

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

ENVIRONMENT - A report released Monday by the UN Environmental Programme spotlights the effects of unsustainable land-use, and the problems associated with safely decommissioning aging nuclear reactors, as among the most critical environmental issues facing the world today. Agricultural methods that contribute to soil erosion contribute significantly to global warming, according to the Year Book 2012.

TECHNOLOGY - At a time when mobile technology is being heralded for its unprecedented potential to improve global development, it is easy to forget about the impact of a more primitive, and less expensive, technology, the radio. Radio remains the main source of information and popular feedback in remote areas of the planet, where only 35% of all people use the Internet.

AFRICA

KENYA - Almost all Kenyans eat maize - an average of almost 100kg each a year - but they pay a lot more for the staple than many of their regional neighbours. The poorest Kenyans now spend over a quarter of their income on the cereal.

NIGERIA - Poverty has risen in Nigeria, with almost 100 million people living on less than a \$1 (£0.63) a day, despite economic growth, statistics have shown. The National Bureau of Statistics said 60.9% of Nigerians in 2010 were living in "absolute poverty" - this figure had risen from 54.7% in 2004.

ASIA & PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN's new national director for orphanages, has been conducting inspections of the country's provincial children's homes in an effort to root out corruption by local officials, who often siphon off not only the \$1.50 that is allocated daily per child, but food and clothing.

CHINA - Experts realize they cannot constrain the growth of cities in China, an urbanization boom that is not only unprecedented for the world, but especially harmful to the environment. Experts and foreign conservation groups are trying to get China's construction industry to use principles of green design and smart growth to steer future development.

TIMOR LESTE - The Southeast Asian half-island nation of Timor-Leste is falling short on most Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), experts warn. Timor-Leste gained independence from Indonesia to become one of the world's youngest nations in 2002 after a 25-year civil war. Six years of instability followed. Due to Timor-Leste's recent violence, the UN chose it as one of nine countries worldwide to receive extra support in meeting the MDGs.

WFWO's Communications Team