



CLIMATE – NEWS

ISSUE – XVII

April to June 2008

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

KYOTO PROTOCOL CDM PASSES 1000TH REGISTERED PROJECT MILESTONE

14 April 2008, Bonn, UNFCCC CDM News

http://unfccc.int/files/press/new_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/pressre1_080414_1000.pdf

The Kyoto Protocol's clean development mechanism (CDM) has registered its 1000th project, an energy efficiency project in Andhra Pradesh, India, expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 34,000 tonnes annually. "The CDM has passed another milestone, it was time to reflect on our success and redouble our efforts to improve and expand the mechanism", said Rajesh Kumar Sethi, Chair of the CDM Executive Board, who signed off on the 1000th project at a joint coordination workshop in Bonn, Germany.

CLIMATE CHANGE-US: GOVERNORS UNITE TO CUT EMISSION

By Adrienne Appel

20 April 2008, NEW HAVEN, (IPS)

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=42053>

U.S. state governors say they are fed up with the George W. Bush administration's foot-dragging on climate change and will go ahead and around the White House to reduce greenhouse gases. 18 states signed a declaration committing themselves to "the effort to stop global warming" during a series of discussions and a ceremony at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. "In the absence of federal leadership the states have stepped up," said Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius, who spoke at the ceremony with California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine.

The U.S. is the world's number one greenhouse gas emitter, and the 18 states emit as much greenhouse gas as the biggest nations in Europe combined together. Any reduction would be significant for the health of the planet, said Daniel Esty, Director of the Yale Centre for Environmental Law and Policy. Many of the states, like New Jersey and Massachusetts, have acted on their own, without federal encouragement or support, and put in place plans to significantly reduce greenhouse gases by 2020.

GLOBAL WARMING BRINGS TROPICAL BIRDS TO HONG KONG

11 May 2008, Hong Kong

http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/enviornment/global-warming-brings-tropical-birds-to-hong-kong_10047528.html

The sighting of two rarely seen tropical birds in Hong Kong could be due to climate change, bird experts have said. The birds - a great frigate and the white-tailed tropic-bird - were both spotted around Po Toi, Hong Kong's southern most island, over the last month. It was the first time the white-tailed tropic has ever been spotted in Hong Kong and only the fourth sighting of the frigate. Both birds are usually seen in more tropical climates such as the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Chairman, Cheung Høfai, told the South China Morning Post Saturday that their appearance could be attributed to climate change and that the nearest nesting colony of frigate birds was in Hawaii.

"The birds are very sensitive to climate change and observing them is definitely a good way to understand the changes", he said. Climate experts claim Hong Kong could no longer have winters by the middle of this century with average temperatures rising by at least one degree Celsius in the next 20 years.

AUSTRALIA DROUGHT INCREASING WORLD GRAIN PRICES: EXPERT

25 April 2008, 7:18pm AEST

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/04/25/2227836.htm>

An expert in science communication says the drought in Australia is one of the reasons world grain prices are increasing. International prices of some grains, including rice, have reached record levels. Professor Julian Cribb from Sydney's University of Technology says a dramatic rise in demand for food in places like China and India is also to blame. "Over the last eight years the world has eaten more food every year than it has produced, that's the bottom line, that's why prices are going up", he said.

"One of the factors that has come in, is that Australia, a significant grain trader, has had a drought and has not produced much grain".

GORE PREDICTS WORSENING CLIMATE CHANGE-TIMES ON LINE

12 April 2008

http://www.climatechangenews.org/newsArchive/newArchive2008_jan-apr.html

Climate change is taking place even faster than the worst predictions made by the UN's Nobel prize-winning panel on climate change, said Al Gore. The former US Vice-President and winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize said that there were forecasts that the North Pole ice cap could disappear during summer months within five years. "The climate crisis is significantly worse and unfolding more rapidly than those on the pessimistic side of the IPCC [International Panel on Climate Change] projections had warned us."

GOVERNMENT MOVES TO QUELL TURF WAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY: NITIN SETHI

21 April 2008 , TNN

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Govt_Turf_war_on_climate_change

New Delhi: The government has finally taken control on its faltering climate change policy and decided to give it focus. In an attempt to end the turf war raging between different ministries, agencies and individuals, it has decided to allocate distinct work to each of the battling government wings. The government's climate change agenda will soon be divided into three sections – International negotiation, implementation of the national action plan and research on climate change.

Shyam Saran, the recently appointed PM's special envoy on climate change, will head all international negotiations as convener with a core group of negotiators. The core group will be supported by a technical support group, which will include not only multilateral negotiation experts but also subject specialists. With the second phase of the Kyoto treaty to be negotiated by 2009, some even contending that it would stretch further, India needs at least a dozen official working full time for this period.

The government, in the recent negotiations in Bangkok, had forced that future negotiations progress simultaneously on all fronts- mitigation of climate change, adaptation to existing risks from climate change and technology transfer to help leapfrog to a cleaner development model. While this was a victory for the Indian delegation, it will now require experts and negotiators to manage the several fronts it has opened up.

CLIMATE CHANGE COULD INCREASE HIV RATES

1 May 2008 , The Times of India

http://timeofindia.indiatime.com.Earth/Climate_change_could_increase_HIV_rate/article..

Sydney: Climate change will trigger a chain of events that is likely to prompt an increase in HIV rates worldwide, an expert has warned. Daniel Tarantola of the University of New South Wales (UNSW) said the disadvantage in developing countries must be addressed if the world is to prevent a dramatic escalation of the HIV epidemic as well as other health problems. "It was clear soon after the emergence of the HIV epidemic that discrimination, gender inequality and lack of access to essential services have made some populations more vulnerable than others", Tarantola said. David Cooper, also of UNSW, said: "Science has achieved great strides towards shaping a more effective response to HIV. Yet research has not succeeded in producing the hoped-for 'magic bullets' of either a cure or a vaccine."

GLOBAL WARMING LINKED TO CARIBOU-CALF MORTALITY

2 May 2008, Science Daily <http://www.sciencedaily.com/release/2008/05/080501180253.htm>

Fewer caribou calves are being born and more of them are dying in West Greenland as a result of a warming climate, according to Eric Post, a Penn State associate professor of biology. Post, who believes that caribou may serve as an indicator species for climate changes including global warming, based his conclusions on data showing that the timing of peak food availability no longer corresponds to the timing of caribou births.

Caribou, which are closely related to wild reindeer, are dependent on plants for all their energy and nutrients. Throughout the long Arctic winter, when there is no plant growth, they dig through snow to find lichens; however, in spring they rapidly switch to grazing on the new growth of willows, sedges, and flowering tundra herbs. As the birth season approaches, they are cued by increasing day length to migrate into areas where this newly-emergent food is plentiful.

But this routine, which has worked for millennia, is faltering because caribou are unable to keep pace with certain changes that have occurred as a result of global warming. When the animals arrive at their calving grounds now, pregnant females find that the plants on which they depend already have reached peak productivity and have begun to decline in nutritional value. According to Post, the plants which initiate growth in response to temperature, not day length are peaking dramatically earlier in response to rising temperatures. "Spring temperatures at our study site in West Greenland have risen by more than 4 degrees Celsius over the past few years," said Post. "As a result, the timing of plant growth has advanced, but calving has not."

The phenomenon, called trophic mismatch, is a predicted consequence of climate change, in which the availability of food shifts in response to warming, whereas the timing of demand for those resources does not keep pace. Trophic mismatches have been documented in birds -- with the most famous example being the study on Dutch birds and their caterpillar prey that was highlighted in former Vice President Al Gore's film *An Inconvenient Truth* but, until now, the phenomenon had not been observed in terrestrial mammals. "Our work is the first documentation of a developing trophic mismatch in a terrestrial mammal as a result of climatic warming," said Post. "And the rapidity with which this mismatch has developed is eye-opening, to say the least."

UN TO ASSIST AFRICAN FARMERS THREATENED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

2 May 2008, UN

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26481&Cr=climate&Cr1=change>

Soon 10,000 farmers in five African countries, where crops are expected to be affected by climate change will receive help from the United Nations World Meteorological Organization (WMO). WMO will help in the form of low-cost rain gauge equipment and seminars by agricultural experts.

With the help from Spain, WMO will distribute the rain gauges to volunteer farmers in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal, and train them in using rainfall data to plan sowing, fertilizer application and harvesting. The seminars aims to support farmers' self reliance by supplying them with information on weather and climate risk management. According to the projections by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the area in West Africa is suitable for agriculture, the length of the growing season and crop yields, especially along the margins of arid and semi urban areas are all expected to decrease. In some African countries, yield from rain-fed farming could be reduced by up to 50 per cent by 2020.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 5 JUNE 2008

<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

World Environment Day, commemorated each year on 5 June, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulated worldwide awareness of the environment, and also enhanced political attention and action.

The World Environment Day, slogan for 2008 is "Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy".

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CALLS FOR END TO CO₂ ADDICTION

By Gyles Beckford

5 June 2008, Wellington

www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSSP221220080605?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews

WELLINGTON (Reuters) - The United Nations urged the world to kick the habit of producing carbon dioxide, saying everyone must act to fight climate change.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said global warming was becoming the era's defining issue and would hurt rich and poor. "Our world is in the grip of a dangerous carbon habit," Ban said in a statement on World Environment Day, which is being marked by events around the globe and hosted by the New Zealand city of Wellington.

"Addiction is a terrible thing. It consumes and controls us, makes us deny important truths and blinds us to the consequences of our actions," he said in the speech to reinforce this year's World Environment Day theme of "CO₂ Kick the Habit." World Environment Day, conceived in 1972, is the United Nations' principal day to mark global green issues and aims to give a human face to environmental problems and solutions.

New Zealand staged art and street festivals to spread the message on how people can reduce carbon usage. In Australia, Adelaide Zoo staged a wild breakfast for corporate leaders to focus on how carbon emissions threaten animal habitats.

PM RELEASES NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE

30 June 2008, 14:45 IST (PIB Press Release)

http://pib.nic.in/release/re_l_print_page1.asp?relid=39899

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh released India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, in a brief ceremony in New Delhi. The National Action Plan has been prepared under the guidance and direction of Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change.

Prime Minister made a brief speech on the occasion. He said that the release of the National Action Plan reflected the importance the Government attaches to mobilizing our national energies to meet the challenge of climate change.

The National Action Plan focuses attention on 8 priority National Missions. These are: 1. Solar Energy, 2. Enhanced Energy Efficiency, 3. Sustainable Habitat, 4. Conserving Water, 5. Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, 6. A "Green India", 7. Sustainable agriculture, and 8. Strategic Knowledge Platform for Climate Change

Prime Minister emphasized the global dimension of the challenge of climate change, which demanded a global and cooperative effort on the basis of the principle of equity. India, he said, was ready to play its role as a responsible member of the international community and to make its own contribution. He added that India believed that every citizen of this planet should have an equal share of the planetary atmospheric space and, therefore, long-term convergence of per capita GHG emissions was the only equitable basis for a global agreement to tackle climate change. In this context, the Prime Minister reaffirmed India's pledge that as it pursued sustainable development, its per capita GHG emissions would not exceed the per capita GHG emissions of developed countries, despite our developmental imperatives.

Prime Minister clarified that the National Action Plan would evolve and change in the light of changing circumstances and, therefore, invited broader interaction with civil society as a means to

further improve the various elements of the Plan. In his concluding remarks, the Prime Minister recalled Mahatma Gandhi's sage advice : "The earth has enough resources to meet the needs of people, but will never have enough to serve their greed".



ICFRE NEWS

PARTICIPATION OF ICFRE DELEGATION IN THE 28th SBSTA/SBI MEETING OF UNFCCC (UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE) HELD IN BONN (GERMANY) FROM 2-13 JUNE 2008.

The ICFRE delegation, comprising Shri Jagdish Kishwan, DG, ICFRE, Dr Renu Singh, Head, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, Mr. V.R.S. Rawat, Scientist, Biodiversity and Climate Change Division, and Dr A. Ramachandran, Director, Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation Research, Anna University Chennai, Tamilnadu participated in the meeting along with the Government of India Delegation

The delegation was fully involved in negotiations in respect of SBSTA Agenda item 5 on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries (REDD): Approaches to stimulate action; AWG –KP Agenda item 3(b) on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF); and, SBSTA Agenda item 8 (c) Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry activities under articles 3.3 and 3.4 of Kyoto Protocol during the Conference.

India in its opening statement reiterated support for adoption of a holistic approach while discussing outstanding methodological issues relating to various policy approaches including conservation, sustainable management of forests, reducing deforestation, and increase in forest cover, under REDD. It also stressed on development of a common methodology for assessment and monitoring of forest carbon stocks suitable to all policy approaches being followed by different countries. India was able to highlight and get included phrases of interest to India like **“estimating and monitoring changes in forest cover”, “incremental changes due to sustainable management of the forest,” “Options for.....forest inventories, ground based, and remote sensing approaches”, “...role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks...”** in the draft text for further considerations.



Participation of ICFRE delegation in the 28th SBSTA/SBI meeting of UNFCCC

INCEPTION MEETING OF THE SECOND NATIONAL COMMUNICATION (SNC) PROJECT ON 9-10 MAY 2008 AT ICFRE, DEHRADUN.

The Biodiversity and Climate Change Division (BCC) of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun organized a two day inception meeting of the Second National Communication (SNC) Project on Assessment of Soil Carbon Stocks and Dynamics in Forest Soils of India for the period 1995-2007 on 9-10 May 2008 at Dehradun under the Chairmanship of Shri Jagdish Kishwan, Director General, ICFRE. All the nodal officers from ICFRE regional Institutes, and IIRS Dehradun attended the meeting to finalize the sampling plan and methodological details of the project.



Inception meeting of the NATCOM II (SNC) Project

UPCOMING EVENTS

THIRD SESSION OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE ACTION UNDER THE UNFCCC AND SIXTH SESSION OF THE AWG UNDER THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

21 - 27 August 2008, Accra, Ghana.

The third meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action, a body established at COP 13 in Bali, will take place at Accra, Ghana, from 21 to 27 August 2008. The sixth session of the AWG on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Protocol will also take place at the same time. For more information contact: UNFCCC Secretariat; tel: +49-228-815-1000; fax: +49-228-815-1999; e-mail: secretariat@unfccc.int; Internet: <http://www.unfccc.int>

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: ADAPTATION OF FORESTS AND FOREST MANAGEMENT TO CHANGING CLIMATE WITH EMPHASIS ON FOREST HEALTH: A REVIEW OF SCIENCE, POLICIES, AND PRACTICES

25 - 28 August 2008, Umeå, Sweden.

Co-hosted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, this conference will focus on the current state of knowledge of ongoing changes in climatic conditions in different

regions of the world, and the implications of these changes for forest health, forest management and conservation. Presentations and discussions will emphasize research, policies and practices that are needed to enable us to plan for and manage healthy, productive forests to meet future societal needs for forest products and the full range of forest goods and services. For more information contact: Alexander Buck, IUFRO; tel: +43-1-877015113; e-mail: buck@iufro.org; Internet: <http://www.forestadaptation2008.net/home/en/>

29TH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC 29)

Dates to be announced. Geneva, Switzerland. IPCC 29 will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, during the first week of September 2008, when the IPCC's 20th anniversary will be celebrated. For more information contact: IPCC Secretariat; tel: +41-22-730-8208; fax: +41-22-7 30-8025/13; e-mail: IPCC-Sec@wmo.int; Internet: <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

4TH AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND CLIMATE CHANGE AND BUSINESS CONFERENCE

18 - 20 August 2008, Auckland, New Zealand

The 4th Australia- New Zealand Climate Change and Business Conference will again look at the risks and opportunities facing business as a result of climate change with a focus this year on emissions trading, both compliant and voluntary, and complementary measures to address climate change.

HARVESTED WOOD PRODUCTS IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES

9-10 September 2008, Geneva, Switzerland

The workshop will focus on providing high-level information for policy makers and other stakeholders on the role of wood products in fighting climate change.

14TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

21-23 September 2008, New Delhi, India.

The International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS) announces its 14th annual conference. The topics discussed and research themes addressed will cover the diversity of aspects and approaches in sustainable development research. A novel feature of this year's conference is an emphasis on interaction between participants from developed and developing countries for the challenge of global unsustainable development. Sustainability researchers will be able to learn from each other's experience and jointly create solutions for making progress in sustainable development.

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON APPLIED CLIMATOLOGY (ECAC)

29 September - 3 October 2008, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC) will be held together with the Annual Meeting of the European Meteorological Society (EMS). The theme of the conference is understanding of and adaptation to current and future climate. The rationale of this conference was

the launch of the green paper of the EU (June 2007) wherein it was stated: "Climate change poses a double challenge: Europe must not only make deep cuts in its greenhouse gas emissions but also take measures to adapt to current and future climate change in order to lessen the adverse impacts of global warming on people, the economy and the environment". ECAC will serve as a platform where experts and scientists on climate will communicate with policy makers that are responsible for the implementation of adaptation strategies.

Compiled and Edited By:

Dr. Renu Singh IFS

Head

Biodiversity and Climate Change (BCC) Division

ICFRE, Dehra Dun

Dr. Om Kumar

Scientist 'B'

Biodiversity and Climate Change Division

ICFRE, Dehra Dun

Kindly send suggestions to:

renusingh@icfre.org

kumarom@icfre.org