-surface ozone must be seen as an even higher priority."

The research is published online in Nature 25 July 2007.

IPCC FOURTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR4)

17 November, 2007

(www.ipcc.ch)

The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) "Climate Change 2007" was released on 17 November 2007 at Valencia, Spain.

The Fourth Assessment Report (Climate Change 2007) is released in four distinct sections:

- Working Group I Report (WGI): Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis.
- Working Group II Report (WGII): Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.
- Working Group III Report (WGIII): Climate Change 2007: Mitigation of Climate Change (final version).
- The Synthesis Report (SYR): Summary for Policymakers (SPM)

For each section, the IPCC will release the main report and a summary version, known as the Summary for Policymakers. Full reports and summaries of Working Groups I-III have been released, plus a summary of the Synthesis Report.

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