



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

CLIMATE CHANGE - This year is set to be among the three warmest since records began in 1850 and caps a record-warm decade that is a new indication of man-made climate change, the United Nations said on Thursday. "The trend is of very significant warming," the head of the World Meteorological Organization, told a news conference on the sidelines of a meeting of almost 200 nations in the Caribbean resort of Cancun trying to curb global warming.

AIDS - Wealthy countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany have seen an increase in the number of new AIDS cases because young people, especially men, have become complacent. A surge in AIDS cases in Eastern Europe and Central Asia is being attributed primarily to drug use.

HEALTH - Children and adults living with HIV can be protected from one of their deadliest threats – tuberculosis (TB) - with a regular, low-cost preventive medication according to new guidelines launched today by the WHO. Of the nearly two million AIDS-related deaths each year, a quarter of them are associated with TB.

■AFRICA

African countries can achieve food self-sufficiency within a single generation despite the strains of climate change, according to an international study. Efforts to support small-scale farmers and introduce crops that are more resistant to harsh weather conditions could end Africa's dependency on international food aid, researchers reported.

COTE D'IVOIRE - More than a month after a long-overdue presidential election, Ivoirians still do not know who their president is, trapped in a post-election limbo marked by violence, the tearing up of ballot papers and bitter recriminations between rival political groups.

UGANDA has lost more than two million hectares of forest since 1990, mostly converted to farmland by a growing population of smallholders. Carbon finance through the REDD programme is often presented as one way to arrest this destruction, but only if the benefits clearly translate to the grassroots.

■ASIA & PACIFIC

INDIA - Environment minister looks set to make a bold deviation from the country's formal stance on climate change talks to suggest that developing countries should agree upfront to a detailed plan for international scrutiny of their mitigation actions without waiting for developed countries to reveal their hand.

SRI LANKA - More Sri Lankan refugees in India are ready to return to their homeland, says the UN Refugee Agency.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - Deforestation has fallen 14% over 2009 levels in the Amazon in Brazil, marking the lowest rate in more than two decades. Authorities attribute the drop to better monitoring and policing, as well as the refusal of some businesses to buy beef and soybeans produced in former rain forests.

COLOMBIA - The wide-ranging knowledge about climate variation possessed by native people and other small farmers, such as the people in one region of Colombia, is almost a perfect match to scientific measurements recorded on high-tech instruments.

CUBA - Gay rights advocates in Cuba received an unprecedented response from Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez, in a meeting held at the ministry itself, after they complained about this country's support in the United Nations for an amendment seen as a step backwards from the government's position against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

WFWO's Communications Team