

This newspaper reproduces some of the climate change-related press releases IIED issued in 2008, along with feature and opinion articles written by IIED staff. It is intended to show the range of ways in which the institute works on climate change and to explain how we work to share the findings of our research.



CLIMATE CHANGE EDITION

The IIED Times

First, words. Now, action:

Time for a new deal on climate change

These are dizzying times for climate policy. An environmentally astute US administration is taking shape in Washington, but the world could still face a rough ride on the road to the post-2012 regime.

Climate change is climbing to the top of political agendas around the world. A new, pro-environment administration headed by President Barack Obama in the United States — along with the current round of negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Poznań, Poland, in December 2008 — means pressure is growing on governments to agree the

replacement to the Kyoto Protocol by 2009.

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) has been at the forefront of efforts to ensure the post-Kyoto deal is fair and equitable. Our Climate Change group has been promoting the importance of adaptation — particularly community-based — along with mitigation. It has been raising awareness of the links between climate change and development, and by working with partners in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) it has steered efforts to understand the impacts of climate change on human health, and map vulnerability ‘hotspots’ in cities.

IIED’s legal subsidiary FIELD (The Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development) has been

working with negotiators from Small Island Developing States to help them to stand toe-to-toe with the powerful and wealthy countries that send large teams of highly experienced negotiators to the UN climate talks.

Outside these two groups, other IIED staff have been working on different aspects of climate change — assessing the risks to coastal towns and cities, identifying ways in which forestry can help address climate change while conserving biodiversity and boosting livelihoods, teasing apart the pros and cons of biofuels production, and shedding light on the unintended consequences of targeting food miles without thinking about the livelihoods of farmers who produce the food. Our communications team has been sharing information about

climate change — and listening to feedback — through our new website at www.iied.org, our free publications and our work with thousands of journalists around the world.

IIED has been at the forefront of efforts to ensure the post-Kyoto deal is fair and equitable, through a range of work in areas ranging from adaptation to teasing apart the pros and cons of biofuels production.

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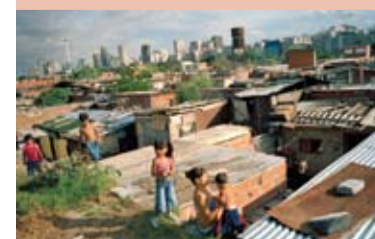
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Three time frames for climate change

In understanding and dealing with global warming, the world has distinct but limited periods in which to act. For our leaders, the next 12 months will be the key. **Saleemul Huq** explains.

Climate change is the greatest challenge facing humanity. The world's leaders and citizens can and must face up to this fact and deal with it, and they have three distinct time frames in which to act.

The first period, spanning the next five to 10 decades, is the longest and is the *time frame of our children and grandchildren*. If greenhouse-gas emissions continue unabated over this period then global temperatures will rise by several degrees. This would have globally catastrophic impacts, including severe sea-level rise and more deadly heat waves, droughts, floods and more intense hurricanes.

We can limit these impacts, but only if we act now. We need to reduce and then reverse the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere back to safe levels. This will entail being less wasteful with resources, avoiding deforestation, being more efficient with energy, and using more renewable sources of power such as wind and solar. The major emitting countries, including the two biggest, the United States and China, as well as others, both developed and developing, must act now if we are to avert catastrophe over the coming decades.

Facing the inevitable

The second period – *the time frame of this generation* – is the next two decades, during which a global temperature increase of at least 1 degree Celsius is already inevitable. Even if all global emissions were to miraculously stop tomorrow, enough greenhouse gases have already accumulated in the atmosphere to mean that some climate change is unavoidable.

The most vulnerable countries include the 50 Least Developed Countries, the Small Island Developing States and most of Africa. These three groups consist of nearly 100 countries (some are in more than one group) with a total population of nearly a billion people.

Their combined greenhouse gas emissions are less than 3 per cent of the global total, but they will certainly suffer the most adverse impacts of climate change.

Of course they will not be the only ones to suffer. There are also significant vulnerable communities in wealthier developing countries such as China and India and in even the richest countries, as the poor communities of New Orleans who experienced Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 can testify.

Vulnerable countries and communities must prepare for climate change impacts through adaptation and they will need help. Richer countries must take responsibility for having caused the problem. They can help the more vulnerable, primarily through funding but also through other means such as sharing technology and expertise.

The challenge for rich citizens (whether in rich or poor countries) is to transform themselves from unthinking consumers to

conscious global citizens. They must recognise their responsibilities and then make efforts to reduce their own individual carbon footprints. And they must urge their leaders to take the necessary long-term policy decisions and compensate the victims of climate change.

Changing minds

Finally, the *time frame of global leaders* is the next 12 months. This is the time left until the 192 parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change meet in Copenhagen to agree a successor to the Kyoto Protocol.

Between now and the meeting in December 2009, the presidents, prime ministers and government ministers must agree on the

elements of a fair and equitable global pact that will address climate change over the two time frames mentioned above. This means both mitigating climate change by rapidly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts ahead.

To succeed, our leaders must lose their current mindset of striving for the best deal for their own country and its citizens. They are not just representing their own countries, but all of humanity. They are negotiating the state of the world their generation will leave behind for their children and grandchildren.

The solutions lie in the hands of the leaders of all nations,

especially those of the leading economies that emit most of the greenhouse gases that cause the problem. But citizens, especially those in the richer countries and rich citizens of the poorer countries, also bear a responsibility for action both personally as well as politically.

Our leaders must rise to the challenge and all conscious citizens must urge them to do so.

Saleemul Huq is the head of IIED's Climate Change group. This article was first published at www.chinadialogue.net



Image: Bill Vorley/IIED

Biofuels boom could evict the rural poor

Are they boon or burden? As the debate over biofuels rages, an IIED report reveals the key importance of local context, choice of crop and business model.

The global biofuels boom risks harming poor people in poor countries by forcing them off land they depend on, says a report published in June 2008 by IIED and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN.

But the report adds that biofuels are not all bad, and shows that their production can also allow poor groups to increase their access to land and improve their livelihoods if the right policies are in place.

The report came as world leaders meeting in Rome heard calls for new guidelines on biofuels, which some have blamed for diverting resources from food production. It points out that biofuels are highly variable in nature and impact and recommends policies that would increase the social benefits biofuels production can bring to the rural poor in developing countries.

'Despite the highly polarised debate, biofuels are not all good or bad,' says lead author Lorenzo Cotula of IIED. 'Biofuels can either help or harm the world's poor depending on the choice of crop and cropping system, the business model, and the local context and policies.'



Image: shutterstock.com

Growing concerns

Biofuel production is set to expand in the coming years despite growing concerns about whether they help mitigate climate change, and their role in promoting deforestation and taking land formerly used to produce food.

The report shows that that large-scale biofuel production is affecting poor people's access to land in Africa (Mozambique and Tanzania), Asia and the Pacific (India, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea) and Latin America (Colombia).

Elsewhere, however, small-scale farmers have been able to

Large-scale biofuel production is affecting poor people's access to land in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Latin America. But elsewhere the boom is opening opportunities for small-scale farmers.

increase their access to land to seize opportunities that the biofuels boom brings.

'Biofuels can benefit poor producers but only if they have secure land rights,' says Cotula. 'In many places the rush to produce biofuels takes place where local land rights are insecure, which results in poorer people losing out. What are often lacking are both adequate land laws and the local people's capacity to claim and secure their rights.'

The report shows that large and small-scale biofuels producers can coexist, if governments and the private

sector have the right policies and practices.

The findings have direct implications not only for national and local tenure systems in producer countries, but also for international processes such as a post-Kyoto regime to address climate change, for certification schemes and for policies in importing countries.

The full report *Fuelling exclusion? The biofuels boom and poor people's access to land* is available at www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=1255IIED

Bridging the clim

Few journalists from poor countries made it to the climate talks – until now. With Internews and Panos, IIED has forged a media partnership strong on equity and inclusion.

Hundreds of news-hungry journalists were among the 10,000-plus people who gathered in Bali, Indonesia, last December for the UN climate change conference.

But while the major international news agencies and Western media outlets were there in force, there was close to zero media representation from the countries most at risk from climate change.

The meeting was billed as the most important to date, but for hundreds of millions of people in low- and middle-income countries, there was virtually nobody there to interpret the developments and send relevant news back home.

This gap between people and policy appears all too often at big meetings of UN conventions and at other major events such as G8 summits. Ordinary people in vulnerable communities are left in the dark while important decisions that affect their lives are made.

Dynamic trio

So, in Bali, three organisations – IIED, Internews and Panos – joined forces to form the Climate Change Media Partnership (CCMP) and provide a programme of media support before, during and after the conference.

Our experiences show it is possible to boost media coverage of environmental issues in

developing countries, along with the intergovernmental negotiations that aim to address them.

In addition to sending more than 1200 journalists in these countries new briefing papers on climate-change reporting and the UNFCCC processes, the CCMP brought nearly 40 journalists from developing nations to Bali. These journalists received daily briefings on the negotiations, access to experts and negotiators, and editorial support from former BBC environment correspondent Alex Kirby.

Journalists in the South have rarely been trained to report on climate change, and they lack access to information and expertise. It can take weeks to arrange interviews with researchers or government officials.

To counter this, we compiled and distributed a roster of experts from 50 organisations that would be in Bali and were willing to talk to the media. Once on the ground, we provided a matchmaking service, helping journalists connect with key sources of information relevant to their audiences back home. The journalists met and interviewed negotiators, scientists, government ministers, NGO representatives and indigenous people.

Climate clinic

IIED arranged a special briefing for the journalists with the UK climate change minister, Phil Woolas, and a day-long media clinic at which 18 specialists made presentations and took questions. The clinic covered issues such as biofuels, deforestation, carbon trading and adaptation to climate change, as well as how climate change is communicated in different contexts.

‘The CCMP has been a huge help to us,’ said Wambi Michael of the Voice of Teso radio station in Uganda. ‘Before, I didn’t know what the Clean Development Mechanism is or what adaptation is. It’s sad that in my country, which just had devastating floods, the biggest newspaper in the country didn’t send a journalist here.’

Without the partnership there would have been no journalists in Bali from countries including Burma, Jamaica, Kenya, Laos, the Philippines, Sudan and Uganda, making them reliant on reports from Western news outlets that were not in a position to provide much locally relevant information.

Unlike many media-support initiatives that involve workshop-based training alone, the journalists in Bali were both learning and doing, actively reporting from the conference on a daily basis. During the meeting, they produced an average of 18 stories for print, online, radio and TV outlets in their home countries.

‘There is really no question that Bali was a wonderful experience,’ says one of the journalists, Petre Williams of the *Jamaican Observer* newspaper. ‘For most, if not all of us, it was baptism by fire, covering this our first big environmental conference. But it was appropriately challenging and fantastic, giving us the opportunity to attract and build new sources as well as friends.’

Rash Behari Bhattacharjee of *The Sun* newspaper in Malaysia said the programme’s benefits were: ‘A direct insight into the UNFCCC process which would not have been possible otherwise; a working understanding of the politics and science behind the

talks; and access to a tremendous pool of expertise on the various sectors involved.’

Network news

The CCMP did not end in Bali. Through an online network set up by the partners, journalists are receiving ongoing support and briefings in the run-up to the crucial 2009 COP15 meeting in Copenhagen. Additional networks of fellow reporters, scientists and other experts were made available to them so they could continue strengthening their ability to report on climate change after leaving Bali.

The partnership was made possible thanks to funding from the Open Society Institute, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Commonwealth Foundation, the International Development Research Centre, Oxfam and the V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation. The CCMP is seeking additional partners for the ongoing programme covering COP14 in Poznań and culminating with COP15 in Copenhagen.

The 2007 UNDP *Human Development Report* said, ‘The media have a critical role to play in informing and changing public opinion. Apart from their role in scrutinising government actions and holding policymakers to account, the media are the main source of information for the general public on climate change science.’

The same applies to each of the other critical environmental challenges that face the planet. The CCMP has demonstrated an effective approach to boosting the ability of media in developing countries to generate in-country public debate on the policies of their governments on

climate change, and to help their audiences understand the governance and equity issues at stake. The CCMP aims to consolidate this work and scale it up so that many more journalists benefit over the next year on the road from Poznań to Copenhagen.

This article was first published by IISD/MEA Bulletin (www.iisd.ca/email/mea-l.htm).

Drought or flood? Climate change reporting around the world

IIED’s press officer Mike Shanahan and the BBC’s James Painter are coproducing a session on this topic at the 2009 World Conference of Science Journalists in London. Among the speakers will be Saleemul Huq, head of climate change at IIED and Rod Harbinson of Panos who will be speaking about the Climate Change Media Partnership’s work.

For more information see the conference website: www.wcsj2009.org

To learn more about IIED and its work with journalists, please contact **Mike Shanahan** (mike.shanahan@iied.org) or visit www.iied.org

ate-media divide



Image: James Fahn

How climate change negotiations are a time squeeze for



Image: IISD

Climate negotiations can be a minefield for the world's most vulnerable nations.

Saleemul Huq reveals the tactics essential for navigating these intense and hectic weeks.

Time is running out for governments of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to ensure they get the most from a new international regime to tackle climate change.

Last December in Bali, nearly 200 countries agreed to negotiate a new regime under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by December 2009. There could be grave consequences for the LDCs if their needs are not addressed.

It is critical for LDC governments to understand the UNFCCC processes and take steps to overcome their lack of capacity. They can do this by working with each other, by engaging with civil society organisations, and by ensuring they have the best people in their negotiating teams.

Climate change is already affecting the poorest people in the poorest countries — in your country as in mine, Bangladesh. With time running out, the LDCs need to take urgent steps to maximise their chances of getting a positive outcome as the negotiations develop and intensify.

Sharing the burden

A major problem for the LDCs is the lack of personnel available to participate effectively in the negotiations. LDCs can usually

only afford to send one negotiator (for the full two weeks of the annual conference of the UNFCCC) and one minister for the high-level second week of negotiations.

This is a handicap because the UNFCCC negotiations can break up into as many as 20 parallel sessions for different agenda items. It is impossible then for a single LDC delegate to follow all the agenda items, while the rich countries have big enough delegations to be attend all sessions.

But as the nearly 50 LDCs share common interests in the negotiations, they can be a sizeable delegation if they act together as a team. The LDC group has already negotiated well together to demand a special fund to help them adapt to climate change, and to ensure they are represented on the board of another adaptation fund set up under the Kyoto Protocol. They need to tighten this shared approach to negotiations and seek common ground with other vulnerable countries such as the Small Island Developing States.

Phased-in continuity

Another problem is that LDCs rarely send the same non-ministerial lead negotiator to UNFCCC meetings. This lack of continuity is a major handicap. It is important to select a lead negotiator now and keep them in that position for all forthcoming negotiations.

This person needs expertise not so much in technical aspects of climate change but in international diplomacy. The most appropriate person would be a senior diplomat with experience at the United Nations. Given the almost full-time nature of the international negotiations

talks or the poor

from now until December 2009, it may also be worth appointing a full time 'special envoy' for climate change.

Officials, technical experts and NGO representatives should support the lead negotiator in the delegation to each meeting. This means finding the resources to send a sizeable team, but it is not the quantity of people that matters as much as the quality.

This team needs expertise about the technical aspects of different agenda items. For LDCs, the most relevant technical issue is that of adaptation to climate impacts, and specifically, the agenda items about funding for adaptation.

Roping in NGOs

Before the team goes to the negotiations it should also consult and work closely with local nongovernmental organisations (NGOs). The NGOs can often shape the official negotiations through their research and advocacy.

The NGO community has been particularly effective as an advocacy group operating under the banner of the Climate Action Network, which now numbers several hundred NGOs (there were over 5000 NGO observers at the UNFCCC conference in Bali).

In the case of LDCs, the demands of governments and NGOs are virtually identical so it makes sense for them to work together. Some LDC governments already invite NGO staff to join their official government delegations. This cooperation needs to become more widespread and more effective in future.

Another significant aspect of the international negotiations is the role of media, both local and

international. People in LDCs need to know about the impacts of climate change they will face in the future, and people in the wealthier countries need to hear the views of the poor and vulnerable. Governments should engage the media and encourage them to report widely on climate change and how it will affect their countries. This is an opportunity that needs to be exploited intelligently.

Navigating the rapids

Any LDC delegation to a climate change summit must have high-level political support. This means involving key ministers including those of environment, finance and foreign affairs — or better still, the head of state.

The minister who goes to the second ('high level') week of the summit needs to be well briefed about the negotiating process. A common misconception among ministers is that the most important activity for all the other members of their delegation is to help them to write their speech.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The ministers' speeches are some of the least important inputs to a summit and they almost never influence the negotiations. On the contrary, very often, as the ministers are giving their speeches in the main plenary hall, the real negotiations are continuing in a smaller group elsewhere. Indeed, by pulling the lead negotiator out of negotiations, the minister's presence can actually have a negative outcome on their country's interests.

The climate-change negotiation process can be compared to a big passenger ship with many activities going on in different rooms at the same time, with

The negotiation process is like a big passenger ship with everyone discussing which direction the ship should go. Delegates recognised for their skills help decide which way to steer it.

every one discussing which direction the ship should go forward. One of these rooms contains the ministers giving their speeches. At the same time, a small number of delegates from a few countries who have been recognised for their skills are invited to the ship's bridge to help decide which way to steer it.

If an LDC and its lead negotiator fail to be invited on to the bridge, no amount of ministerial speeches will make any difference.

Saleemul Huq is head of IIED's Climate Change group. This article was first published by IISD/MEA Bulletin (www.iisd.ca/email/mea-l.htm).

Tiempo

The Tiempo programme – reliable information and stimulating debate

The world's Least Developed Countries are highly vulnerable to climate change. Among other challenges, policy makers in these countries lack access to the accurate information they need to make informed policy decisions and plan effectively for a climate constrained future.

The Tiempo Programme, supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), makes available the information LDCs need to respond effectively to the climate threat. It maintains a forum for communication and debate both within developing nations and between these countries and the industrialised world.

Tiempo and Tiempo Climate Newswatch

Under the programme, IIED and the Stockholm Environment Institute, with the assistance of Tanelorn Associates in New Zealand, produce the global print bulletin *Tiempo* and a weekly online news magazine, *Tiempo Climate Newswatch* (www.tiempocyberclimate.org/newswatch/). Issue 69 of the bulletin, which will be available in Poznań, includes articles on implementing National Adaptation Plans of Action, adaptation in dryland areas and NGO responses to climate change, as well as an interview with Mickey Glantz of the US National Center for Atmospheric Research on the role of social science in climate research.

For more information about writing for or subscribing to *Tiempo*, please contact tiempo.editorial@gmail.com.

Tiempo Afrique

Several LDCs are in French-speaking West Africa. These countries are at a particular disadvantage because most information on climate change, and most of the negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, are in English only. For countries struggling to negotiate against the well-resourced teams of wealthier nations, this has often proved another obstacle in an already challenging course. In October 2008 a new resource emerged. A French version of *Tiempo* designed for a West African readership was launched, thanks to funding from Sida and technical capacity at the NGO Environnement et Développement du Tiers Monde (ENDA).

Tiempo Afrique includes articles translated from the English language version of *Tiempo*, and articles sourced and commissioned of particular relevance to the region. Authors wishing to submit articles for future issues should contact Djimingué Nanasta on dnanasta@yahoo.fr and Nogoye Thiam at nogoyet@yahoo.com. If you live in a developing country or working on climate and development issues then you can request a free subscription to the quarterly printed bulletin, *Tiempo Afrique*, by contacting Nogoye or Djimingué (see above) or Nathalie Koffi at enda.energy@orange.sn, or by post at ENDA TM, Programme Energie, Environnement, Développement, 54, rue Carnot – BP 3370, Dakar, Sénégal, or by fax at (221) 33 821 75 95.

IIED, FIELD and partners who will be at COP14 in Poznań

A number of staff members from IIED and FIELD (IIED's legal subsidiary), as well as partners from adaptation specialist network CLACC, will be at the Poznań COP. Feel free to contact us by email or our Poznań mobile phone numbers (see below: add 00 48 if dialling from a non-Polish network), or look out for our stand.

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CLACC
CLACC is a network of fellows and international experts working to build capacity for adaptation to climate change in some of the Least Developed Countries. It operates in 15 countries in the South — 12 in Africa and 3 in South Asia. The following CLACC Fellows will be at COP14 in Poznań. For more information see: www.clacc.net

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Climate fight must harness biodiversity and involve communities

Progress on key global issues depends on policies that reflect the deep interconnections between them, says an IIED report.

UN-led efforts to address climate change, conserve biodiversity and fight poverty could cancel each other out unless the close links between these global challenges are given more attention, says a paper published in February 2008 by IIED.

It warns that many efforts to mitigate climate change have paid scant attention to biodiversity conservation and the world's poor.

The paper shows that biodiversity has a key role to play in both adapting to the impacts ahead and cutting the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. To be effective, however, policies must have greater input from communities who are particularly vulnerable to climate change and have valuable local knowledge.

The paper came as government parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) met in Rome to progress talks ahead of the main CBD conference in May.

Join the dots

'Governments, businesses, donor agencies and individuals need to do more joined-up thinking to ensure that the aims of the UN Millennium Development Goals, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change are met,' says Hannah Reid who wrote the paper with fellow senior researcher Krystyna Swiderska.

'Pro-poor, biodiversity-friendly ways to adapt to and mitigate climate change are clearly the way forward,' says Swiderska. 'But for them to work, local communities must be involved in decisions about how biodiversity is used. Good governance and fair access to land and resources must be at the heart of these efforts.'

Synergies at work

There are tight links between climate, biodiversity — the variety of life on Earth, from genes to species to ecosystems — and people's resilience to environmental change. But bad policies can promote biodiversity loss and even greater impacts on the people most vulnerable to climate change.

Poor people depend heavily on biodiversity for food, medicine, and livelihoods, and the greater the variety of natural resources, the more options they have. Yet climate change threatens many species with extinction and policies aimed at addressing the threat could also reduce biodiversity and people's livelihood options.

The paper points out that efforts to reduce greenhouse gas concentrations by preserving substantial areas of forest risk excluding local communities from the natural resources they depend on for their livelihoods. Meanwhile, production of biofuels as an alternative to fossil fuels has led to widespread conversion of biodiverse forests, savannas and peatlands — and the release of large quantities of greenhouse gases.

The report concludes that while large projects have political appeal and provide an 'easy fix', the biodiversity, climate change and poverty

benefits of small-scale activities may be many times greater.

'Policymakers have focused on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, but biodiversity is also key to adaptation to climate change, particularly as it enhances the resilience of farming systems and other ecosystems,' says Swiderska. 'For centuries, traditional farmers have used the diversity within both domesticated and wild species to adapt to changing conditions.'

'Policymakers and scientists searching for solutions to climate change should recognise the value of traditional farming systems that sustain agricultural biodiversity,' says Swiderska.

'Many communities are already using agricultural - biodiversity and traditional practices, such as seed exchange and field experimentation, to adapt to climate change. Farmer-researcher collaboration can bring added value that each alone could never realise,' she adds.

The report points out that traditional farming also brings mitigation benefits as it produces far fewer greenhouse gas emissions than modern intensive approaches that rely on mechanisation, and inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides derived from fossil fuels.

Similarly, protecting biodiverse habitats such as forests and mangroves can provide multiple benefits for adaptation, mitigation, poverty reduction and biodiversity — by storing carbon, protecting coastlines, limiting erosion and regulating water flow, which reduces the risks of flooding.

Side events in Poznań

Community-based adaptation: small is beautiful

CARE International, the World Resources Institute (WRI) and IIED discuss the role of community-based adaptation within the post-2012 framework.

When: 3 December 2008 at 18:00-19:30

Where: CCTV 5

Contact: Angie Dazé (angie@care.ca)

Overcoming the communication deficit: encouraging climate change debate in the global South

The Climate Change Media Partnership supports developing country journalists to increase public understanding and debate on climate change issues. Lessons from our projects show how better communication can achieve greater inclusion of Southern needs and voices in decisions about climate change.

When: 5 December 2008 at 9:00-10:30

Where: CCTV 3

Contact: Natalie Herzhoff (natalie.herzhoff@panos.org.uk)

Cities and adaptation to climate change

IIED and partners discuss their efforts to map vulnerability to climate change in cities in some of the Least Developed Countries.

When: 5 December 2008 at 18:00-19:30

Where: CCTV3

Contact: Catherine Baker (catherine.baker@iied.org)

Development and Climate Days

This two-day event hosted by IIED, the Stockholm Environment Institute and the Ring alliance brings together scientists, policymakers, negotiators and practitioners from both the climate change and development communities. Attendees learn about and discuss the latest knowledge about how these two sectors interact in areas such as human rights, adaptation and impacts of climate change on women and children. The event has been running for a number of years, attracting hundreds of delegates. For the second year running, there will be a film festival.

When: 6-7 December 2008

Where: Sheraton Hotel, Poznań

Contact: Catherine Baker (catherine.baker@iied.org)

Growing Forest Partnerships

Growing Forest Partnerships will build on forests' potential for tackling climate change, providing good economic returns for businesses big and small, raising revenue for governments and supporting livelihoods. Speakers will include Stewart Maginnis, IUCN; Liz Carlile, IIED; Gerhard Dieterle, World Bank, and Robin Mearns, World Bank.

When: 6 December 2008

Where: Forest Day 2, University of Adam Mickiewicz

Contact: Liz Carlile (liz.carlile@iied.org)

Realising REDD

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the World Resources Institute, Norwegian ministries and IIED will host this presentation on reduced emissions from deforestation in developing countries (REDD).

When: 6 December 2008

Where: Forest Day 2, University of Adam Mickiewicz

Contact: Ivan Bond (ivan.bond@iied.org)

Climate equity – from citizens of nation states to citizens of the world

Saleemul Huq argues that climate change is an issue for all of humanity – and each of us needs to tackle it as proactive individuals.

Perceptions of climate change – and what must be done to tackle the problem – have evolved over time. With concerns about justice and equity now rising to the surface, it is time for a new era of global citizenry in which people around the world come together to both take and demand effective action.

Back in the 1980s and 1990s climate change was seen as an environmental problem, a form of pollution caused by emission of greenhouse gases, mainly in the rich countries. The perceived solution was limited to ‘mitigation’, taking action to reduce emissions through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, for instance.

By the start of this century, though, perceptions had shifted. It was accepted that climate change would bring unavoidable impacts, which the planet (and especially poor countries and communities) would have to deal with through ‘adaptation’. Climate change was no longer purely an environmental problem. It had a human face.

Bridging the gaps

This recognition of additional problems and solutions led to new bridges being built between the scientific, environmental, and development communities – and it brought in a much larger constituency of people in developing countries.

This led, in the UNFCCC process, to several new funds being created to help developing countries to adapt to impacts of climate change.

Current discussions about the future of global climate change policy focus on what the world needs to do to address climate change when the Kyoto Protocol’s first period of commitments ends in 2012.

One of the outcomes of the December 2007 meeting of the UNFCCC in Bali was a timetable for negotiating this post-2012 regime. But to have a chance of entering into force as soon as Kyoto expires, it will need to be agreed by December 2009, when the parties to the UNFCCC meet in Copenhagen, Denmark.

But as global policy debates and negotiations proceed, they still approach the problem as one of national responsibilities. The result is much jockeying by some countries on how much action they would accept for themselves in any global agreement.

It is perhaps time to stop viewing the climate change problem as primarily to do with nation states and national policy, and more to do with humanity as a whole versus the climate. In this perception, every single human being on the planet, regardless of their nationality, is responsible for a certain amount of emissions (his or her ‘carbon footprint’) by virtue of eating, working, travelling, etc.

Charge towards change

Individuals’ carbon footprints vary considerably across the globe. The carbon footprint of a poor pastoralist in Africa is a fraction of the global average while that of most people living in rich countries is several times greater.

It is time to stop viewing climate change as primarily to do with nation states and national policy, and more to do with humanity as a whole versus the climate. Every single human being on the planet, regardless of their nationality, is responsible for a certain amount of emissions – his or her ‘carbon footprint’.

Likewise, rich people in poor countries such as India and China have individual carbon footprints greater than the global average. Meanwhile, the richest people on the planet have carbon footprints many hundreds of times the global average.

It is time for all people – especially those of us whose carbon footprints are bigger than the global average – to take responsibility for the damage we are causing to the planet and to take action.

We can do this at three levels:

- by calculating our own carbon footprint and taking all possible measures to reduce it
- by trying to ‘offset’ our individual emissions (as we cannot reduce them to zero)

and compensating those who will suffer the impacts of climate change (e.g. through contributing to adaptation funds for poor communities)

- by becoming active citizens and demanding of our leaders that they take strong action at the global and national level (and this includes a truly strong post-2012 climate change agreement).

The time has come for each of us to see the problem not through the lens of our nation-state but in terms of our individual actions and our individual responsibilities.

Saleemul Huq is head of IIED’s Climate Change group. This article was first published at www.grist.org

The Community-Based Adaptation Exchange (CBA-X)

The Community-Based Adaptation Exchange (CBA-X) (www.cba-exchange.org) is an online resource set up by IIED and hosted by the UK-based Institute of Development Studies (IDS) to support the exchange of up-to-date information about community-based adaptation to climate change. The idea grew out of the Second International Workshop on Community Based Adaptation held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 2007 as a response to calls for more and better resources on CBA and the need for greater communication between CBA practitioners.

Phase 1 of CBA-X has involved the creation of a CBA dossier on the IDS Eldis website. This contains a wealth of information on CBA, including case studies, background and policy resources, tools and practice. In Phase 2, to be completed by the relaunch of CBA-X at the Third International Community-Based Adaptation Workshop in Dhaka in February 2009, CBA-X is evolving into a space for users not only to share research papers, but also information about events, postings and video materials, and to contribute to the blog and discussions and meet others working in the field.

If you are working on CBA and would like to share your own lessons, methodologies, case studies and good practice, please contact [Jessica Ayers J.M.Ayers@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Jessica.Ayers@lse.ac.uk)

New international training centre for adaptation in the LDCs



Image: Haseeb Md. Irfanuloh / IUCN Bangladesh

For the poorest countries, community projects to cope with climate impacts are key. Now IIED, with partners, is building an academic base for study in this essential area.

IIED is teaming up with the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (www.bcas.net) and the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) (www.iub.edu.bd), to create a new International Centre for Climate Change Adaptation and Development (ICCCAD).

The move reflects the fact that some climate change impacts are now inevitable and that communities need to adapt to the changes ahead, especially in the UN list of Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The ICCAD is the brainchild of Saleemul Huq. Now head of IIED's Climate Change group, Huq will be its first director.

Scholarships for up to 15 international Masters and five PhD students from the LDCs will be offered each year. The centre will also run short courses in different subject areas, including disaster risk reduction and adaptation, adaptation and mitigation links, the economics of adaptation, community-based adaptation and the Clean Development Mechanism aimed at students, NGOs, donors, media the private sector and others.

The launch date is 27 February 2009 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, after the first meeting of its international advisory board. Among the board members are

Rajendra Pachauri, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and Gordon Conway, chief scientific advisor to the UK Department for International Development.

The ICCAD will be located in the new campus of IUB now under construction just outside Dhaka, and will have a national and international teaching staff. It will also establish academic and research links with some leading universities, including the United Nations University in Tokyo; the UK-based Institute for Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Oxford University and Imperial College London; the universities of Toronto, Guelph and British Columbia in Canada; and Wesleyan, Harvard and Yale universities in the United States, as well as a number of universities in developing countries.

Scholarships for up to 15 international Masters and five PhD students from the LDCs will be offered each year, and the centre will also run courses for NGOs, donors, the media and the private sector.

For more information about ICCAD, email Saleemul Huq (saleemul.huq@iied.org) or call: +44 (0)20 7388 2117

Global forest plan could boost fight against poverty and climate change

Forests regulate climate and provide livelihoods to millions. IIED is helping to shape a new partnership for regulation starting at the roots

An emerging initiative could pave the way for fundamental change in the way forests are managed, boosting efforts to fight both poverty and climate change, says research published by IIED in September 2008.

The World Bank-nurtured idea is of a global forest partnership that links local and global processes and promotes decision-making on the international stage that reflects the views and needs of local stakeholders such as forest dwellers.

But the study's authors warn that the World Bank will have to heed the advice of hundreds of experts they consulted if it is to make a real breakthrough in tackling the problems of past decades and the weaknesses of typical international forest programmes.

IIED consulted widely on the bank's idea. More than 600 forest experts responded to IIED's survey or participated in focus groups in Brazil, China, Ghana, Guyana, India, Russia and Mozambique, as well as at international meetings.

A majority agreed a new partnership was needed to protect forests and forest-based livelihoods, but pointed out ways it should diverge from the bank's initial idea if it is to really serve local needs on an equitable basis with the rapidly changing global forestry agenda. IIED also reviewed more than 50 existing

initiatives to identify the proposed alliance's potential partners and the gaps it could fill.

Grassroots empowerment

The consultation identified key features that would make a global partnership a unique and truly progressive way for international forestry to work. It should focus, for instance, on empowering primary stakeholders such as forest dwellers so that their rights, knowledge and needs are centre stage.

It should greatly improve flows of finance to activities that support local needs alongside global public goods such as carbon storage. And it should interact effectively with other sectors such as water and agriculture, where the underlying causes of forest problems – and the seeds of sustainable solutions – are often lodged.

'Without these building blocks, the ambitious partnership idea is unlikely to succeed,' says IIED's Steve Bass, the report's co-author. 'This is a new opportunity to develop an empowering, stakeholder-focused partnership that can attract real investment to manage forests sustainably.'

'It has potential to harness an enormous groundswell of energy to manage forests so they can help address local poverty and global climate change,' adds Bass. 'Right now, Western governments are planning large climate and forest funds – the partnership could identify the best ways to invest those funds for long-term good.'

Existing efforts to make forestry work for the poor have not generated the results expected. The desire to create a new global forest partnership that connects local and global

processes and people is an ambitious break from tradition that could create new ways to do business in the forest sector.

A break with the past

'The World Bank should be praised for breaking with normal practice and supporting the independent scrutiny of its plans through engagement with a broad range of stakeholders,' says co-author James Mayers, head of IIED's Natural Resources group.

'What the bank must now avoid is trying to drive the partnership from the top down,' he says. 'Instead it must act as the facilitator, providing financial and other support in a hands-off way to enable an independent alliance to be built from the bottom up, bringing together local and regional partners with global organisations.'

The report urges the formation of a 'development group' of forest, environment and development leaders, mainly from the South and credible to government, civil society and the private sector, who can come together and contribute to the development of the initiative.

'What the World Bank must now avoid is trying to drive the partnership from the top down. It must act as facilitator, providing financial and other support in a hands-off way to enable an independent alliance to be built from the bottom up.'

More than 600 forest experts responded to IIED's survey or participated in focus groups in Brazil, China, Ghana, Guyana, India, Russia and Mozambique, as well as at international meetings.

They would be supported by a small group of progressive international institutions in their efforts to forge a new kind of local-global partnership.

Daniela Gomes Pinto and Mario Monzoni of the Getulio Vargas Foundation, who helped to coordinate the extensive consultation process in Brazil, say: 'The Brazilians we consulted said a global forest partnership is needed to raise the overall profile of forests, to curb the drivers of deforestation, and to support those who wish to practice sustainable forest management,' they say, adding, 'It must be globally designed, but country-driven – a partnership for the world, not the World Bank.'

Welcoming the report, World Bank Forest Advisor Gerhard Dieterle says: 'The World Bank is happy to hear there is consensus on a new approach from a broad variety of forest stakeholders from around the world.'

'We have listened to the advice of the hundreds of people consulted and will be following IIED's recommendation that the World Bank support an independent process of a global partnership growing from the "bottom up",' he says.

'We are convinced that this is a lasting way to have forests contribute to economic growth, to the livelihoods of forest-dependent people and poverty reduction as a whole, as well as preserving the global services forests deliver.'

The report including annexes plus French, Spanish, Portuguese versions of Executive Summary components can be downloaded in pdf format at: www.iiedgfconsultation.org

Since this article was first published, this work has been formalised into a new alliance called Growing Forest Partnerships. To find out more contact Liz Carlile (liz.carlile@iied.org) or visit <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=V8OPY8sc12s> to see the views of the 'Wall of Friends'



Image: JM Kakamega

IIED opinions and on climate change

IIED publishes regular briefings and opinion papers on climate change and these are freely available from our website, often also in French and Spanish translations. For more information on these and other publications, please visit www.iied.org/pubs/ or contact IIED's Publications and Marketing Manager, Vanessa Mcleod-Kourie (vanessa.mcleod-kourie@iied.org).

A list of some of our recent papers follows.

Opinion papers

Building resilience: how the urban poor can drive climate adaptation

Adaptation — preparing for and coping with climate impacts — is now a key issue in climate negotiations. This is real progress from a decade ago, when mitigation alone dominated the climate agenda. But adaptation itself needs to move on. The 900 million urban dwellers living in poverty worldwide will likely be among the worst affected by climate change, yet they hardly feature in adaptation policies and practices. These people, most living in the world's poorer countries, urgently need efficient, cost-effective solutions. Community-based adaptation is one. But for CBA to work in urban areas, adaptation funding needs to reach the grassroots organisations and city governments that will initiate and deliver it.

Springing back: climate resilience at Africa's grassroots

Climate change is often seen as a global problem demanding global solutions. But for poor people hit hard by the impacts, climate change is a not a

boardroom abstraction, but day-to-day reality. Faced with local shifts in weather patterns and natural resources, they are forced to find ways of coping that are locally relevant. This kind of experience, gained at the grassroots, boosts resilience as no top-down initiative can. Three case studies from rural communities in Benin, Kenya and Malawi show how it is done.

Critical list: the 100 nations most vulnerable to climate change

Well over a billion people in 100 countries face a bleak future. In these, the nations most vulnerable to climate change, resilience has already been eroded by entrenched poverty, degraded or threatened environments and other problems. The harsher, more frequent natural disasters that are predicted could tip them over the edge into chronic famine or forced migration. Yet these are also the countries that have contributed least to climate change. It is vital that their voices and views be heard in the negotiations to determine the post-Kyoto climate regime. Equally importantly, the countries emitting the most greenhouse gases must redress

the balance by establishing robust mitigation programmes.

Room to move: 'ecological space' and emissions equity

Tackling climate change will involve a monumental balancing act. How can we effectively curb emissions while ensuring that poor countries are not restricted in their efforts to develop sustainably? The concept of 'ecological space' offers a viable solution. By measuring and comparing countries' greenhouse gas emissions, we can pinpoint their share of the total remaining emissions the planet can sustain without serious disruption to climate. The relatively low emissions of poor countries — and the per capita levels for the poorest are just 2 per cent of those in the US — allow them the ecological space for non-restrictive economic development. Overall, the concept is a workable guide to achieving emissions equity while collectively moving towards a low-carbon future.

Climate change and cities: why urban agendas are central to adaptation and mitigation

Cities could hold the key to slowing and eventually stopping global warming. Most greenhouse gas emissions are generated from producing the goods and services used by middle- and upper-income urban consumers. Keeping global warming within safe limits demands far more energy-efficient urban buildings and production systems and urban lifestyles that are far less carbon-intensive. It is up to high-income nations — the biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions past and present —

to show how such a transformation can be combined with high living standards. However, urgent action is also needed in the urban areas of low- and middle-income countries, both through mitigation to curb greenhouse gas emissions, and adaptation to the serious risks that climate change brings.

Counting the cost of climate change in Namibia

When most of a country's wealth is in the wild, shifts in natural systems can wreak havoc with its economy. Namibia is a case in point. Its natural legacy underpins much of the national bank balance — and also leaves it highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In fact, research suggests the impacts on natural resources alone could reduce the country's GDP by 1 to 6 per cent. The need to mainstream climate change into national policies and planning is clear, not least because the poor will be most affected. Employment opportunities could shrink and wages fall, with incomes for unskilled labour dropping by 24 per cent in a worst-case scenario. So along with 'climate-proofed' policies and activities, Namibia needs a strategy to deal with displaced farmers and farmworkers. But it is up to industrialised nations — the most responsible for climate change — to help Namibia and other vulnerable countries cope with the impacts and plan for a climate-constrained future.

Briefing papers

Taking steps: mainstreaming national adaptation

Climate change poses a massive threat to development. The poorest populations of poor countries — the Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and the nations of Africa — face a double-edged sword, forced to tackle the worst of the impacts with the least capacity to do so. It is clear, then, that adaptation to climate impacts must be seamlessly integrated into any development planning and policy. This four-step plan for mainstreaming climate change aims to fulfil that need. A 'learning by doing' approach, it focuses first on national capacity to ensure development in all sectors and at all levels is effectively climate-proofed.

Adaptation funding and development assistance: some FAQs

It's becoming ever clearer that development and climate change are intertwined issues. Unsustainable development drives climate change, while sustainable development can reduce vulnerability to it. Development issues can constrain capacity to adapt to climate change; climate impacts can be a barrier to development. Adaptation to climate impacts is therefore seen more and more as key to good development practice; and development that aims to improve the lives and resource access of people facing climate challenges is seen as a prerequisite for successful adaptation. But when it comes to adaptation funding, confusion and contention remain over the role development institutions play.

briefings

Against the tide: climate change and high-risk cities

In the world's poorest and most vulnerable nations, most cities and towns face a distinct dual pressure: rapidly growing population and high vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Drought, storms, flooding and sea level rise are likely to hit hardest here. These in turn put water supplies, infrastructure, health and livelihoods at risk in the very cities already struggling to provide or safeguard such key needs. An effective response demands capable local and national government and support from strong international networks in building capacity. Most of the Least Developed Countries lack both.

Biodiversity, climate change and poverty: exploring the links

Biodiversity — the variety of all life, from genes and species to ecosystems — is intimately linked to Earth's climate and to climate change. Biodiversity and poverty are also inextricably connected. For instance, changes to natural ecosystems influence both climate change and people's ability to cope with some of its damaging impacts. And in their turn climate change, as well as people's responses to it, affect biodiversity. Unpicking all these strands clearly shows that conserving and managing biodiversity can help natural systems and vulnerable people cope with a shifting global climate. Yet compared to activities such as forest conservation and afforestation — widely noted as a way of sequestering carbon and cutting greenhouse gas emissions — biodiversity conservation is a neglected area. That must

change: urgent support is needed for local solutions to biodiversity loss that provide benefits on all counts.

Flight plan: taking responsibility for aviation emissions

Aviation emissions make up less than 2 per cent of the world total, but are rising fast. These environmental costs must be balanced with development gains, however: air travel can hugely benefit poor countries' economies. The good news is that much can be done to curb emissions while keeping those benefits on board. Workable tools and guidelines for passengers, travel providers, government and airlines are waiting in the wings.

Talking about a revolution: climate change and the media

How is climate change presented and seen in different parts of the world? The issue has never been higher on the media's agenda, yet problems persist in the way it is reported. While the media is not entirely to blame, it can do much to improve its telling of climate change stories.



Don't blame cities for climate change – see them as solutions

Urban areas take the flack for carbon emissions but, says an IIED study, it's the high-consuming rich who spew out the most.

Cities are being unfairly blamed for most of humanity's greenhouse gas emissions and this threatens efforts to tackle climate change, warns a study in the October 2008 issue of the journal *Environment and Urbanization*.

It points out that wealthy people with carbon-intensive lifestyles who live outside of cities are among the main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions but that this fact is rarely reported.

The paper says cities are often blamed for 75 to 80 per cent of emissions, but that the true value is closer to 40 per cent. It adds that the potential for cities to help address climate change is being overlooked because of this error.

'Blaming cities for greenhouse gas emissions misses the point that cities are a large part of the solution,' says the paper's author, David Satterthwaite, a Senior Fellow at IIED. 'Well-planned, well-governed cities can provide high living standards that do not require high consumption levels and high greenhouse gas emissions.'

UN agencies, former US President Bill Clinton's climate change initiative and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg have all stated that between 75 and 80 per cent of emissions come from cities.

Rural culprits

Satterthwaite used data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to show that only two-fifths of all greenhouse gases from human activities are generated within cities. Agriculture and deforestation account for around 30 per cent, and the rest are mostly from heavy industry, wealthy households and coal, oil or gas fuelled power stations located in rural areas and in urban centres too small to be considered cities.

But the paper also highlights how it can be misleading to allocate greenhouse gas emissions to places. For instance, emissions from power stations should be allocated to those that consume the electricity, not the places where the power stations are located. Emissions generated by industries should likewise be allocated to the person consuming the goods the industries produce.

'Consumer demand drives the production of goods and services, and therefore the emission of greenhouse gases,' says Satterthwaite.

'Allocating emissions to consumers rather than producers shows that the problem is not cities but a minority of the world's population with high-consumption lifestyles. A large proportion of these consumers live not in cities but in small towns and rural areas.'

In addition, allocating greenhouse gas emissions to consumers increases the share of global emissions from Europe and North America and highlights the very low emissions per person of most city inhabitants in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In general, wealthy people outside cities are responsible

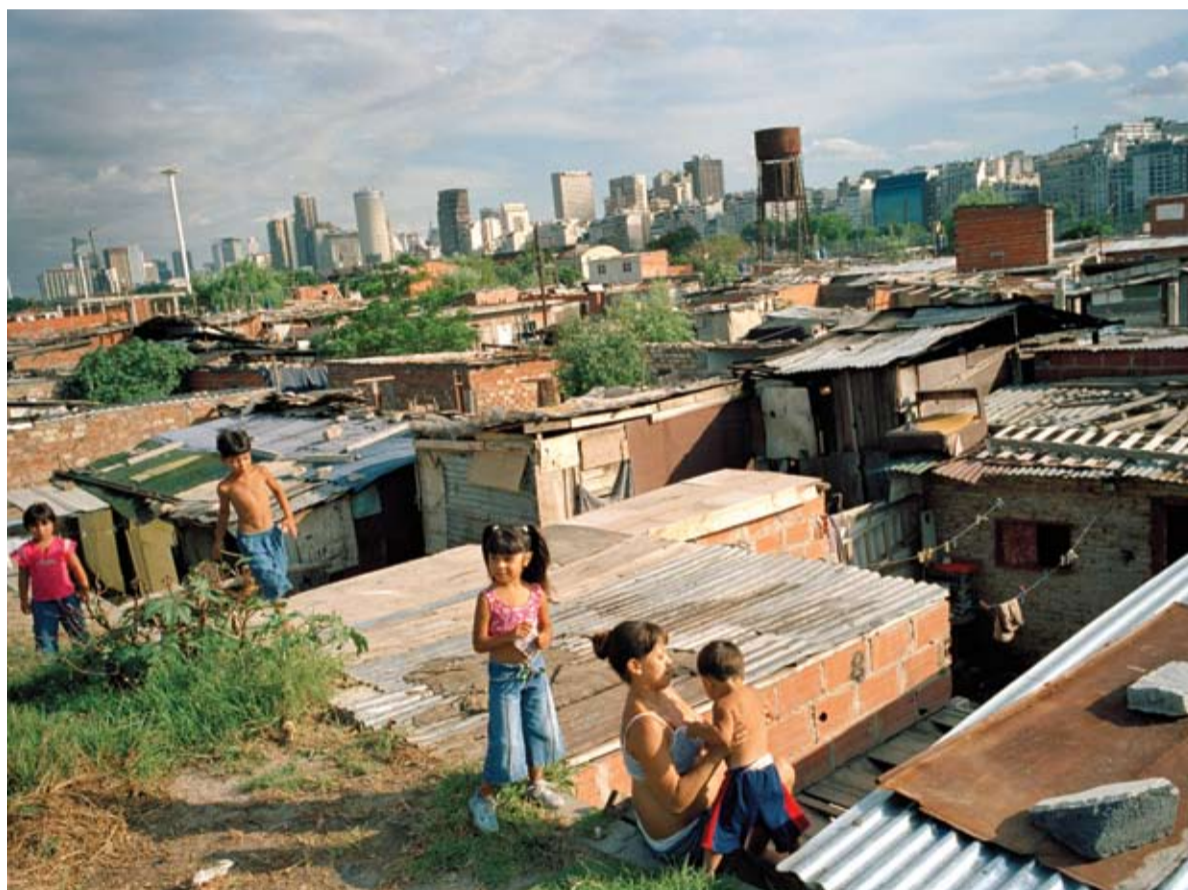


Image: Mark Edwards

for more greenhouse gas emissions than those in cities as they have larger homes that need to be heated or cooled, more automobiles per household and greater automobile use.

Design flaws

'The way cities are designed and run can make a big difference,' says Satterthwaite. 'Most cities in the United States have three to five times the gasoline use per person of most European cities but not three to five times the living standards.'

Satterthwaite points out that cities offer many opportunities to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions, such as by promoting walking, bicycling and public transport and having building designs that require much less energy for heating and cooling.

Only two-fifths of all greenhouse gases from human activities are generated within cities. Agriculture, deforestation, heavy industry, wealthy households and coal, oil or gas fuelled power stations account for the rest.

'Achieving the needed reductions in greenhouse gas emissions worldwide depends on seeing and acting on the potential of cities to combine a high quality of life with low greenhouse gas emissions,' he says.

David Satterthwaite's paper was published in volume 20 of *Environment and Urbanization* (October 2008). For more information, email: david.satterthwaite@iied.org