

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Nonbinding guidelines to secure access rights to land, fisheries and forest resources for indigenous peoples have been adopted by the United Nations, but the voluntary framework will require nation buy-in to enforce. The directives, following a decade of land selling or leasing of nearly 495 million acres, mainly in Africa and Asia, are seen as a step toward alleviating world hunger. "The challenge now is for countries to adapt these guidelines to national conditions and needs before implementing them," writes José Graziano da Silva of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

HEALTH - The UN World Health Organization is expected next week to pass a resolution calling polio a global health emergency despite inroads against the disease in India, where wild polio has been halted. New cases increased significantly last year in three polio-endemic countries: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan, which recorded increases of 220%, 185% and 37%, respectively.

AFRICA

FOOD SECURITY - Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa will not be sustainable unless the region's governments grow food more efficiently and feed the one-fourth of the population living in hunger, according to a report published today by the United Nations Development Programme.

KENYA - At least 1.3 million farmers in Kenya - more than double the figure for 2010 - do not have any maize seeds to plant this season, despite favourable weather conditions, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

ASIA & PACIFIC

NEPAL - Widows living with HIV in Nepal's remote hill districts in some of the country's poorest and vulnerable communities face a particularly bleak future.

THAILAND - A Geographical Information System (GIS) is being used to map vegetable production in the greater Bangkok region, seat of Thailand's capital, to analyse how urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) contribute to food security in the city of more than 14 million.

WFWO's Communications Team