

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

ENVIRONMENT - The oversight board of the UN Clean Development Mechanism, part of the Kyoto Protocol, is meeting this week in Germany to help poor countries gain access to clean-energy projects, as well as alleviate a backlog of applications for carbon-emissions reductions. The board hopes to expand its role among islands and small countries with low emissions of greenhouse gases - likely targets for rich countries looking to buy carbon offsets.

AFRICA

DJIBOUTI - In a region with some of the world's worst indicators for malnutrition, Djibouti is making gains and ensuring mothers and their children have access to life-saving interventions, say officials.

KENYA - Kenyan Prime Minister argued that Africa needs to implement more bold economic reforms, build critical infrastructure, improve governance, wealth redistribution and healthcare, and enhance human capital formation through education, research and training. He argued that Africa must devise its own development agenda, improve governance and engage all its citizens, in order to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 and sustainable development beyond 2015.

ASIA & PACIFIC

INDIA - Distribution, not production, is the key to ensuring that India's half a billion poor have enough reasonably-priced food to eat, according to a food policy research expert. Up to 40% of the country's fruit and vegetable production is reportedly lost because of inefficient distribution networks, as well as a lack of cold storage facilities.

INDONESIA - Environmentalists and the government have welcomed a pledge by Indonesia's largest palm oil producer to follow new standards to protect carbon-rich forests and peat land.

MYANMAR - Over the past year, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has recruited a national network of hundreds of volunteers ready to report and bring to law acts of forced labour in Myanmar.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

LAC Region - Central America has suffered the highest rate of forest loss in Latin America over the last 10 years, despite a growing number of plans aimed at curbing the decline, the UNFAO reports.

ECUADOR - UN Secretary General commended the efforts undertaken in Ecuador to consolidate democracy following last year's unrest, while also lauding advances related to indigenous issues, human rights and the environment.

WFWO's Communications Team