

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - Current agreements aiming to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius do not go far enough to reduce the effects of climate change before it becomes catastrophic and irreversible, according to Christiana Figueres, the executive secretary of the Framework Convention on Climate Change at the United Nations. She said at an annual conference on international emissions trading that future plans should target a 1.5-degree centigrade rise, as current levels would not keep seas from rising to overwhelm low-lying and coastal countries, or temperatures rising to devastate sub-Saharan agriculture.

**FORESTS** - The rate of destruction of the world's major forests - in the Congo Basin, Amazon and South East Asia - has dropped 25% over the past decade in comparison with the previous one, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization says. But farming, population growth and illegal logging continue to drive forest destruction.

**ENERGY** - As the world continues to marvel at the widespread progress in modern technology and home electronics, there are still about 2.5 billion people - out of a global population of nearly 6.9 billion - who have little or no access to electricity. According to the Paris-based IEA, the future does not hold much hope either - unless there is a dramatic improvement in current efforts to provide electricity to the world's "energy poor".

## AFRICA

**RWANDA** - A new report has rekindled debate on whether the Rwandan government "betrayed" women who were raped during the 1994 genocide by letting community-based gacaca courts process their cases.

**SOUTH AFRICA** - Johannesburg's abandoned and neglected inner-city buildings have become slum dwellings for thousands of people, many of them jobless migrants, who endure over-crowding, poor or non-existent sanitation and limited access to running water and electricity because of a lack of affordable alternatives.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**MYANMAR** - Most cross-border human trafficking in Myanmar involves women tricked into travelling to China to get work, only to find a groom waiting for them on the other side.

WFWO's Communications Team