



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

METHANE'S KEY ROLE IN GLOBAL WARMING

Richard Harris,
Environmental News Network
http://www.enn.com/top_stories/article/40959

Carbon dioxide is the gas we most associate with global warming, but methane gas also plays an important role. For reasons that are not well understood, methane gas stopped increasing in the atmosphere in the 1990s. But now it appears to be once again on the rise. Scientists are trying to understand why — and what to do about it.

Methane gas comes from all sorts of sources including wetlands, rice paddies, cow tummies, coal mines, garbage dumps and even termites. Drew Shindell, at NASA's Goddard Institute in New York, says, "It's gone up by 150 percent since the pre-industrial period. So that's an enormous increase. CO₂, by contrast, has gone up by something like 30 percent."

Molecule for molecule, methane is much more effective than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. And that's just part of the trouble. "Methane is much more complicated once it gets into the atmosphere than something like carbon dioxide is," Shindell says, "and that's because it reacts with a lot of different important chemicals."

For example, methane in the atmosphere also creates ground-level ozone. And ozone isn't only bad for human health; it also contributes to global warming. Shindell recently totaled up all the effects of methane emissions and realized that the heating effect is more than 60 percent that of carbon dioxide's.

US CLIMATE ENVOY SUPPORTS INDIA'S DECISION FOR ITS OWN PANEL

Lalit K Jha

17 February, 2010

Press Trust of India

http://www.ptinews.com/news/521476_US-climate-envoy-supports-India-s-decision-for-its-own-panel

Washington, (PTI) America's top Climate Czar today supported the recent Indian announcement to establish its own panel on the climate change, saying that any scientific study is a welcome move. "I think it's a good thing for countries to have an active scientific effort. I do not know what the details are. I do not know what Minister (Jairam Ramesh) or others in India have in mind," Special US Envoy on Climate Change Todd Stern said.

"But I think, obviously, the US has all sorts of scientific work that we do through our various agencies of the US Government," Stern said at a news conference.

The Special US Envoy on Climate Change, Todd Stern also said the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an important international body, but noted the errors appearing in its lengthy report are regrettable.

PROTECTED FOREST AREAS MAY BE CRITICAL STRATEGY FOR SLOWING CLIMATE CHANGE

30 March, 2010

Science Daily

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/03/100316083719.htm>

A new study involving scientists from 13 different organizations, universities and research institutions states that forest protection offers one of the most effective, practical, and immediate strategies to combat climate change. The study was published in *PLoS Biology* and makes specific recommendations for incorporating protected areas into overall strategies to reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses from deforestation and degradation (nicknamed REDD).

"Deforestation leads to about 15 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, more than all the cars, trucks, trains, ships, and planes on earth. If we fail to reduce it, we'll fail to stabilize our climate," said Taylor Ricketts, director of World Wildlife Fund's science program and lead author of the study. "Our paper emphasizes that creating and strengthening indigenous lands and other protected areas can offer an effective means to cut emissions while garnering numerous additional benefits for local people and wildlife." The authors highlight analyses showing that since 2002, deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon has been 7 to 11 times lower inside of indigenous lands and other protected areas than elsewhere. Simulation models suggest that protected areas established between 2003 and 2007 could prevent an estimated area of 100,000 square miles of deforestation through 2050. That is roughly the size of the state of Colorado, representing enough carbon to equal

1/3 of the world's annual CO2 emissions. Within these efforts, location matters; protected areas in regions that face deforestation pressures would be most effective at truly reducing emissions.

"This study reinforces the wisdom behind global investments in protected areas," says Gustavo A.B. da Fonseca, co-author of the study and Team Leader Natural Resources of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). "In addition to protecting globally important species and ecosystems, the 2,302 protected areas supported by the GEF alone span over 634 million hectares and together store an impressive 30 billion tons of CO2"

International policies for compensating forest nations for REDD are under active negotiation. To access the resulting funds, developing countries will need to develop programs and institutions to reduce forest emissions. "Protected areas represent a valuable component of national REDD programs since they already contain the necessary institutions and infrastructure to handle funds, strengthen protection and generate results," said Claudio Maretti, Conservation Director, WWF Brazil. "Establishing protected areas usually clarifies land tenure and the associated carbon rights, which has been a sticking point in some negotiations."

In addition, the study estimates that the cost of creating and better managing protected areas is lower than many other options to reduce emissions from deforestation. Completing and managing a network of protected areas in the developing world might require \$4 billion USD annually, which is roughly 1/10 of the capital that could be mobilized by international REDD policies.

CLIMATE CHANGE NATIONAL NEWS

MANMOHAN SENDS STRONG REPLY TO LETTER FROM DANISH PRIME MINISTER AND U.N. CHIEF ON COPENHAGEN ACCORD

R. Ramachandran

24 January, 2010

The Hindu

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/01/24/stories/2010012460060800.htm>

New Delhi: As India gets ready to host the important meeting of the BASIC countries — India, China, South Africa and Brazil — on Sunday to decide on a collective strategy for the way forward in 2010 following the Copenhagen Accord of December 18, 2009 at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15), Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is understood to have sent a strong reply to the letter the Indian government received on the definitive follow-up action to the Accord from Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The Prime Minister has apparently questioned the legal status of the various provisions included in the Accord.

As has been reported, on December 30, 2009, a note verbale was sent by the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the U.N. to all missions of UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) Parties in New York “inviting Parties [to the UNFCCC] to inform the UNFCCC secretariat of their willingness to be associated with the Copenhagen Accord” (Emphasis added. Since the Accord was only taken note of by the Conference of Parties, and not adopted, there is no requirement of its being signed by the Parties.)

But, more importantly, the same day, a separate joint letter was also sent by Mr. Rasmussen and Mr. Ban to all heads of state and governments urging them (in particular the 26 Friends of the Chair involved in drafting of the Accord) to “publicly associate themselves with the Accord.”

The joint letter apparently also reiterated the deadline of January 31, 2010, set in Accord for both Annex 1 Parties (developed countries including the U.S.) and non-Annex 1 Parties (developing countries) to submit to the UNFCCC secretariat their emission reduction commitments to be listed in the Accord. These commitments include unilaterally chosen quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets for 2020 (with a base year also to be unilaterally decided) for Annex 1 countries and nationally appropriate mitigation actions for non-Annex 1 countries.

The fact that the U.N. Secretary-General has chosen to throw his weight behind the Accord rather than the Kyoto Protocol, especially when the Accord was not a consensual decision of COP15, is being viewed with concern by analysts here. Since the Accord was not adopted by COP15, its legal status, particularly with regard to the various measures that it requires the UNFCCC to take, remains highly ambiguous and hence the UNFCCC secretariat cannot seek to implement it, say experts.

Apprehension

The developed countries, in particular the European Union, have been promoting the Accord as a first step towards a new legally binding agreement to be evolved during 2010, something that the developing countries have been apprehensive of. The statement by UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo De Boer, at the press conference soon after the Accord, which made no mention of either the Kyoto Protocol or the reports of the two Ad Hoc Working Groups on the Long-Term Cooperative Action and the Kyoto Protocol that had actually been adopted by consensus at COP15, had indeed raised eyebrows. Now that the U.N. Secretary-General himself has chosen to promote the Accord as the basis for a future binding agreement, it has lent credence to the impression that is gaining ground that the U.N. too seems to be working towards dumping the Kyoto Protocol altogether.

Political declaration

Dr. Singh’s response basically rejects the premise that the Rasmussen-Ban letter seeks to legitimise, as this was not the understanding of the BASIC countries at Copenhagen. The BASIC Four had endorsed the Accord at Copenhagen with a clear understanding that it was only a political declaration and that their commitments continued to lie with the Kyoto Process and the Bali Action Plan. It is believed that Dr. Singh has written that if this understanding is now being belied, then the Indian government would be constrained to not submit the national mitigation actions by the January 31 deadline set by the Accord.

The Indian position, analysts say, should be acceptable to all the BASIC countries and this could form the basis for their response to the January 31 deadline. Further, this position should also help in evolving a collective strategy to revive the Kyoto Process during the 2010 climate negotiations

INDIA KEEPS COPENHAGEN PLEDGE ON EMISSION CUTS

Swati Mathur,
1 February, 2010
The Times of India, New Delhi

India is stepping up pressure on the West to act on climate change. On Saturday, the government formally conveyed to UNFCCC that India will endeavour to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 20-25% by 2020 in comparison to the 2005 level through domestic mitigation actions. While the 'voluntary' actions will have international ramifications, the decision comes with an important 'conditions apply'. India has also clarified that these actions will be entirely voluntary in nature and will not be legally binding in nature. The mitigation actions will also not apply to the country's agriculture sector. The decision assumes significance in view of India's traditional position on the issue of climate change. While the Indian government has recognised the Copenhagen Accord as a political 'guiding' document, it has refused to accept it as legally binding. The government has also maintained that the Accord cannot continue while sidetracking the official UN negotiation process on climate change.

Earlier this week, India had also sent a letter to Lykke Friis, Denmark's minister for climate change and energy, maintaining that UN's two-track negotiating process be "urgently activated".

With this letter, India reiterated its stance that the official negotiation process must be carried forward stringently. Dated January 28, it said, "The centrality of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process must be preserved. Therefore, in line with discussions of Conference of Parties (COP-15), the two-track negotiating process along Ad-hoc Working Group (AWG) on Long-term Cooperative Action and AWG on Kyoto Protocol must be urgently activated in the run up to COP-16."

India also requested the COP to convene a meeting of AWG LCA and AWG KP "no later than March 2010" and hold more such meetings before COP-16 to be held in December this year in Mexico. With this, according to well-placed sources in the government, the BASIC countries, especially India and China, established their importance in the climate change debate.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL AND IT'S HERE: REPORT

Tom Arup
15 March, 2010 The Age
<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change-is-real-and-its-here-report-20100314-q63a.html>

Australia's two leading scientific agencies will release a report today showing Australia has warmed significantly over the past 50 years, and stating categorically that "climate change is real". The State of the Climate snapshot, drawn together by CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology partly in response to recent attacks on the science underpinning climate change, shows that Australia's mean temperature has increased 0.7 degrees since 1960. The statement also finds average daily maximum temperatures have increased every decade for the past 50 years.

The report states that temperature observations, among others indicators, "clearly demonstrate climate change is real", and says that CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology "will continue to provide observations and research so Australia's responses are underpinned by clear empirical data". The report also found that the 2000s were Australia's warmest decade on record; that sea levels rose between 1.5 and three millimetres a year in Australia's south and east, and between seven and 10 millimetres in the north between 1993 and 2009; and that sea surface temperatures have risen 0.4 degrees since 1960.

The release of the report comes as many Australian scientists have expressed angst at current attacks on the science underpinning the argument that global warming is man-made. They fear it is damaging the reputation of science as a whole. Former Australia of the Year and long-time climate campaigner Tim Flannery last month urged climate scientists to talk to the "confused Australian public" and answer their questions about the science.

Bureau of Meteorology director Dr Greg Ayres told *The Age* the purpose of today's snapshot was to remind Australians that the bureau had been collecting objective and observable climate information for a century. "I would like to invite the Australian public to use... the information generated in the national interest to reach an opinion on climate change because it is objective information," he said.

CSIRO chief executive Megan Clark said yesterday that while society would debate the science underpinning climate change - much like previous debates about the link between smoking and lung cancer - CSIRO's role was to release "unemotional" scientific data.

ICFRE NEWS

PARTICIPATION OF ICFRE DELEGATION IN THE CONFERENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTS HELD AT INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE ON 19 FEBRUARY, 2010

The ICFRE delegation, comprising Dr. G.S. Rawat, DG, ICFRE, Dr Renu Singh, Head, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, and Shri V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist- D, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, participated in the workshop "Climate Change and Forests" at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on 19 February 2010. Dr G.S. Rawat, DG, ICFRE Chaired the forenoon session on Climate Change. Dr Renu Singh, Head, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division made a presentation on 'Climate Change and Forests: Research priorities and issues'.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE CCAFS LAUNCH CONFERENCE: SECURING FOOD SECURITY IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

4 May, 2010

World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), Nairobi

Climate change represents an immediate and unprecedented threat to the food security of hundreds of millions of people who depend on small-scale agriculture and natural resource management for their livelihoods. At the same time, agriculture also contributes to climate change, by intensifying greenhouse gas emissions and altering the land surface.

To facilitate new research on the interactions between climate change, agriculture, natural resource management and food security, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) has

initiated a Challenge Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). CCAFS will create unique possibilities in the search for solutions to climate change and food security problems.

A Launch Conference is planned to engage with the research and development community on the R&D challenges to be tackled in relation to the linkages between climate change, agriculture, natural resource management and food security.

For registration and more information on the CCAFS Launch Conference, visit <http://www.ccafs.cgiar.org>.

SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BANKS OF OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES

14 June, 2010

Bangkok, Thailand.

This seminar is being held in accordance with decision XXI/2 on ozone depleting substances (ODS) banks. The seminar aims to identify and mobilize funds for destruction, including funds additional to those being provided under the Multilateral Fund. For more information contact: tel: +254-20-762-3850/1; fax: +254-20-762-4691; e-mail: ozoneinfo@unep.org; Internet: <http://ozone.unep.org/Events/meetings2010.shtml>

2010 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FISH AND CLIMATE CHANGE

23- 30 July, 2010

Queen's University in Belfast will host the 2010 Fisheries Society of the British Isles Annual International Symposium, which this year will examine Fish and Climate Change. The meeting (www.fsbi.org.uk/2010<<http://www.fsbi.org.uk/2010>>) will run between 23-30

July 2010. It aims to maximise interactions between fish biologists of all disciplines and backgrounds who are interested in climate change.

Rather than splitting fishes by salinity-habitats, the meeting will examine the influence of climate change on fish at different levels of biological organisation. Sessions will be organised to examine the role of climate change on the biology of fish at the genetic, cellular, individual, population, community and ecosystem levels. As such, we envisage this to be a meeting where a wide variety of fish biologists (e.g. ecologists, fisheries biologists, physiologists and geneticists) can meet to present and discuss the issues of climate change effects on fish so as to develop a synthesis across scales and levels of biological organisation. We also hope it will help foster new collaborations that further progress the field of Fish and Climate Change. We have an outstanding set of invited speakers, including John Magnuson (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Keith Brander (ICES), Malcolm Elliott (Freshwater Biological Association), Hans Pörtner (Alfred Wegner Institute) and Nils Christian Stenseth (University of Oslo).

We would be extremely happy to welcome your submissions as either oral or poster presentations (abstract deadline 30 November 2009).

See www.fsbi.org.uk/2010<<http://www.fsbi.org.uk/2010>> for conference details and <http://www.paceprojects.co.uk/fsbi2010-abstract.htm> for abstract submission.

BONN CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS AUGUST 2010 AWG-KP 13 & AWG-LCA 11

The thirteen session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties of the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 13) and the eleventh sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 11).

Monday 2 to Friday 6 August 2010.

Venue: Hotel Maritim

Kurt-Georg-Kissinger-Alle 1

53175 Bonn, Germany

The above-mentioned sessions will be preceded by preparatory meetings of the Group of 77 and China, the African Group, the small islands developing States and the least developed countries.

ICCCGW 2010: "INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING"

27- 29 October, 2010
Kyoto, Japan

The International Conference on Climate Change and Global Warming aims to bring together academic scientists, leading engineers, industry researchers and scholar students to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of Climate Change and Global Warming, and discuss the practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted.

PAPER SUBMISSION

All full paper submissions will be peer reviewed and evaluated based on originality, technical and/or research content/depth, correctness, relevance to conference, contributions, and readability. The full paper submissions will be chosen based on technical merit, interest, applicability, and how well they fit a coherent and balanced technical program. The accepted full papers will be published in the refereed conference proceedings. Prospective authors are kindly invited to submit full text papers including results, tables, figures and references. Full text papers (doc, .rft, .ps, .pdf) will be accepted only by electronic submission.

REGISTRATION FEES

Important Dates

Paper submission	June 30, 2010
Notification of acceptance	July 31, 2010
Final paper submission and authors' registration	August 31, 2010
Conference Dates	October 27-29, 2010
Early Conference Registration	Late Conference Registration
Normal Author Fees: 450 Euro	Normal Author Fees: 500 Euro
Listener Fees : 200 Euro	Listener Fees : 250 Euro

SIXTEENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNFCCC AND SIXTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

29 November - 10 December, 2010.
Mexico City, Mexico.

For more information visit: http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php?year=2010

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