

# NEWS BULLETIN

7 June 2011



## **GLOBAL**

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - Current agreements aiming to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius do not go far enough to reduce the effects of climate change before it becomes catastrophic and irreversible, according to Christiana Figueres, the executive secretary of the Framework Convention on Climate Change at the United Nations. She said at an annual conference on international emissions trading that future plans should target a 1.5-degree centigrade rise, as current levels would not keep seas from rising to overwhelm low-lying and coastal countries, or temperatures rising to devastate sub-Saharan agriculture.

**FORESTS** - An effort led by the United Nations to assess the commercial worth of forests should also include the size of trees, and not just the total area they populate, a study concludes. The more dense the forest, the more carbon dioxide it captures - slowing global warming, and offsetting deforestation elsewhere.

**TECHNOLOGY** - Internet access is a basic human right, and governments should try to provide their people with affordable and consistent access to the Web, according to a special rapporteur to the United Nations.

## **AFRICA**

**SUDAN** - Fighting between the Southern Sudanese army and an array of armed opposition movements is severely limiting the ability of humanitarian agencies to reach vulnerable populations, aid workers say.

## **ASIA & PACIFIC**

**AFGHANISTAN** - Clashes between government forces and the Taliban have displaced at least 12,000 people in Afghanistan's remote northwestern province of Faryab, creating a dire need for water, sanitation and other essentials, the ARCS warns.

**BANGLADESH** - Health and livestock officials in Bangladesh have expressed concern over a fresh outbreak of human anthrax in two northwestern districts, but some believe a bigger threat is to livelihoods.

**CAMBODIA** - Significant challenges remain in the process towards full democratic governance in Cambodia, a United Nations independent human rights expert has said, while also recognizing the steps the country has taken towards democracy.

## **MIDDLE EAST**

**SYRIA / LEBANON** - Nearly a half of the several thousand Syrians who recently fled violence in the southwest, escaping to northern Lebanon, have returned to their homes in Syria, local residents said.

WFWO's Communications Team