

NEWS BULLETIN

17 FEBRUARY 2012



GLOBAL

WATER - A new study shows the patterns of global water use for the 10-year period ending in 2005. About 92% of all fresh water is used in agriculture, and countries in North Africa, and Central and Southwest Asia, have the least sustainable patterns of water consumption.

HIV/AIDS - With enough money spent in the right way, the world could soon reduce new HIV infections to zero, but global apathy and the financial crisis mean it might take another 50 years to stop the AIDS epidemic, a UN expert has said.

AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE - Over 100,000 people in Mozambique are still recovering from losing their homes and crops, and from being cut off from schools and shops after a tropical storm and cyclone hit the southern African country in January. But the worst may not be over as another dangerous cyclone is expected to make landfall Friday evening as emergency stocks run low.

SUDAN - Conflict, population displacement and high food prices mean millions of people in South Sudan face hunger this year, two UN food agencies have said.

ASIA & PACIFIC

CLIMATE - If countries in the Asia Pacific do not change how they use resources, particularly water and fossil fuels, carbon emissions in the region could triple by 2050, according to a study by the United Nations and the Asian Development Bank. "A key dilemma will be how to meet the needs of expanding and increasingly affluent populations while reducing poverty and staying within environmental limits," the authors conclude.

PAKISTAN bears some of the blame for the relief efforts that fell short after last year's devastating floods, but international aid agencies are at fault, too, according to a newly published paper. More than 2.5 million people still lack sufficient food and shelter.

MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT - The reassertion of power by Egypt's military, combined with the growing political clout of Islamists, are sidelining women and issues of gender equality after the revolution that women helped bring about. Today, only five women hold seats in parliament a year after a quota system had helped expand their participation to 68 seats.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

RAINFOREST AND WATER - An alteration of the relationship between the Amazon rainforest and the billions of cubic metres of water transported by air from the equatorial Atlantic Ocean to the Andes Mountains could endanger the resilience of a biome that is crucial for the global climate, warns a recently concluded two-decade research project.

WFWO's Communications Team