

Green Voice

April - June 2009

Quarterly Newsletter

CMS ENVIS

Newsletter on Environment & Media

Theme: Biofuels



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Initiative of



CMS Teams

www.cmsindia.org



CMS *social*

www.cmsindia.org/cmssocial
socialteam@cmsindia.org
healthteam@cmsindia.org



CMS *environment*

www.cmsindia.org/cmsenvironment
envteam@cmsindia.org



CMS communication

www.cmsindia.org/cmscommunication
communicationteam@cmsindia.org



CMS transparency

www.cmsindia.org/cmstransparency
cmstransparency@cmsindia.org



CMS surveys

www.cmsindia.org/cmssurveys
surveyteam@cmsindia.org



CMS media lab

www.cmsmedialab.org
www.cmsindia.org/cmsmedialab
medialab@cmsindia.org



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COMMUNICATION & CONVERGENCE STUDIES

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info@cmsacademy.org
cmsacademy@cmsindia.org



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www.cmscart.in

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www.cmsvatavaran.org
vatavaran@cmsindia.org
info@cmsvatavaran.org

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CMS ENVIS Centre

www.cmsindia.org/cmsenvis
cmsenvis@nic.in
cmsenvis@cmsindia.org



www.breadsocietyindia.org
breadsociety@gmail.com

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Media Analysis



CMS *environment*

Promoting Environmental Responsibility

www.cmsindia.org/cmsenvironment

The CMS Environment Team is involved in policy research and programs evaluation aimed at creating sustainable solutions for environment protection and improving the quality of the environment. Creating capacities, undertaking outreach and advocacy and formulating strategies are its strengths.

Key Areas

- Urban and Rural Environment
- Climate Change
- Water Sector Reforms: Water Supply and Sanitation
- Natural Resource Management: Watershed, Forestry and Livelihoods
- Wildlife Conservation
- Environmental Education and Awareness

Services

- EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES
 - Water Sector Reforms; Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation
 - Natural Resource Management (Watershed, Forestry and Livelihood)
 - Environmental Education and Awareness
- CAPACITY BUILDING
- OUTREACH PROGRAMMES
 - Environmental Communication Strategies and Studies
 - Environmental Education and Advocacy
- ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE (ENVIS)
- AUDIO-VISUAL RESOURCE CENTRE (AVRC)

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GREEN VOICE

April - June 2009

In Black & White

Noida-based firm to recycle e-waste

Correspondent : PTI

NEW DELHI: The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has registered for the first time a Noida-based firm for recycling of e-waste, which poses a grave risk to the environment. A year after issuing notification for e-waste management, the pollution control authority is also in the process of vetting proposals from five more companies keen to enter the field.

E-waste processing is dominated by the informal sector even as it is expected to cross a staggering 800,000 tonne mark by 2012. The organized sector is mostly absent. "This is mainly due to poor processing technologies, which have small capacity, as well as lack of awareness among the users," said Nitin Gupta, CEO of Attero Recycling, the first company in the country to have been authorized to collect and recycle e-waste by the CPCB.

"According to a Greenpeace Report, in 2007, India generated 380,000 tonnes of e-waste. Only 3% of this made it to the authorized recyclers facilities," he said indicating the environmental threat posed by the menace.

Gupta said that the CPCB will supervise functioning of the state-of-the-art plant operational in Roorkee in Uttarakhand for the next six months. Only then will the license be further extended, he said.

Source : Tuesday, June 02, 2009

Filmmaker's call for eco-friendly measures

Correspondent : Staff Reporter

CHENNAI: Advocacy of environment-friendly measures should be knowledge-driven and data-driven, wildlife filmmaker Shekar Dattatri said here on Saturday. Speaking at a panel discussion on 'Young India on climate change' organised by

the British Council, he said: "Environmentalists can inspire the world on green initiatives but engineers can save the world from the problems of climate change with proper innovation in technology."

There is tremendous scope for research on the environment. But the absence of an inventory is preventing the study of the human impact on environment in our country. As scientists are not always good communicators, many of the research works do not reach the common man, Mr. Dattatri added. Many of the people in the urban areas do not know the source of the water they drink. As the efficient water harvesting system of peninsular India is being affected by deforestation, many rivers face challenges, he said.

N. Nagendran, Professor of Environmental Science, Anna University, stressed the need to document traditional knowledge to maintain the environment.

Archana Jayaraman, one of the climate champions, said that children should be provided with proper learning tools to understand the significance of climate change. Climate champion Shobana Srinivasan said the masses have to be motivated to contribute towards mitigating climate change.

Source : Monday, June 08, 2009

Return your junk phone, get a tree planted

Correspondent : IANS

NEW DELHI: Every time you return a junk mobile phone to a Nokia dealer, the firm will thank you by planting a tree, apart from recycling that phone in an eco-friendly manner. Announcing the initiative on World Environment Day, Ambrish Bakaya, director of corporate affairs in Nokia India, said the firm had already tied up with two NGOs in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to plant 22,000 trees. The programme would soon be extended to the top 15 cities of the country, he added.

"We already have 1,300 bins at our main dealers' shops around the country where people can throw in their junk phones," Bakaya said.

The mobile phone manufacturer with the largest market share in India has been getting a good response. "Now we have tied up with an NGO called Ahimsa in Kancheepuram district of Tamil Nadu to plant 12,000 trees, and with Bangalore's Rotary Midtown to plant 10,000 trees in educational institutions around that city."

Nokia has also been working computer manufacturers to strengthen the laws on recycling of e-waste, which threatens to become a major problem in India.

Saying that the firm was working with the Manufacturers Association for Information Technology, the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Department of Telecommunications to put together stronger guidelines on the subject, Bakaya added: "We welcome any step which helps strengthen e-waste management and creates awareness about the need to recycle e-waste in an eco-friendly manner".

Source : Saturday, June 06, 2009

Going green now a lucrative business option

Correspondent : TNN

PUNE: While concerted efforts are on to eliminate computer hardware waste in a manner which is least harmful to the environment, software companies are opting for green computing, helped by approaches such as virtualisation, cloud computing and dynamic infrastructure.

"Implementing virtualisation enabled us to reduce the number of (server) racks required to host our datacenter hardware from four to one," says Raghuvir Singh Sohal, manager, management information systems at Bajaj Auto Limited. Importantly, "we have reduced the server fleet power and cooling costs considerably," Sohal adds. Majority of companies globally have added (or are planning to do so within the next 12 months) virtualisation technology to their servers, consolidated storage systems, or retrofitted their server rooms. "Businesses around the world have discovered that going green isn't just good for the

planet; it's good for their bottom line as well," said Ramesh Narasimhan, director, general business, IBM India/South Asia. "Green IT strategies are leading to savings in operational expenditure; lower space and power and higher return on investment."

A study by Springboard Research says virtualisation software and services market in Asia-Pacific will grow at an estimated 42 per cent to reach \$1.35 billion by 2010 as interest in the technology has steadily increased. Virtualization services, estimated to grow to \$1 billion by 2010, will form a major portion of this market as organisations will spend two-three times more on services than on software.

Of particular interest to start up businesses and mid-size firms would be cloud computing which envisages the use of a pool of highly scalable managed IT infrastructure that can be used by virtually any business, which can thereby concentrate fully on the core business and bring home huge savings in terms of cost of power in addition to saving the heavy up-front investment in IT setup. The savings in IT infrastructure and maintenance (including the energy bill) is estimated to be 25 per cent for those businesses using cloud computing.

According to IDC research, global cloud computing services spending will increase almost three-fold in three years, from about \$14 billion now, to \$42 billion by 2012. The savings in IT infrastructure and maintenance cost is estimated to be 25 per cent. Of course, larger businesses, which would not want to use an external agency for cloud computing, can create their internal cloud' to reap the same benefit of an optimised IT infrastructure.

IBM has recently unveiled its dynamic infrastructure lab which combines the advantages of virtualisation and cloud computing. The lab aims to help organisations deliver the visibility, control and automation needed to address quality service, manage risk and compliance, besides maximising return on investments and accelerate business growth.

Ponani Gopalakrishnan, vice-president, IBM India software lab, said: "A dynamic infrastructure

transforms physical and digital assets into higher valued services. It is highly optimised to achieve greater results with improved service management, and leverages new technologies and strategies to reduce costs, manage risk and deliver superior business and IT services with agility and speed."

IBM has developed capability to monitor (on real-time basis) the server capacity in use and to automatically reduce power and cooling for equipment not in use, he said.

Using energy monitoring systems along with advanced virtualisation and automated management, the company is looking to increase operational efficiency by over 20 per cent and in turn increase its green footprint, he added.

Source : Monday, June 01, 2009

Sensitising students to climate change

Correspondent : Madhur Tankha

NEW DELHI: As part of its "Low Carbon Future" initiative, British Council in collaboration with non-government organisations Earth Matters Foundation and Television for Environment is launching 15 films on environment and climate change at its premises here on Friday. According to LCF head, Dr. Sudhanshu Sinha, these films have been produced by British Council in association with the two NGOs.

"These films will be shown in government schools where children normally don't have access to quality films. We will also organise discussions in schools. In fact, the DVDs of these films will be distributed free of charge to 5,000 government schools in Delhi, Chhattisgarh and Chennai and other cities in Tamil Nadu as a contribution to environmental education in schools. The respective State governments in Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh are important stakeholders in this project." he said.

The aim of the project is to help teachers in the school's eco-clubs. Often because of funding constraints, the teachers, while delivering the

curriculum on environment, are restricted only to the textbooks. Because climate change and environment are dynamic subjects, it is essential to discuss the recent and relevant topics in the classroom. By incorporating these films in the school curriculum the eco-club teachers will be able to inspire students and impart a more holistic approach towards environmental education. Pointing out that visual media such as films act as powerful influencers in initiating students to commit and act for the cause, Dr. Sinha said: "By using these films as teachings aids, teachers in government schools across three States will be reaching over a million students and sensitising them on various aspects and impacts of climate change."

For sometime now, British Council has been using films as a tool to sensitise audiences at large on various aspects of climate change. The Wildscreen Film Festival recently held in February is one such endeavour, the other being the UK Environment Film Fellowships (UKEFF). While the former targets audiences at large by screening award winning documentaries, UKEFF aims to encourage and grow the environmental filmmaker community across the country. Students and teachers from over 30 of Delhi's best government and private schools will be participating in the launch of the films for schools project at British Council. The launch will host a panel discussion on "Role of visual media in environment curriculum" which will be followed by a film screening. The films are all in English, however, most of the films have also been dubbed in Hindi. To ensure the success of the project, the teachers will be asked for a feedback by submitting a report stating the response of the students and the follow up activities done after viewing the films.

Source : Friday, May 01, 2009

Film show on environment

Correspondent : Yangchan Dolma

Schoolchildren from remote areas of Ladakh watched a film show on environmental issues on the first day of the two-day Leh environmental film festival here today.

The theme of the festival is “Quotes from earth-travelling film festival series”. Organised by the Forest Department and the State Pollution Control Board, Leh, in collaboration with Delhi-based NGO-Toxic Link, eight films covering different environmental issues ranging from climate change, energy efficiency and environment protection were screened at the auditorium hall today.

Divisional forest officer, Leh, Dr B Balaji said eight more films on environmental issues would be screened tomorrow and a drawing and painting competition for schoolchildren on environment issues would also be held in the coming days.

Source : Thursday, 28 May 2009

Commitment towards Mother Earth

Correspondent : Staff reporter

NEW DELHI: To commemorate Earth Day, National Geographic Channel has launched “Preserve Our Planet” movement to emphasise its commitment towards preservation, exploration and education of the world we live in. In partnership with the British Council and Madi Design, the channel has started a six-day-long celebration to highlight the current state of our planet. The “Nat Geo Eco Week” is exhorting television viewers to contribute their bit towards preserving Mother Earth from environmental degradation. Its series of on-ground activities started on April 17.

Described as a carbon neutral event, the channel is making a commitment to plant a tree for each person attending the exhibition. Besides a photography exhibition that is a compilation of National Geographic Channel’s images highlighting climate change, a two-day “Green Film Festival” will showcase award-winning films on global warming - “Electric Water Taxi” (Monday), “Earth Report: State of Our Planet” (Monday), “Human Footprint” (Tuesday) and “Six Degrees” (Tuesday). The six-day festival concludes with a “Green Fashion Show” on Earth Day (Wednesday) that will bring together country’s top-notch fashion designers including Ritu Kumar, Rajesh Pratap Singh and Raghavendra Rathore under one platform to showcase their ecologically responsible collections.

Rajesh Pratap Singh, who is Indian ambassador in promoting our clothes overseas, says: “I will come up with special type of organic cotton collection that is hand woven and hand spun. I have used environment-friendly material. Fashion is a good vehicle for communication. Not just designers but also bankers and people from different walks of life should contribute to the noble cause.”

During the fashion show, Kakoli Banerjee of Satya Jyoti Trust who also won the prestigious award at the “Paris Ethical Fashion Week”, will also showcase her collection along with renowned UK-based designer Mark Liu with the revolutionary “Zero Waste Collection - Singularity Point” for autumn winter 2009/2010. Speaking at the launch in the Capital this past week, British Council Director Rod Pryde said: “We are pleased to partner with National Geographic Channel for the Eco Week because we think we can have a really exciting event that is absolutely at the cutting edge of fashion and what is going on in the world.” Speaking about the eco-friendly initiative, Nikhil Mirchandani of National Geographic Channel said: “Through the Eco Week we want to sensitise our viewers to the fact that no environmental issue stands on its own. It is time to change, to think and act towards preserving our planet as even the smallest things count, whether it is buying ethically produced products or recycling waste or simply turning the light off before leaving a room.”

Film

The channel will also air critically-acclaimed film on the Earth Day including “Seed Hunter”, “Strange Days On Planet Earth: Oceans - Dangerous Catch”, “Strange Days on Planet Earth: Oceans--Dirty Secrets” and “Extreme Ice”.

Source : Monday, April 20, 2009

“Environmental threats as destructive as terrorism”

Correspondent : Staff reporter

CHENNAI: People find it hard to agree that the living conditions we enjoy and take for granted today may not be here for future generations due to our own misuse, according to former Vice President

of the United States Al Gore. His award-winning documentary, 'An Inconvenient Truth,' was the first of eight films screened at the 'Quotes from the Earth' film festival hosted by Environ Solutions and Toxics Link here on Saturday.

The festival focused on four major areas of global environmental concern: hunger, water survival, climate change, and the effects of urban development. Environ Solutions and Toxics Link, NGOs working in the area of environment, decided to use the film medium to spread awareness of these issues.

In his film, Mr. Gore refutes the arguments of all the naysayers who continue to be sceptical of energy resource depletion and climate change caused by human industrialisation.

While the world's leaders have focused on combating terrorism, Mr. Gore says that there are environmental threats as serious and as destructive as terrorism that require attention, especially because damage to the earth can still be reversed if people decide to act quickly: "We have everything, save perhaps political will. But in America, I believe political will is a renewable resource," he says in the film.

At the festival's inaugural ceremony, Bharat Kris Rao, CEO of Genesyst Ecotechnology, a waste processing company, said twenty-six per cent of human-generated greenhouse gases come from landfills.

U.S. Consul for Public Affairs Frederick J. Kaplan, who was the chief guest, said that global warming is a real problem, not simply an abstraction discussed by scientists.

He said that the Indian Space Research Organisation has discovered that 466 glaciers in the Himalayas have reduced by 20 per cent from 1962 to 2001. "India, like America, is a vast and beautiful land deserving of your protection," he urged. "All of us working together must ensure that our children, grandchildren and future generations enjoy healthy lives on a healthy planet."

Source : Monday, April 20, 2009



CMS ENVIS Centre on Media and Environment

Operational since 2000, CMS ENVIS Centre had initiated several activities towards making itself effectively functional. The area in which CMS has expertise is communication strategies specifically in the context of the electronic media. It has been working in developing itself as a resource centre, as a coordinating body and as a centre for dissemination of environmental related information. In the short span CMS ENVIS Centre has identified the database on different parameters. Also initiated innovative programmes to highlight the environmental concerns.

Among its various activities the centre has been indexing coverage of environmental issues from print media as well as electronic media, conducting small research studies to bridge the information gaps, the mailing list with addresses of agencies, individuals, institutions, departments NGOs, Radio and TV channels, advertisers along with computerized database of Audio-Visual resources has been updated regularly, media orientation programmes including screening of films, discussions and interactive sessions on different environmental topics are conducted. The main thrust is upon maintaining ENVIS CENTRE/ NODE websites.

www.cmsindia.org/cmsenvis

Abstract

Experts warn India against environmental refugees

Saidul Khan

Saidul Khan is a free lance Journalist based in North East India. His interest lies in developmental journalism and politics. He also focuses on stories creating mass awareness on various social issues. His sole objective is to use media as a tool of social change in the society.

NORTH-EAST is reeling under the issue of influx from Bangladesh. This problem could be alarming with the climate change. The researchers predict that in the next 50 years, an estimated 15 million environmental refugees from Bangladesh have to migrate, including 30 million from India. The big question is: where this huge population will settle?

The ever-changing climate has raised a serious concern in the world. India facing the major challenge of illegal influx from Bangladesh will now have to ponder seriously on the issue of climate change, as an expert, Dr Hefin Jones, from Cardiff University, had said that India would have to cope with the flux of environmental refugees. 50 years from now, there would be around 150 million environmental refugees on earth triggered by the affects of climate change. Of this, around 15 million will be in Bangladesh and around 30 million in China. This has posed some serious questions to neighbouring India, which itself will have around 30 million of such refugees. The experts believe that these refugees will be triggered by the rise in sea level, erosion and effects on soil fertility due to climate change.

As an estimated 50 per cent of humanity inhabits the coastal zones, the sea level would increase by 12 cm in 2030 and by 50 cm in 2100. This would force the people to relocate themselves to escape their native places, Jones pointed out, citing that in Bangladesh, about 30 per cent of the land was already two-metre below the contour sea level.

The expert pointed that the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations (UN) said in its 2007 report that by 2050 the estimated rise in sea level in the Bangla coastal areas would be one metre, and by 2100, it would be around two metres.

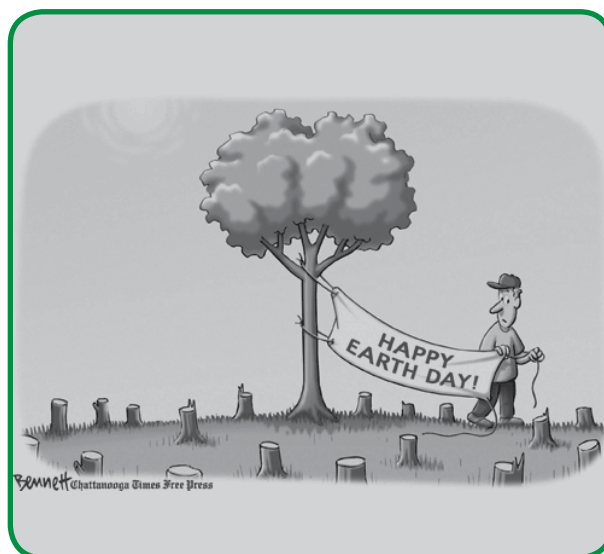
As a result, Jones said, the sea would submerge most of the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta, where there were around 120 million inhabitants. This poses a serious concern for the northeastern region.

The big question, which needs to be given a thought today is: Where will these people move? India, being a neighbour, has to cope with this flux of environmental refugees. It has posed some serious questions before the country.

Alluding to the impact of climate change on India, Jones said the average temperature in the country would increase by three to five degree Celsius by 2100. The warming would be more pronounced in the northern parts, and will lead to a 20 per cent rise in the summer monsoon rainfall.

Dr Jones is in Shillong to deliver a lecture on climate change: 'The Ethics and the Societal Issues', organised by Synod College and John Roberts Theological Seminary.

Source : <http://www.merinews.com/article/experts-warn-india-against-environmental-refugees/134526.shtml>



View Point

Environmental Refugees on the rise, thanks to climate change

Ranjan K Panda¹

There is growing concern worldwide over climate change pushing more and more people into the list of 'environmental refugees' by the day. The Red Cross has identified that 25 million refugees (58% of Global total) owe their displacement to climate change. Reports are coming in from all corners of the world that this figure will escalate further and by the year 2050 there will be over 200 million environmental refugees as a direct result of sea rise, soil erosion and other factors. Among other things, this will lead to new conflicts as governments and relief agencies will struggle to manage these disposed population.

While several new crisis and conflict zones will emerge and in quite unprecedented ways, the coastal areas - which are as such vulnerable to disasters like cyclones and storms which are visible and sudden disasters and where the impact comes without a notice - are emerging as the most vulnerable areas. A latest report of the World Bank confirms that the impact of sea level rise from global warming could be catastrophic for many developing countries and that even a one meter sea rise would make as much as 56 million people in these countries environmental refugees. The GDP loss to the coastal countries will be huge. Incidence of natural disasters has almost trebled from 1,110 during the 1970s to 2,935 between 1993 and 2002. During the same period the numbers of people affected by storms and floods rocketed from 740 million people to 2.5 billion. The cost of the damage has increased five-fold to US\$ 655bn.

¹ Ranjan K Panda is the Convenor of Water Initiatives Orissa and Combat Climate Change Network. He has more than two decades of experience working on water and climate change issues. He can be contacted at ranjanpanda@gmail.com. This article is a slightly modified version of his article first published by the ipcs.org.

India's recently formulated National Climate Change Action Plan, referring to a study conducted by Unnikrishnan and Shankar that analysed 40 years of coastal tide gauge records, says that India is facing a sea level rise between 1.06 mm to 1.75 mm per year. The NATCOM report had previously mentioned that the mean sea level along the Indian coast shows a long term rising trend of about 1.0 mm/year. The IPCC's 4th assessment report however mentions that sea level rise along the Asia coast which was 1.7 to 2.4 mm/year over the 20th century as a whole has risen 3.1 mm/yr over the past decade.

All this naturally induces new forms of refugees and conflicts. The impacts are showing up in states like Gujarat, West Bengal and Orissa already. The Sunderban islands are vanishing fast and several patches of the 480 kilometer long Orissa coast are facing severe beach erosion. So much so that, the Orissa government has finally woken up to prepare a more than hundred crore project to check the erosion. While the people of the Satabhaya region, which has shrunk from seven villages to two villages just in a few years, are fighting for proper relocation; the opening of a new mouth in Chilika - Asia's largest brackish water lagoon - has posed a unique form of threat which has caught both the people and the government unawares. The mouth that has been forced to open due to sea rise is changing the hydrological character of the lake and thousands of fisherfolks of the lake are going to face a complete shutdown of their occupation. The Satabhaya villagers, which are now only reduced to some hundreds, have been promised of relocation about a kilometer away from the sea. The task to rehabilitate the Chilika fisherfolks is however huge.

This year, on the eve of the World Refugees Day, Antonio Guterres, the UN high commissioner for refugees, said that climate change could uproot people by provoking conflicts over increasingly scarce resources, such as water. In an interview with the Guardian, Guterres said: "Climate change is today one of the main drivers of forced displacement, both directly through impact on environment - not allowing people to live any more in the areas where they were traditionally living -

Green events

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and as a trigger of extreme poverty and conflict.” What the UNHCR found difficult to manage was the issue of Internally Displaced Person, according to a report that it released on that day. Guterres said during the release, “the task is hindered by the legal distinction between refugees, who flee across borders and automatically become the UNHCR’s responsibility, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), who flee their homes but remain in their home countries. In 2007 there were estimated to be 26 million of them, and only half receive direct or indirect help from the UNHCR. “They remain under the protection of their own governments, but the governments are sometimes part of the problem rather than solution.”

The people of Satabhaya and Chilika are new entrants into the IDP list and hence pose a new type of challenge to the policy makers who are yet to consider climate change as the real issue and consider this in a ‘resettlement’ angle. Climate scientists worry sea rise is going to be more than three times than the currently predicted level. Anders Carlson at the University of Wisconsin-Madison finds even the IPCC predictions conservative and suspect that by the end of the century, sea levels may be rising three times as fast as they are at present. Time Orissa like states realised this.

24 April, 2009

Green Investor Meet 2009 organised by New Ventures India is organising its flagship event. on Friday, April 24, 2009 between 1.30 pm - 5 pm hrs at Hotel Taj Mahal, Mansingh Road, New Delhi.

25 April, 2009

World Dance Day on April 29, 2009 - to mark the occasion, Kri Foundation is presenting a five-day festival starting today. Today’s Performance: Bharatanatyam dancer Rama Vaidyanathan will present a special performance, Dance of the Birds, to draw attention to the issue of bird conservation. Venue: Habitat Centre, Delhi.

28 April, 2009

Carbon Bazaar 2009 - Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India in collaboration with German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and GTZ is organising this event. Date: 28-29 April, 2009. Venue: Hotel Taj Mahal, 1 Mansingh Road, New Delhi 1.



A Workshop on

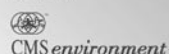
CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE: TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRAL INDIAN CITIES

at the



DATE 29-30 OCT '09 TIME 10:30 AM - 06:00 PM
VENUE INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI

Organised by



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Download Workshop Agenda

To participate contact:
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Seminar on

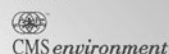
COMMUNICATING CLIMATE CHANGE

at the



DATE 30 OCT '09 TIME 02:30 PM - 06:00 PM
VENUE INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI

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Green Voice
April - June 2009

On Air

Saving the Planet: Series 1

At the beginning of the 21st century, environmental crises like species extinction, water scarcity and climate change pose major challenges to our health, economies and social stability.

Governments, experts and big corporations alone cannot solve all these problems. Real change requires changing how each and every human being lives and works. Education becomes the biggest key to achieving environmentally sustainable development at local and global levels.

Filmed in six countries in South and Southeast Asia, *Saving the Planet* profiles groups working quietly and relentlessly to spread knowledge, understanding and attitudes that inspire action that will help humans to live in harmony with the planet.

They often work without external funding and beyond the media spotlight. They have persisted with clarity of vision, sincerity of purpose and sheer determination. Their stories inspire many others to pursue grassroots action for a cleaner and safer planet.

Cambodia: Floating the Future



The people of Prek Toal have always known how closely their lives and jobs are linked to the ebb and flow of the Tonlé Sap lake, the largest in Cambodia and

linked to the Mekong River. Now, the conservation group Osmose is showing how they can benefit from the lake's fish and other natural resources without killing off the very ecosystem that sustains them. One strategy that works: to reach out to grown-ups through their children.

Language: English

Year of production: 2009

Filmed in: Cambodia

Duration: 10 mins

Source: http://www.savingtheplanet.tv/film_01.html

About ENVIS Network



Working towards the conservation of environment, an environment information system (ENVIS) was established by the government in Dec 1982, with a view to provide information regarding environment to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and engineers, research workers etc all over the country. Environment being a broad ranged and multidisciplinary subject, requires an involvement of concerned institutes/organizations that are actively engaged in the different subject areas of environment, therefore a large number of nodes have been established to

cover the broad subject areas of environment. ENVIS is a decentralized system, which ensures collection, collation, storage, retrieval and dissemination of environmental information to all concerned. These centers have been set up in the areas of pollution control, toxic chemicals, central and offshore ecology, environmentally sound and appropriate technology, bio-degradation of wastes and environmental management etc.

www.envis.nic.in

Talk Over

Interview with Jason Bremner on Environmental Change: What Are the Links With Migration?

Program Director, Population, Health, and Environment
Population Reference Bureau



Jason Bremner, program director for Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) at PRB, has more than 10 years of experience in PHE programs and research. He has a master's of public health in global health from Emory University and is completing his doctorate at the University of North Carolina, where he has been Population-Environment trainee at the Carolina Population Center. He lived in South America for several years, studying the environmental and societal impacts of migration and livelihood change in the Galapagos and Upper Amazon.

Geoff Dabelko

Jason, There seems to be a lot of oversimplification in the label climate migrants (let alone climate refugees) that ignore the push and pull factors so common to decisions to move. What is your advice for talking responsibly about climate change's anticipated impacts on human migration from sea level rise and changes in precipitation and soil moisture patterns?

Jason Bremner

I agree Geoff, the idea of climate migrants, or environmental refugees more generally, is often

oversimplified. Talking responsibly about climate change and migration depends on eliminating many of these simplifications.

First, what is migration?

Well, there is no single answer. Migration is a complex demographic event with both temporal and spatial dimensions. Migration may be long-term (i.e. leaving one's birth place and never returning) or short-term (i.e. moving temporarily to take advantage of a work opportunity). Migration also includes international moves across borders and internal moves within a country. When we are talking about migration and the environment we must start by clarifying what kind of moves we're referring to.

Next, let's be clearer about what we mean by climate migrants or environmental refugees. Disasters have the capacity to result in mass forced movements of people. Gradual environmental degradation, in contrast, means that people have time to decide how they will respond to threats to their livelihoods. Research on migration has shown that migration decisions are complex and involve many factors. Hence it is important when thinking of "climate refugees" to be clear that environmental conditions may only be one contributing factor in a person or household's decision to move. Discussing this responsibly means focusing on how gradual changes to the environment, induced by climate change, impact migration decisions.

The mental images conjured up by the term environmental refugees (i.e. people fleeing from rising seas) do not match with the reality of how climate change will impact migration. Also we should think more carefully about what types of migration are most likely to be influenced by climate change. Do we expect more international migration, more permanent internal displacement, or maybe more temporary moves for wage labor to mitigate against failing agricultural livelihoods.

J Kishore

Migration (internal and external) is a natural characteristic of human being mainly because of finding out better opportunities or safeguard of self. It would be difficult to stop. We should focus

on bad effects of migration on population and environment. But how it should be done on the priority basis?

Jason Bremner

You're right; migration seems to be a natural part of being human. In fact, though the absolute number of international migrants is greater today than ever before, the percent of the world population living outside their country of birth has risen very little over the last 50 years. Restrictive migration policies usually just result in changes in the favored destinations of migrants rather than actually slowing or stopping migration.

You point out that we should focus on the impacts of migration on the environment, and maybe we should start off with some examples. In the last answer I talked about how environmental conditions can impact migration decisions, but let's turn to the opposite side of the coin...how migration can result in environmental change.

We can start by splitting migrants into two broad categories, rural-rural migrants and rural-urban migrants.

Rural-rural migrants can have impacts on forests and biodiversity when they move to frontier areas in search of arable land. The movement of colonists into the lowland forests of the Amazon for example has resulted in rapid deforestation in areas of Ecuador and Brazil. Migrants may also move to coastal areas to work in fishing sectors or along rural coastal areas as coastal resources are depleted. In addition, rural migrants may move to areas with poor soils, which are more likely to degrade, when little land is available elsewhere.

Rural-urban migrants can also have impacts on the environment as urban living usually results in changes in consumption patterns and energy use. For example, I have seen some recent research on urbanization in China showing how the associated changes in consumption and household structure accompanying rural-urban migration will contribute to future growth in carbon emissions.

To be fair, however, we should also consider

the positive impacts that migration can have on households, their livelihoods, and sometimes the environment. I'll talk about this more in the next few answers.

In all cases the relationship between migration and the environment depends greatly on local context, hence I'll say little in this answer on prioritizing actions. Maybe we'll get there further along in the discussion.

dino

What if sea level rise induced migrants are unwelcome at destination countries... given that beyond humanitarian aspects, there are racial, ethnic and security issues involved with migrants from other countries.

Jason Bremner

Migrants often face discrimination and related challenges at destinations. Even refugees of conflicts and natural disasters are often not welcomed by local populations. The reasons are many, including: cultural, ethnic, and language differences; perceived competition for jobs; lack of local capacity to provide services; and more.

Hence migrants adapting to environmental conditions induced by climate change will likely face the same challenges as all other migrants. We should remember, however, that the majority of migrants do not ever cross international boundaries into other countries. Thus, when we think of possible migrations due to climate change, we should remember that they are likely to involve internal moves within a country rather than international moves.

Geoff Dabelko

Do you agree with those who argue that rural to rural migration and its environmental impacts are being largely ignored by scholars and practitioners alike?

Jason Bremner

Well I might be biased here since I've spent the last few years largely studying rural-rural migration.

I do think that demographers have largely ignored

rural-rural migration. All of the original theories regarding migrants' decisions are based on rural-urban migration and today rural-urban migration dominates discussions of development despite the continued prominence of rural-rural migration in many developing countries.

In terms of migration and the environment, however, I actually think there has been far more work on rural-rural migration than on other types. This is partly because the environmental impacts of rural-rural migrants are quite a bit clearer since rural migrants' impacts are usually direct and visible (i.e. a new clearing in the forest or a new fishing camp). In addition, conservation organizations tend to work in rural areas, and have become increasingly interested in the impact of migration on biodiversity. A recent publication on the subject, *People on the Move- Reducing Impact of Human Migration on Biodiversity* was produced by WWF, Conservation International, and University of North Carolina.

The environmental impacts of rural-urban migration, however, are less tangible. People talk about the growing ecological footprint of cities, but the idea has remained mostly conceptual. There is work on urban growth and impacts on air and water pollution, but many of these impacts are related to changes in the number of vehicles, number of factories, etc. rather than to migration itself. I have not seen much work assessing the contribution of rural-urban migration to urban environmental issues outside of the propagation of urban slums, which in my mind is mostly a lack of services issue rather than an environmental issue.

Dr. John. G. Laah

I want to know if in Jason's experience the man-made factors in environmental change are more [dominant] in migration than the natural factors of environmental change

Jason Bremner

I am not exactly clear on which man-made factors in environmental change you are referring to, but there are certainly some recent examples of man-made environmental change inducing mass movements of people.

Three recent examples that come to mind are the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine that resulted in the evacuation and resettlement of 350,000 people, the degradation of the Aral Sea and the failure of fishing livelihoods there, and the construction of the Three Gorges Dam in China's central Hubei province, which has already displaced 1.2 million people, and when complete may displace up to 4 million people.

In general, however, I think it is hard to separate man-made factors from natural factors when considering the impact on migration. For example, periodic drought is a natural factor that affects food security in Ethiopia and may result in households sending an adult to a city for employment as means of protecting against food insecurity. Man-made factors, however, also likely contribute to this decision, since land fragmentation, and the resulting smaller parcels of land, also contribute to the need for non-farm wages to ensure food security when crops fail.

Finally, what about migration and conflict? Conflicts are certainly man-made and have resulted in some of the largest displacements of people in recent years. Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo come to mind, both of which have displaced millions of people. The Woodrow Wilson Center's Environmental Change and Security Project is a good resource for looking more closely at these complex migration-environment-security issues.

Jim Igoe

What kind of research has been done on climate change and internal migration in the US and other developed countries.

Jason Bremner

I am not aware of any research from developed countries (U.S. and Europe) that has empirical evidence of the impact of climate change on internal migration. In truth, there is little evidence so far to suggest that current changes in climate have had any impact on internal movements of people within the U.S or any developed country.

There is some ongoing research on Hurricane Katrina and the permanent departure of residents

from New Orleans, but I'm reluctant to call this a climate change induced migration. See the following for more info:

William H. Frey, Audrey Singer and David Park "Resettling New Orleans: the First Full Picture from the Census" Washington DC: Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program, (September, 2007).

Some interesting work has been done by researchers at CIESIN looking at projected sea level rise and measuring the coastal populations at risk throughout the world. This paper can be found on the PERN website:

<http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/gpw/docs/McGranahan2007.pdf>

Another recent paper has looked at 1930s migration patterns in the U.S. in relation to repeated crop failures due to drought and flooding. Of course in the 1930's a far greater percentage of the U.S. population was dependent on the agricultural sector than today. This paper by McLeman and Smit looks at this past case in their examination of migration as a possible adaptation to climate change.

Charlie Teller

I'm pleased to see the step-child of demography, migration, being taken more seriously in the environmental circles. Now, human migration is not just a reaction to environmental change, but also can be a major dividing force in facilitating positive social and economic change and in relieving population pressure on the environment. What have been your experiences in analyzing internal migration as a 1- safety value to mitigate environmental degradation; 2- as a mechanism for more equitable labor and social mobility; and 3-as a component of national population redistribution policies to foster more equitable balance of population growth and natural resources?

Jason Bremner

Charlie brings up a great point, which I hinted at earlier. We should also consider evidence and theory of positive relationships between migration and the environment.

First, we should be clear that migrant remittances or the money migrants send back home are an incredibly important source of income for developing countries and for rural areas. An estimated total of 251 billion dollars were sent by migrants to their developing countries in 2007. Thus remittances can be an important source of development and social mobility for rural households in areas where there are few opportunities for employment, credit, or investment.

Whether these remittances have a positive impact on the environment is not as clear. A study in the highlands of Ecuador found that remittances were rarely invested into agriculture or other production activities.

Another perceived benefit of out-migration for the environment is that there will be agricultural abandonment and thus less pressure on forests/rangelands, etc. The same study from the Ecuador highlands also found little evidence of abandonment, since often only one household member would migrate and the rest of the household would continue to farm. This is increasingly the norm as in Africa, Latin America, and Asia urban migrants often retain strong linkages with their rural origin areas. This is accomplished either by planting crops that require less labor or relying on increased labor from those that stay behind (often women and children). This latter phenomenon is resulting in some interesting rural changes in both sex and age ratios among the remaining populations.

There are, of course, examples where out-migration has resulted in less degradation than would have occurred had migrants remained. The recovery of the North Eastern forests of the United States is largely a product of out-migration of farmers and loggers to more favorable lands in the midwest and west. These examples, I'm afraid, are few and far between in today's current context.

I'm not a strong believer in national population redistribution policies per se. Regional economic and environmental planning might create conditions under which migrants might resettle to "desirable" areas but in areas like Brazil and Ecuador, these redistribution policies have had negative impacts

on forests in destination areas of the Amazon as well as on the indigenous populations that were already living there.

sbyadawad@sify.com:

In any situation migration cannot be stopped. There are so many reasons people move from one place to another. What level of migration is treated to be a healthy one? And what are the measures to maintain it?

Jason Bremner

There is no simple answer to this question. A level of migration that is considered healthy can suddenly change to being unhealthy with changes in economic or environmental conditions. I'm a strong proponent of adaptive regional economic and environmental planning that takes account of constantly changing socio-demographic and environmental data (might have something to do with my academic background in planning). National level migration policies are not adequate to anticipate or alleviate migration/environment issues since most migration-environment relationships are visible at local and regional scales. Thus, this responsibility largely falls to regional and local governments. I think an appropriate question is, in developing countries do local and regional governments have the access to information and capacity required to address these issues?

My mission at PRB is to try to meet these needs.

Pietronella van den Oever

Reaction to Geoff Dabelko's second question: Within the World Bank we have explored to what extent demographic issues, including rural to rural migration and its environmental impacts, are being considered in relevant World Bank projects, for instance projects on Sustainable Land Management. The conclusion is, that the subject is largely, to entirely, ignored.

Pietronella van den Oever

Jason Bremner

Thanks Pietronella for sharing your perspective from the World Bank. So I return to my last point, development professionals at the World Bank, USAID, and other institutions aren't considering these issues. At the local level, however, we have

found there is often a great appreciation for the complexities faced when working on improving livelihoods and the well-being of impoverished populations while also sustainably managing local natural resources. Migration often arises as a key concern.

Deki

What would be the consequences if there is high number of people migrating to urban areas from rural areas, to both urban and rural?

Jason Bremner

I think I have talked about some of the consequences of both rural-rural and rural-urban migration in some of my prior answers. For a more in-depth look at rural-rural impacts I encourage you to look at both the People on the Move publication cited earlier and a Working paper from the Environmental Change and Security Project on Migration, Population Change, and the Rural Environment by Richard Bilsborrow.

I talked about consequences of urbanization a bit earlier, but I still consider this to be the less studied aspect of migration-environment relationships.

One important point you bring up is the impact that out-migration to urban areas has on rural areas. One important result that Pietronella brings up in a question below is how the age and sex selection of migration impacts women and children remaining in rural areas. She makes a great point in noting that women and children often have no guaranteed, long-term access to the means of production (land ownership, credit, ag. extension, technology)? This represents a great challenge for rural development and some of the most promising solutions for combating these problems include micro-credit lending focused specifically on women, girls' education, and a dedication to agricultural extension focused on women's needs. Pietronella van den Oever:

Dear Jason,

In many African countries, rural-urban migration is age- and sex-selective. What would be the best policy to address the problem of having an agricultural labor force largely composed of people

(women, young people) who have no guaranteed, long-term access to the means of production (land, credit, ag. extension, technology)?

Jason Bremner

I hope I gave some hints in my last answer on this. Again, micro-credit lending to women's groups has been a great success in countries like Nepal and India. Furthermore, programs focused on girls' education in Pakistan are increasing the financial literacy and independence of women and over time will lead to greater access to credit. Land ownership is a greater challenge and I welcome any insight from someone who has more experience than I in gender differences in land titling.

Erick Howenstine

Will you please comment on environmental impacts of international migration pressure on border regions, such as the U.S. Mexican border?

Jason Bremner

I don't consider myself a qualified expert on environmental impacts of migration on the U.S. Mexican border. Larry Gorenflo did some interesting research in the Sonoran desert looking at satellite imagery from both sides of the border in relation to population distribution.

Orphe Olympio

Do you think the link between Migration and Remittances would be the new bridge for development in developing countries?

Jason Bremner

See my earlier answer regarding the 251 billion sent to developing countries in 2007.

A. Terrazas

Is there any evidence to suggest that environmental migrants will privilege internal rather than international migration? Is this primarily a policy concern for domestic policy makers in the countries that are most affected by climate change (and perhaps neighboring countries) or does it have implications for immigration authorities in major immigrant-receiving countries such as the US, Canada, EU, Australia, etc.?

Jason Bremner

I think I mentioned in an earlier response that internal migration, in general, dwarfs international migration, though there are few accurate estimates of the number of internal migrants globally.

Thus, I do agree with you that the possibility of "climate migrants" will be more of a domestic policy concern. We should remember that an important part of an individual's or household's decision to migrate is an assessment of the costs (social and financial) of migration. International migration costs far more than internal migration. We expect that the poorest households will be those most vulnerable to climate change's impacts, hence, we should expect that those people will also be the least able to move large distances or across borders.

Regional security issues related to internal migration should be of international concern, and it is interesting to note that the military/security community is increasingly interested in the migration-environment nexus.

Lindsay

We know that men and women are often affected in different ways by environmental change. Do you think that the same applies to migration and how so?

Jason Bremner

Thanks for your question Lindsay. One of my prior questions talked about the challenges faced by women and children in origin areas. In many places, however, young women are also increasingly involved in migration. Our research from Ecuador found that women's destinations and decisions regarding migration differed greatly from men's. So I encourage all those studying migration to always disaggregate men and women when looking at the determinants of migration. Alison Barbieri has done some interesting work on gender differences related to out-migration in the Amazon and I encourage you to look for his work.

Amir Radfar

How [could] Biodiversity and environmental change monitoring play role on disease control?

Jason Bremner

One interesting topic that is just now receiving attention is the possible relationship between environmental change, migration, and infectious disease. There is much speculation and some evidence that climate change will increase the range of some disease vectors (i.e. malaria carrying mosquitoes). This combined with a very mobile population could contribute to the spread of infectious diseases to areas that have never seen them before. I think this is an interesting new area for research and I look forward to seeing the results.

Here's an interesting article on Dengue in Texas for example

<http://www.ajtmh.org/cgi/content/full/78/3/361>

Rahul Shrivastava

As a result of graduate research on migration from Bangladesh (and parts of India) into areas of conservation importance in Assam (eastern India), I found that immigrants generated higher incomes and more production per unit land area compared to residents. The area lies along elephant migratory routes and is also used by other protected species. Cases of human-wildlife conflict are on the increase. Are there examples of interventions that have specifically mitigated any migration-related environmental impacts?

Jason Bremner

You bring up two interesting points.

First, in some cases, migrants may have higher incomes, more sensitivity to environmental concerns, and more inclination to invest in land and production than non-migrants. If migrant practices influence the production activities of non-migrants than you could have a benefit for local resources as long as the increased number of users doesn't have an impact in of itself. Second, migrants in some places may be scapegoats for environmental changes that are actually a combination of many complex factors. My past work in the Galapagos comes to mind. Migrant fishermen were vilified in the Galapagos for impacting local fisheries. There were fishing booms for both lobster and sea

cucumbers and both local and migrant fishermen were heavily involved. When local governments tried to close the fisheries each year when quotas were met, conflicts between park officials and fishermen arose. Both migrant and non-migrant fisherman were involved in the conflicts. So while the quota was upheld and legal fishing didn't increase with the addition of new migrant fisherman. The pressure on the government increased since there were more fishermen trying to catch the same number of allowed fish. Thus migration can also have an impact on social structure, politics, and environmental regulation.

Cassels and Curran wrote an interesting article that touches on this entitled "Do migrants degrade coastal environments?"

Deki

Can you suggest some ways to cope with rural to urban migration?

Jason Bremner

This I think is left for a larger discussion about the role of rural urban migration in development and I'll have to leave it for another day.

Bryan Bushley

There is a lot of focus on environmental degradation and climate change as a driver of migration. What is your perspective on the opposite relationship: the effects of migration on environmental stewardship and local ecological conditions, particularly with regard to the management of common property resources by local and indigenous communities?

Jason Bremner

Thanks for the question, Bryan.

I don't think that there is yet much research on how migration might impact the management of common property resources by local and indigenous communities. I actually wrote an article making the case for a greater focus on this very topic. Here's a link to the article:

http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/archive/00002410/01/cs_4_4_1-499.pdf

I think indigenous populations face some great challenges in the future in relation to their changing mobility (the subject of my dissertation) and common property institutions. I'm happy to talk with you more about this another time. Feel free to contact me about it.

Rahat Bari Tooheen

Migration can shift the pattern of environmental change from one location to the other. It should be noted that in most cases, migrants are totally unaware of the negative environmental consequences of their practices and actions. In your opinion, what realistic solutions can be designed to address these issues?

Jason Bremner

The People on the Move publication discussed earlier has some proposed interventions to reduce migration impacts on biodiversity and also includes some case studies, including one from the Galapagos, which I contributed to. Some interesting policy level solutions include developing environmentally and socially sound landscape strategies and plans as well as promoting sound local policies in relation to environmental management and natural resource use. National level policies are often not adequate to deal with what are complex local level issues. These policies can include zoning for resource extraction, conservation, and human development.

Take a look at the publication, there's much more there.

Tom Painter

While research has examined the environmental impacts of migrations, migrant settlement and use of natural resources in migrants' destination areas, to what extent has research examined the environmental impacts in rural, agricultural areas, of short- and medium-term, cyclical migrations and longer-term out migration of residents from these areas? The areas I have in mind are those in Mexico that have produced the largest, and increasing numbers of migrants to the United States. Could you site some examples of this kind of research?

Jason Bremner

Sorry I won't have time to get to this answer

or those that remain, but I appreciate all of the questions. I'd like to make a last minute plug for a related online discussion that will take place very soon through the Population Environment Research Network.

Cyberseminar on "Environmentally Induced Population Displacements", 18-29 August 2008

<http://www.populationenvironmentresearch.org/>

Thanks for all of your questions and I encourage you all to participate in the cyberseminar and ask those questions I couldn't get to today.

Orphe Olympio

G8 have recently given his ok to put in place some mechanisms to help the migrants and facilitate the flow of remittances. And the World Bank has [been] chosen to lead this change. How do you think this challenge can be met and how can the law makers will help developing the legal framework to protect migrant rights and promote remittances for development in developing countries? Thank.

Jason Bremner

We could probably talk for hours about the relationships between migration and development, but I'm going to have to stick more specifically to migration-environment relationships today. I'm also far from an expert on the topic of facilitating remittances. I do know, however, that there are some very interesting meetings occurring at within the U.N., World Bank, and other places working to view migration as an opportunity for development as you note.

Lauren Herzer

Can you talk a little about the impact of environmental change on a cities' ability to absorb new migrants?

Jason Bremner

Lauren,
Very interesting question and something I, honestly, have not given much thought to. Water is the one aspect of environmental change that comes to mind when thinking on limits to a city's ability to absorb new migrants. Urban areas in the United States and

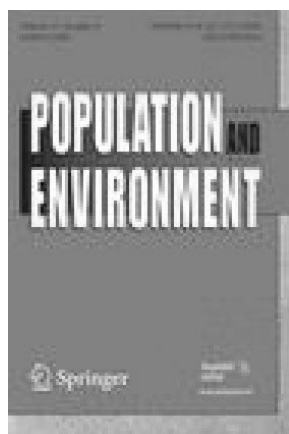
abroad are facing growing challenges in meeting their water needs. While it is unlikely that water availability itself will impede a city's ability to absorb new migrants, the increasing cost of water to users in urban areas might lead to changes in migration decision making. Certainly cost of living at the destination is an important aspect of the migration decision making process. I just moved to Washington, I know all about it!

It is also likely that increased water demand due to urban growth will lead to increasing development regulations and water restrictions. This is already the case in areas such as Las Vegas, though I'm not sure that there has yet been an impact on rates of migration.

I'll have to give this one more thought and thanks for asking.

Source: <http://discuss.prb.org/content/interview/detail/2580/>

Environmental Refugees? Classifying Human Migrations Caused by Environmental Change



Journal:
Population & Environment
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ISSN:
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Subject Collection:
Humanities, Social Sciences and Law

Abstract: What distinguishes environmental refugees from other refugees—or other migrants? Are all environmental refugees alike? This essay develops a classification to begin to answer these questions and facilitate future policies and research on environmental refugees. Environmental refugees may have considerable control over the decision to migrate, but this varies by the

type of environmental disruption. The origin, intention, and duration of environmental disruptions shape the type of refugee. Refugees from disasters and expropriations have limited control over whether environmental changes will produce migration. Gradual degradation allows environmental emigrants to determine how they will respond to environmental change.

NGO - Vignettes



Utthaan is thriving to mainstream the marginalised and left out sections of the society comes into existence as unfortunate by-product of present economic model of development. The organisation is advocating for the people centered, self reliant development model as proposed by Mahatma Gandhi, the model which caters the need of the last person at the first priority. Utthaan is working on holistic development approach and simultaneously trying to awake and sensitize the marginalised and secluded peoples of their social identity, human rights, socio-economic seclusion, and cultural-political injustice done against them. Utthaan hold a vision that through convergence and collaborative effort of various agencies engaged in development process, a thrust can be produced which can empower the disadvantaged and assist them in breaking the vicious cycle of deprivation and come out of poverty and seclusion, finally helping them to control their own lives. Its activities are mainly concentrated in various districts of Jharkhand with minor presence in Bihar and West Bengal.

Open Window

MONGABAY.COM

http://news.mongabay.com/news-index/environmental_refugees1.html



With more than one million unique visitors per month, Mongabay.com is one of the world's most popular environmental science and conservation news sites. The news and rainforests sections of the site are widely cited for information on tropical forests, conservation, and wildlife.

Mongabay.com aims to raise interest in wildlife and wildlands while promoting awareness of environmental issues. Originally the site was based around a text on tropical rainforests written by Rhett A. Butler, but today the site has expanded to other topics (like Madagascar [WildMadagascar.org]) and is available in versions for kids and in more than two dozen non-English languages. Mongabay.com is also publisher of Tropical Conservation Science, a peer-reviewed, open-access academic journal that seeks to provide opportunities for scientists in developing countries to publish their research in their native languages.

FORCED MIGRATION REVIEW

<http://www.fmreview.org/>

Forced Migration Review (FMR) has become the most widely read and consulted website on refugee and internal displacement issues. It provides a unique global forum for sharing information, experience and policy recommendations among practitioners,



policy makers, researchers and displaced people.

As the in-house publication of the Refugee Studies Centre, FMR is a key part of the RSC's dissemination and outreach activities - which, in turn, complement the RSC's extensive programme of research and teaching.

Forced Migration Review is the only publication of its kind: easy to read, topical, of international relevance, with a majority Southern readership and a diverse range of authors, fully accessible online with hyperlinks - and free of charge.

Practitioners and policymakers from around the world tell us how useful it is to know how others implement programmes and tackle challenges in order to help them plan their own work, start new initiatives, improve current projects - and avoid others' mistakes.



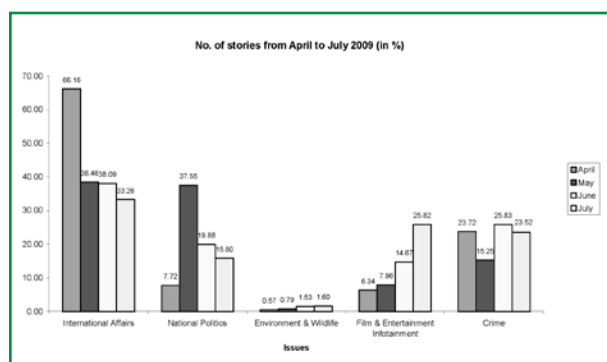
Media Analysis

Table 1: Stories in prominent news channels from April – June 2009

Classification		
April	No. of Stories	%
International Affairs	759	61.66
National Politics	95	7.72
Environment & Wildlife	7	0.57
Film & Entertainment Infotainment	78	6.34
Crime	292	23.72
Total	1231	100.00
May		
International Affairs	928	38.46
National Politics	906	37.55
Environment & Wildlife	19	0.79
Film & Entertainment Infotainment	192	7.96
Crime	368	15.25
Total	2413	100.00
June		
International Affairs	1420	38.09
National Politics	741	19.88
Environment & Wildlife	57	1.53
Film & Entertainment Infotainment	547	14.67
Crime	963	25.83
Total	3728	100.00

Source: CMS Media Lab

Graph 1: Stories in prominent News channels from April to June



Source: CMS Media Lab

Analysis of total no of stories (April-June) on seven news channels

DD News showed maximum number of stories in the time span of three months (April-June). A total of 187 stories on environment and wildlife were shown during this period. Other prominent news channels were way behind DD News. While NDTV and Zee News telecast 119 and 117 stories respectively, Aaj Tak showed just 15, Star News only 9 and Times Now a minuscule 8 in three months. In the month wise analysis, it becomes clear that, there was no story on environment and wildlife in the month of April on four prominent channels, i.e. Aaj Tak, CNN-IBN, NDTV 24x7 and Times Now. However, the time devoted by various news channels on environment stories saw a sharp increase from April to June, 2009. The major increase has been witnessed by NDTV 24x7 which did not show a single story in April but showed 18 stories in May and increased it to 101 times in June. It was followed by Doordarshan which saw a fall from 55 times in April to 29 in May but managed to increase the frequency from there to 103 in June. Star News managed steadily by showing 2 stories in April and May but increased it to 5 in June. Times Now showed 8 stories in June and CNN-IBN showed 89 stories.

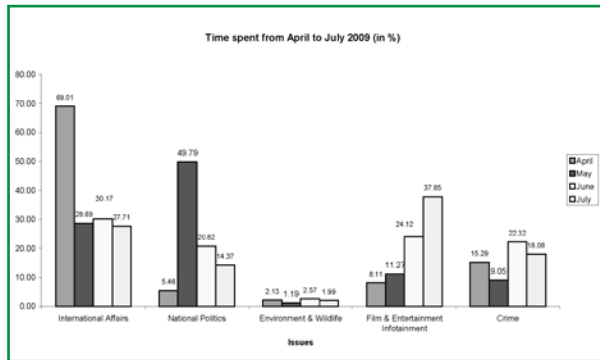
Table 2: Time spent by prominent news channels on environment stories

April	Time spent (mins)	% of Time
International Affairs	2690	69.01
National Politics	213	5.46
Environment & Wildlife	83	2.13
Film & Entertainment Infotainment	316	8.11
Crime	596	15.29
Total	3898	100.00
May		
International Affairs	2665	28.69
National Politics	4625	49.79
Environment & Wildlife	111	1.19
Film & Entertainment Infotainment	1047	11.27
Crime	841	9.05
Total	9289	100.00
June		
International Affairs	4104	30.17

National Politics	2832	20.82
Environment & Wildlife	350	2.57
Film & Entertainment Infotainment	3281	24.12
Crime	3037	22.32
Total	13604	100.00

Source: CMS Media Lab

Graph 2: Total No. of stories from April to June



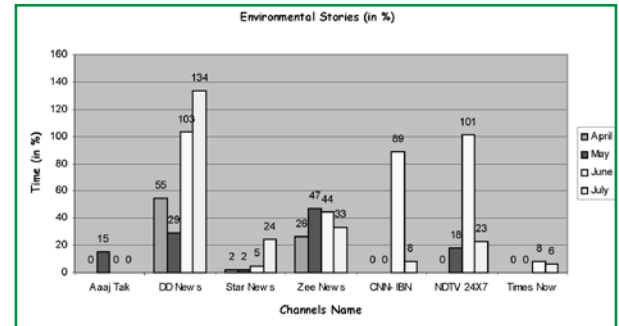
Source: CMS Media Lab

Analysis of total telecast time of stories (April-June)

The three month data shows that news stories related to International affairs occupied the maximum duration of prime time telecast. The next slot was occupied by stories related to national politics and crime. In the month of April while there were 759 stories on International affairs devoting 69.01 percent of total prime time, there were just 83 stories on environment and wildlife, occupying just 2.13 percent of the prime time slot. In the month of May, maximum prime time space was occupied by news on National politics (49.79%), while the percentage of environment and wildlife news stories came down to 1.19 percent. International affairs and Film and Entertainment occupied the top two positions in prime time coverage during the month of June, having 30.17 percent and 24.12 percent of prime time space. Coverage of Environment and Wildlife news improved marginally and it got 2.57 percent of total prime time space. In terms of number of stories, International Affairs was extensively covered from April to June and the three months saw 759, 928 and 1420 stories respectively. During this period stories on environment and wildlife also saw a steady increase from 7 in April to 19 in May

and 57 in the month of June. Coverage of National politics saw a sharp rise from April to May. While there were just 95 stories in the month of April, it shot up to 906 in the month of May, but came down to 741 in the month of June.

Graph 3: Time devoted on environmental stories by leading news channels



Source: CMS Media Lab

Symposium on
CHALLENGES IN CONSERVING
NATURAL HERITAGE
at the
CMS vatavaran
Environment & Wildlife Film Festival

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CMS vatavaran
Environment & Wildlife Film Festival

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Scholars Predict 50 Million Environmental Refugees by 2010

23

Effects of Climate Change Eventually May Cause Hundreds of Millions to Migrate

By Larry West, About.com

Scholars are predicting that 50 million people worldwide will be displaced by 2010 because of rising sea levels, desertification, dried up aquifers, weather-induced flooding and other serious environmental changes. So says Andrew Simms, policy director of the New Economics Foundation in the United Kingdom and the author of a book titled, "Environmental Refugees: The Case for Recognition." In an interview with Steve Curwood, host of Living on Earth, an independent media program funded by listener contributions and institutions that support public service, Simms says that these people should be considered "environmental refugees" and given refugee status under international law.

No Aid Available to "Environmental Refugees"

According to the United Nations University (UNU), an international community scholars that work on pressing global problems, victims of political upheaval or violence have access through governments and international organizations to assistance such as financial grants, food, tools, shelter, schools and clinics, but "environmental refugees" receive no such aid because they are not yet recognized in world conventions.

The UNU says that environmental problems already have contributed to large permanent migrations and could eventually displace hundreds of millions of people. Meanwhile, Red Cross research shows more people are now displaced by environmental disasters than by war.

Environmental Persecution

Simms argues that because the homes of these displaced people are being gradually destroyed as a result of environmental policies pursued by

industrialized nations, it amounts to "environmental persecution," which makes them legitimate refugees deserving of legal protection.

Scholars at the United Nations University agree

"There are well-founded fears that the number of people fleeing untenable environmental conditions may grow exponentially as the world experiences the effects of climate change and other phenomena," says Janos Bogardi, director of UNU's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS). "This new category of 'refugee' needs to find a place in international agreements. We need to better anticipate support requirements, similar to those of people fleeing other unviable situations."

Environmental Changes Causing Widespread Migration

Environment-related migration has been most acute in Sub-Saharan Africa, but also affects millions of people in Asia and India. Meanwhile, Europe and the United States are witnessing increasing pressure from victims of often mismanaged and deteriorating soil and water conditions in North Africa and Latin America.

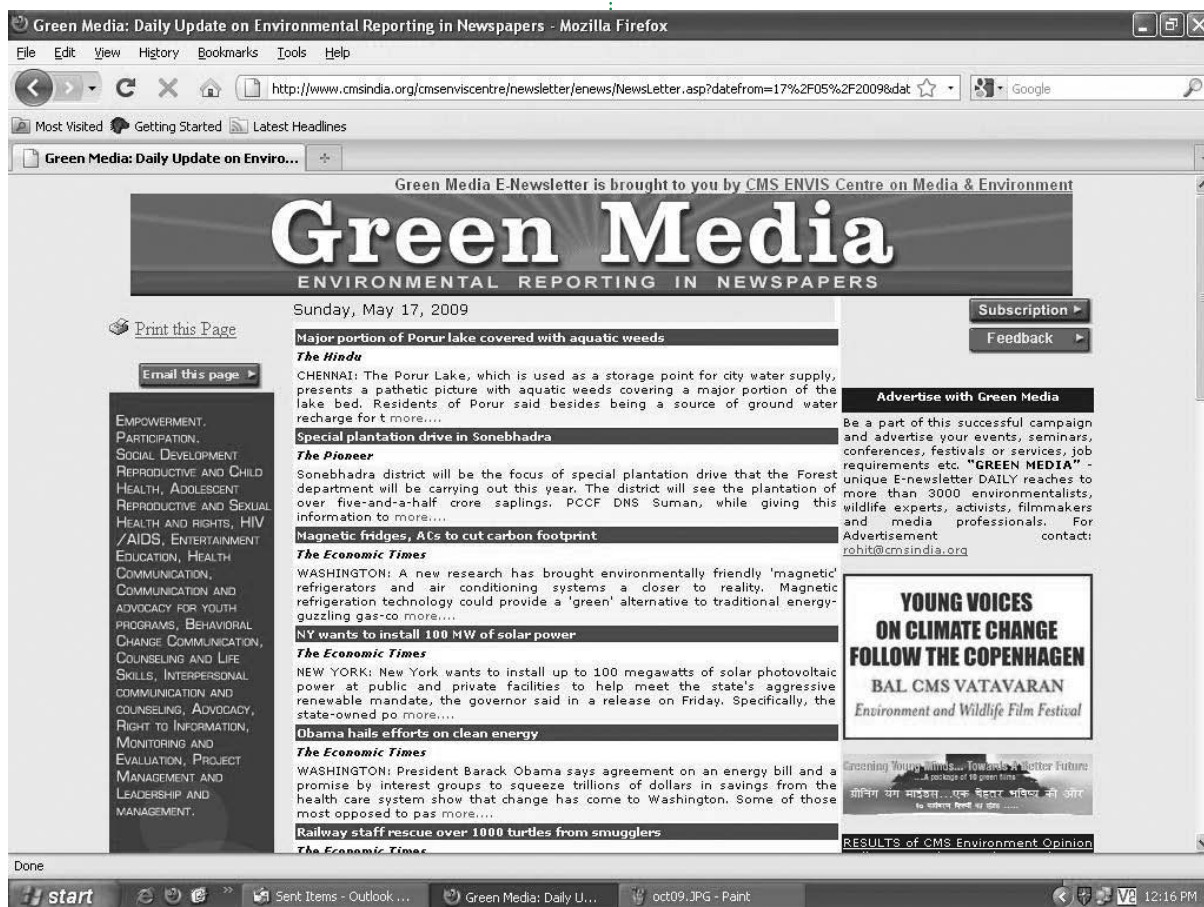
Such migrations may grow dramatically in future:

- Among many global problem sites, Sana'a, Yemen's capital, has doubled its population on average every six years since 1972 and now stands at 900,000. The aquifer on which the city depends is falling by 6 meters a year, and may be exhausted by 2010, according to the World Bank.
- In China, the Gobi desert expands more than 10,000 square kilometers per year, threatening many villages. Oxford-based expert Norman Myers says Morocco, Tunisia and Libya each lose over 1,000 square kilometers of productive land annually to desertification.
- In Egypt, half of irrigated croplands suffer from salinization, while in Turkey 160,000 square kilometers of farmlands is affected by soil erosion.

GREEN VOIC E

April - June 2009

CMS Envis Green Media E-Newsletter



Daily e-newsletter Green Media, an electronic documentation of news and features, which appear in English News dailies in India.

Green Media satisfies information requirements of environmentalists, wild lifers, conservation activists, researchers, media professionals, filmmakers, political activists, NGOs/ scientific organizations, mass communication institutes, lobbyists and advocacy groups in an effective and functional manner. The newsletter reaches to more than 3000 email boxes every day.

This e-newsletter also facilitates easy organization, maintenance of archival material electronically and quick retrieval of information. Presently, over twenty national dailies in India are documented in Green Media – the largest ever-daily compilation on environment and wildlife.

With the click of the mouse, you gain access to all news and features and other updates on environmental issues including environmental management, air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, ecology, wild life, nature and natural resources conservation, health toxicology, solid and hazardous waste, energy, policy matters etc. These topics are also available in the archives of CMS ENVIS. CMS has established this site to provide access to back files on news and features related to environment, wildlife and conservation issues.

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WHO IS IT FOR: ■ Government bodies ■ Educators ■ Corporates
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DATES: 27-31 October 2009 **VENUE:** India Habitat Centre, New Delhi



HIGHLIGHTS: ■ Workshop on 'Confronting climate change - Towards carbon-neutral Indian cities' ■ CMS VATAVARAN Indian & International film screenings ■ CMS VATAVARAN Indian & International awards function ■ Congress of International Federation of Environmental Journalists (IFEJ) on the theme 'Bridging North-South differences in reporting climate change: Journalists' role in reaching an agreement at COP15' ■ Climate change primer: a CMS Environment workshop for teachers ■ Seminar on ecotourism ■ Symposium on 'Challenges in conserving natural heritage' ■ Sustainable technologies expo ■ Ecotrips ■ Environmental games ■ Workshop on 'How to make an effective press kit for your film' ■ Workshop on green wardrobe

REGISTRATION DATES

- Regular: September 1-30 ■ Late: October 1-26
- On-the-spot: October 27-31

For details and delegate registration form contact: Ms. Pratiksha Gogoi
CMS VATAVARAN, RESEARCH HOUSE, Saket Community Centre
New Delhi 110 017, India P: 91-11-2499 2597 M: 91-98999 79159
F: 91-11-2696 8282 E: delegates@cmsvatavaran.org

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Environment calendar

January

- 4 - Oil Conservation Week
- 15 - Oil Conservation Fortnight
- 30 - National Cleanliness Day

February

- 2 - World Wetlands Day
- 28 - National Science Day

March

- 2-4 - World Sustainable Day
- 21 - World Forestry day
- 22 - World Water Day
- 23 - World Meteorological Day

April

- 5 - National Maritime Day
- 7 - World Health Day
- 18 - World Heritage Day
- 22 - World Earth Day

May

- 11 - International Migratory Day
- 22 - International Biodiversity Day
- 31 - World No Tobacco Day

June

- 5 - World Environment Day
- 8 - World Ocean Day
- 17 - World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

July

- 11 - World Population Day
- 28 - World Nature Conservation Day

August

- 6 - Hiroshima Day
- 9 - Nagasaki Day
- 9 - International Day of the World Indigenous people
- 12 - International Youth Day

September

- 16 - World Ozone Day
- 28 - Green Consumer Day

October

- 1-7 - Wild Life Week
- 4 - World Animal welfare Day
- 6 - World Habitat Day
- 10 - International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
- 16 - World Food Day

November

- 6 - International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Arm Conflict
- 10 - World Science Day
- 14 - Children's Day in India
- 20 - Universal Children's Day
- 21 - World Television Day

December

- 2 - Bhopal Tragedy day/ National Pollution Day
- 11 - International Mountain Day
- 14 - National Energy Conservation Day

World Heritage Day April 18, 2009

World Heritage is the shared wealth of humankind. Protecting and preserving this valuable asset demands the collective efforts of the international community. This special day offers an opportunity to raise the public's awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage and the efforts that are required to protect and conserve it, as well as draw attention to its vulnerability.

The idea was also approved by the UNESCO General Conference who passed a resolution at its 22nd session in November 1983 recommending that Member States examine the possibility of declaring 18 April each year "International Monuments and Sites Day". This has been traditionally called the World Heritage Day.

If you are interested in sending us articles, features or any other relevant information please contact us at webmaster@cmsindia.org

Compiled & Edited by:

Alka Tomar, *CMS ENVIS Co-ordinator*

Rohit Singh, *Programme Officer*

Smita Mehetre, *Researcher*

Pratiksha Gogoi, *Researcher*

Narender Yadav, *Manager - Communications*

Amrendra Pathak, *IT Officer*

Published by



CMS environment

CMS ENVIS Centre

RESEARCH HOUSE

Saket Community Centre

New Delhi 110 017

P: 91-11-26864020, 26851660; F: 91-11- 26968282

www.cmsindia.org/cmsenvis

cms@envis.nic.in

Design by Ivy D'Souza