

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

CLIMATE CHANGE - The world's three biggest polluters - China, the United States and India – have refused to move towards a new legal commitment to curb their carbon emissions, increasing the risk that climate talks will fail to clinch a meaningful deal this week.

WOMEN - The effects of climate change are increasing the difficulties women in developing countries have in crafting sustainable livelihoods, participants in the Rural Women's Assembly in Durban, South Africa, say. Floods, drought and other extreme weather events are damaging the supply of raw materials that women rely on to provide for their families.

AFRICA

HUNGER & CLIMATE CHANGE - The forests in Africa absorb over 1.2 billion tonnes of carbon annually. With these diverse and natural forests, grasslands and prairie lands disappearing under investment schemes and the development of monoculture plantations for supposed "green" energy alternatives like agrofuels, not much else remains to absorb the shocks of hunger and climate change.

HEALTH - Efforts to genetically modify mosquitoes against carrying the malaria parasite could translate into major development gains for Africa if successful, researchers say. Ending malaria, which causes 1 million deaths a year, is a key target of international public health advocates, but some believe developing a vaccine would pose less risk than releasing genetically modified mosquitoes.

SWAZILAND - On the heels of a decision by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria to cancel its next round of funding, the Swazi government is calling on donors to come to the impoverished country's aid.

ASIA & PACIFIC

CLIMATE CHANGE - More than a billion people living in Asia's major river basins are at risk as glaciers in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region melt due to the effects of climate change, the findings of three new scientific studies have shown.

INDIA - Industrial pollution from a paper manufacturing factory in one of India's most precious biodiversity hotspots is wreaking havoc on the local ecology, driving up the population of wild crocodiles in the area while simultaneously destroying the creatures' habitat and food supply.

PAKISTAN - Hundreds of thousands affected by this year's floods in southern Pakistan remain without adequate shelter, food, safe drinking water and healthcare, aid workers say.

MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN's southern city of Taiz - scene of mass protests demanding the resignation of President Ali Abdullah Saleh - is facing an increasingly serious humanitarian situation, with dozens killed and injured, and limited access to water, health and education after several days of fierce fighting.

WFWO's Communications Team