

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

**CLIMATE** - Weeks before Brazil hosts the Rio+20 conference on sustainable development, President Dilma Rousseff is weighing whether to veto an overhaul of a forest-protection bill that critics say will reopen the gateway to destruction of the Amazon, leading to the loss of an estimated 190 million acres of forest. Advocates say the bill would boost the country's economy.

**HEALTH** - Mosquitoes are becoming more resistant to anti-malarial treatments and insecticides. The UN World Health Organization has issued a strategic plan to ward off a resurgence of malaria that could reverse progress attributed to bed nets and insecticide spraying in homes.

## AFRICA

**MADAGASCAR** has a low level of HIV prevalence, and managing its AIDS programme should present no major difficulties. But the apparent advantage of a low infection rate, combined with the ongoing political crisis, has brought its own challenges.

**MALAWI** - A sizeable devaluation of Malawi's currency, aimed at reinvigorating the economy and wooing back international donors, has triggered steep increases in the price of basic goods and pushed many Malawians deeper into poverty.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**BANGLADESH** - Decisions that are made (or not made) at the upcoming Rio+20 conference on sustainable development will have a direct bearing on Bangladesh, a country that is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, says the country program manager for the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development. He discusses how climate change is affecting the land, economy and people in Bangladesh.

**SRI LANKA** - Life is slowly returning to normal in northern Sri Lanka, but three years after a decades-long conflict was officially declared over, jobs and housing are the prevailing concerns of returnees.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**POVERTY** - A new report takes a close look at the territorial distribution of poverty and inequality in Latin America, which has long had a reputation of being the most unequal region in the world. The [Latin American Report on Poverty and Inequality 2011](#), presented this week by the Latin American Centre for Rural Development, notes that rural areas and indigenous and black populations are hit hardest by inequality. It also points out that the huge disparities in development levels within the countries of Latin America are one of the aspects of inequality that have received the least attention.

**BRAZIL** - As the host of Rio+20, the Brazilian government has defined guidelines for achieving success at the upcoming world summit, whose aim is to assess and strengthen what has been done since the 1992 Earth Summit, the first global meeting on sustainable development.

**EL SALVADOR** - Dozens of women in an impoverished region of western El Salvador are acting against the effects of climate change by planting an "energy forest" using basic concepts of agroecology.

WFWO's Communications Team