



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

ENVIRONMENT - Extending greenhouse-gas emissions caps for two years may be a temporary solution to maintain a supply of offset credits if world leaders are unable to agree on a new international climate-change treaty before the Kyoto Treaty expires in 2012, a committee of developed countries says. The Clean Development Mechanism, the world's largest carbon market, allows developed countries to purchase credits through support of projects that curb emissions in the developing world.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - Giving young women small, regular cash payments can reduce their dependence on sexual relationships with older men, which also lowers their HIV risk, according to a new study by the World Bank.

BURUNDI - An anti-corruption watchdog claimed on Thursday that Burundi is the most corrupt country in East Africa. Transparency International conducted a survey about bribery in public and private institutions across five countries in the region: Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The group interviewed nearly 10,500 people between January and March 2010. The results indicate that Burundi's revenue authority and police force are the two most corrupt organisations in East Africa. The survey also found that the least corrupt country in the region is Rwanda, where incidents of bribery were described as "negligible".

D.R. CONGO - A huge gold mine in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo is set to be developed in mid 2011 and will require the relocation of 15,000 local residents

MALI - In Mali's northeastern Kidal region water shortages - many say the worst in 10 years - threaten lives and the region's very stability, residents and local authorities say.

SOMALIA - Several thousand people in northern Somalia have been displaced in recent weeks by clashes between Somaliland troops and a new rebel group, according to local and UN sources.

■MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT - Almost two months since Egypt announced it would reopen its Rafah border terminal with the Gaza Strip, operation of the crossing remains sorely limited.

IRAQ - Insufficient funds and an overburdened public services infrastructure have prompted authorities in Iraq's central province of Karbala to assist the voluntary return of up 90,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 100,000 squatters.

PAKISTAN - With the onset of a heavier than usual monsoon season, assistance to tens of thousands of people affected by torrential rains and flash floods in different areas of the country has not been adequate and the risk of disease outbreaks is growing, local authorities have said.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

LAC Region - More fixed capital investment to improve competition, greater added value to exported goods and services, and tax reforms to finance social policies are some of the challenges Latin America and the Caribbean face in the uncertain global economic panorama.

HAITI - People suffering from HIV in southern Haiti are also victims of another pathology: severe prejudice. Misunderstanding of the virus has led to rampant discrimination in Jacmel, where AIDS and HIV patients are forced to live in isolation.

WFWO's Communications Team