



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

ENVIRONMENT - Billions of dollars are being mobilised to protect and increase the world's forests under a climate protection mechanism known as REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation). But many experts are unsure that it will work, and some fear it could end in disaster.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Solutions to global warming based on the logic of the market are a threat to the rights and way of life of indigenous peoples, the Latin American Indigenous Forum on Climate Change concluded this week in Costa Rica.

EDUCATION - The United Nations Children's Fund has launched the fourth edition of "Facts for Life", a handbook filled with information that could save the lives of some nine million children across the globe who die from preventable and treatable illnesses every year before they reach the age of five.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - Donors spend more for health, governments less - In Africa government spending on health care, as a percentage of national expenses, rose just 0.3 percent from 2001 to 2007, while donor funding of the sector during the same period increased from 15.3 to 20.1 percent, according to a review of 52 African countries' health spending by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Africa Region - Health officials believe that they can eradicate Guinea worm disease entirely by 2015 by changing water-sanitation habits and ensure access to clean water in sub-Saharan Africa - in particular in Sudan. Though the disease is not usually fatal, the debilitating pain it causes can interrupt work and life. The World Health Organization has identified polio as the next disease in line for the same sort of concerted effort that eliminated smallpox, but critics say that Guinea worm disease is a more deserving candidate, because of the low cost in eliminating it.

NIGER - Agencies call for \$190 million to stem crisis - Aid agencies are asking donors for US\$133 million to help the government feed millions of people at risk of going hungry, adding to \$57 million already received or committed.

SOUTH AFRICA - The first of the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations and endorsed by its global membership is to eradicate poverty and hunger, but the energy to drive the economy that creates the jobs that earns the money to buy the food and all that flows from there needs to be as cheap as possible. The answer in South Africa is coal; cheap but dirty.

UGANDA - The Ugandan Parliament is debating a Bill that will involve citizens in the fight against corruption following an increase in embezzlement of public funds by public servants.

■ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - Family-related determinants of poverty - Family size and composition have strong economic and social consequences in Afghanistan, experts say.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA - To live up to the "Zero Garbage" law that went into effect in 2006, the volume of waste ending up in landfills in the Argentine capital was to be significantly reduced every year, with the ultimate aim of eradicating landfills by 2020. But environmentalists are skeptical that the goal will be reached.

HAITI - Humanitarian best practice - dignity, not just digits - As established standards of humanitarian response are being put to the test in Haiti, aid experts say safeguarding the dignity of those affected by January's earthquake requires agencies to think beyond mere numerical benchmarks.

PERU - A tribe in Peru has filed a formal complaint accusing a foreign oil company of polluting its land, food and water supplies in the Amazon basin

WFWO's Communications Team