



## The year that was: TERRE Events 2012

Year 2012 proved to be busy and eventful year for TERRE Policy Centre.

TERRE looks back on some of the remarkable events of the year that just passed by, but with determination to move forward in 2013:

- In April 2012 held community dialogue in partnership with Ranwata (local NGO) on sustainable development of the local communities around potential World Natural Heritage Sites in the Western Ghats of India.

- Participated as an observer and made convincing arguments on community dialogues at UNESCO's World Heritage Convention meeting (June-July 2012) in Saint Petersburg, Russia where 39 sites in the Western Ghats of India were finally inscribed as World Natural Heritage Sites.

- Co-hosted two side events at Convention on Biological Diversity, Hyderabad (Oct 2012), on Bio-rights and Sustainable development of

World Natural Heritage Sites> It also gave presentation in the Japanese (NECTA) side event on nature restoration.

- In November 2012, at World Forum Lille, France, moderated the event on Third Industrial Revolution and Sustainable buildings; organized Diwali lunch-discussion made presentation on the CSR activities in India

- Participated in Rio+20 event in Rio De Janeiro , Brazil to launch Global Union for Sustainability (GUS) along with Ethos Institute of Brazil

- Released the new field guide 'Flowers of Kas' which has been compiled by botanist and photographer Shrikant Ingalhalikar.

- Chairman of TERRE delivered the Key Note addresses at the Kirloskar-Vasundhara International Environmental Film Festival September 2012 in Sangli, Jalgaon, Kolhapur and Nasik in State of Maharashtra, India.

- Organised Community Dialogue with the villagers at Kirloskar Wadi in Western Maharashtra, India. It involved local heads of villages who discussed their schemes and initiatives and other environmental and sustainability issues.

- With support of Sakal Newspaper Media group joined hands with people of Rahimatpur, in State of Maharashtra, India to restore rivulet Kamandalu.

- Chairman, TERRE visited Japan on invitation for initiating the collaboration with Japan Government, Industry and NGOs in the area of energy and food security. He held the discussion in Tokyo, Osaka, Akashi, Chiba and Shiga prefecture.

- Chairman, TERRE was invited by French TV 'France24' on 4th Dec and 27<sup>th</sup> December for comments and focused debates on the Doha Climate meeting and 2012 energy review. President, TERRE facilitated the Valedictory Session of the conclave. at

'Save the Western Ghats Practitioners Conclave', organised by AERF, at Mahabaleshwar in Dec 2012.

- Guided the seminar on bio-diversity in the Satpuda Mountain Ranges attended by 200 experts on birds, spiders, and wild animals including tigers

- TERRE Policy Centre and Ranwaata facilitated an interaction of NGOs and Nature lovers of Western Ghats with Dr. V. Mathur, Dean of Wildlife Institute of India.

- TERRE also co-organized (with CPI-Industry) conferences in Dubai on Refrigerants Review, participated in 25th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol in Geneva, Switzerland, Co-organised (with NoE21 informal get-together of NGOs working on the Montreal Protocol also in Geneva, held consultations on Energy and Environment in Oman, and produced policy papers on environmental crime and ecological values.

For details and more, visit [www.terrepolicycentre.org](http://www.terrepolicycentre.org)

## On the Funny Side

Cartoonists always have a creative take on current affairs. They can give a sarcastic twist to the most serious of issues, and make people look at the irony of the situation. Here are a few cartoons we found.



[www.life-size-media.com/blog/2012](http://www.life-size-media.com/blog/2012)



**"Dreaming of a White Christmas!"** © Seppo Leinonen [www.seppo.net](http://www.seppo.net)

<http://www.mcgill.ca/mse/events-media/mse-students-newsletters>

**From the Chairman's Desk**



**Goal 3 and New Delhi's Gang Rape**

The gang rape in New Delhi in the closing days of 2012 stirred all. While condemnations, regrets, remorse, appeals and debate galore, we are entering 2013 with nervous and restless feeling. I turn to the United Nations 2012 report on progress in Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

**Goal number 3 is : Promote gender equality and empower women.**

**Target is: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.**



*What is the progress till now? Read below the extracts from the MDG 2012-progress report:*

Ban-Ki Moon: "The goal of gender equality also remains unfulfilled, again with broad negative consequences, given that achieving the MDGs depends so much on women's

empowerment and equal access by women to education, work, health care and decision-making."

**Report analysis: (Quoted directly)**

**1. Gender disparities emerge at different points through the education system**

Once girls gain access to primary education, however, they tend to outperform boys. Data show that in most countries, girls are less likely to repeat grades or leave school early. In 102 out of 129 countries reporting data, girls progress more rapidly to the last grade of primary education than boys.

**2. Girls from the poorest households face the highest barriers to education.**

**3. Equal access to job opportunities remains a distant target for women in some regions**

**4. Women, more often than men, turn to the informal economy**

I feel these extracts give clues to what is needed. The Indian Society has not paid much needed attention to women's education where as onslaught of globalization including violent culture is spreading like wild fire.

**Rajendra Shende**  
Chairman, TERRE

*(Image Source: www.parmionova.blogspot.com)*

**In the Headlines**

**Major Global Happenings related to environment in 2012**

*This is not a review of the global environmental affairs but TERRE's observations on events that stood out in 2012.*

**Who's in? Who's out? IUCN Red List 2012**



IUCN released a list of the world's 100 most threatened species, which includes plants, animals and fungi. The latest update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, saw new additions and changes in the status of existing species in the list. The rediscovery of two frog species and downlisting of a number of species indicated that conservation efforts were having a positive impact for these species. The area of concern is that of the 65, 518 species, on the Red List, 20, 219 are "threatened".

**New Commitment Kyoto Protocol**

Amidst all the commotion at the Doha Climate Change Conference, one of the main objectives was deciding on fresh commitments of participating nations to the Kyoto Protocol. The second commitment period will end in 2020, while the first commitment period ended in December

2012. The Protocol has set binding targets for countries to reduce Green House Gas Emissions. The Protocol has also established innovative mechanisms to assist parties in meeting their targets.

**Commando Protection For Tigers**

Owing to the rising concern



about the dwindling tiger population in the country, the State Government of Karnataka has deployed a 54-member commando force to patrol tiger reserves of Bandipur and Nagarhole. The commandos and forest officers, who are a part of the squad, have undergone a 3-month special training, which includes weapon handling and jungle survival skills.

**Cadmium Contaminates River in Southern China**

20 tons of cadmium was accidentally discharged into Guangxi Longjiang River in southern China, contaminating the water source for about 3.7 million people living in Liuzhou city. Firefighters made attempts to dilute the cadmium poisoning with polyaluminium chloride.

**Contd on Pg 5**



## Eco Resolutions 2013

*I will lose 10 pounds in 6 months.*

*I will go to bed earlier and wake up early.*

*I will cut down on drinking.*

*I will never be late for work again..*

*I will quit smoking.*

*I will spend more time with my family.*

If any of the above statements sound familiar to you, then it was probably on your 'New Year Resolutions' list. But New Year Resolutions last only as long as the Celebrations. To break this rule, a few of our readers and associates have decided to stick to their 'Eco-Resolutions' for 2013. And believe me, its not that difficult.

### I will

- close tap while washing face or brushing teeth to avoid wastage of water.
- wipe my vehicle regularly so that frequent washing is not required.
- never throw anything on the roads and will make sure that others don't either.

**Tanushree Mahajan,**  
Skater, National Level

### I will

- use a bucket instead of shower for regular bath.
- create awareness about keeping water bodies clean, as I see the people using fresh lake/sea for their domestic chores.
- encourage people to only use paper for final drafts and use computer and web communication to avoid wastage of paper in the office.

**Adwait Pail**  
Defence Services

### I will

- use Public Transport
- share a car to commute to Office
- plant a Tree a month and take care of already planted trees
- re-use the blank backside and print a document only if necessary.
- use bicycle for the short distance
- get PUC for my vehicle and do regular servicing of the same.

**Chetan Joshi,**  
Finance Manager

### I will

- ensure that people I interact with daily, like make-up artists, production team etc., quit their habit of spitting and littering.
- encourage the habit of using handkerchief or cloth for removing make-up, instead of tissue papers, at my workplace.

**Abhijeet Khandkekar,**  
Actor/Anchor

### I will

- save paper and avoid wastage.
- We have adopted a paperless office programme where in we all have made such efforts to use online communication and intranet in our company. Also the forms, like leave card, feedback forms, application forms etc. are been used in a format which is available on computer and the database as well will be gathered and recorded accordingly.

**Mr. Iranna Patil**  
HR, Greaves Cotton Ltd

### I will

- work to get the green technologies from western country to India in 2013 as a part of my new assignment as Counselor General in New York.
- start movement for organic farming in my village, Latur (Maharashtra, India).
- concentrate on rivers restoration. Rivers are neglected sector in India though it is one of the most important aspects for all living things.

**Dnyaneshwar Mulay**  
High Commissioner of India to Maldives

### I will

- propose to the management to use waste food generated in the airline for vermin-compost which in turn, can be used as manure.
- continue to maintain my balcony garden and encourage my friends and neighbours to plant saplings and maintain their growth as well.

**Sagar Khare,**  
Kingfisher Airlines Employee

We have received number of resolutions from our readers in India as well as Foreign countries. We will selectively publish them in next issue of NewsleTERRE.

We will also start registry of the resolutions and voluntary commitment and make compilation. We intend to follow up on those commitments and encourage quantifiable and visible commitments through out 2013.

Please do send your personal, group's agency's, company's commitments to [terrepolicycentre@gmail.com](mailto:terrepolicycentre@gmail.com)

## Disasters at door steps, yet another wake up call in 2012: Do you still want to continue snoozing?

There were enough disasters in 2012 to fuel the Mayan Dooms Day Controversy. But we are all still here so here is a look at few of the major Natural Disasters of 2012 that shook the world.

### Hurricane Sandy

Super storm Sandy hit the East coast of USA in October 2012. In the 'Big Apple', New Yorkers tried to get back to their normal lives after the hurricane swamped roads and tunnels and triggered massive fires leaving more than 120 people dead.

### Cyclone Nilam

In November 2012, Cyclone Nilam hit Tamil Nadu coast and led to heavy rain and power outages in Chennai. Schools were turned into relief centers by state authorities. About 150,000 people were moved to shelters in Nellore.

### Philippines typhoon

902 people lost their lives to Typhoon Bopha on the southern island of Mindanao, where floods and landslides caused major damage in nearly 2,000 villages in December 2012. More than 149, 000 houses were destroyed by the ty-



(Source: <https://www.prep-blog.com>)

phoon, which is said to be the deadliest natural disaster to hit the Philippines in 2012.

### Uttarakashi Flash Flood

Flash floods and landslides resulting from torrential rains in August 2012, killed more than 31 people in Uttarakashi. Thousands of pilgrims were stranded on the Hindu 'Char Dham Yatra' pilgrimage route. An estimated 20,000 people were affected. Pilgrims were trapped after the floods wiped out roads, cutting off 80 Uttarkashi villages from the rest of Uttarakhand.

### Iran earthquake

Hundreds of villages were affected with more than 227 people dead and 1380 injured when twin earthquakes struck Iran in August 2012. The first of the earthquakes registered a strong 6.4, while the second was a 6.3 on the magnitude scale, 11 minutes apart, according to the US Geological Survey.

### Assam Floods

Over 17.6 lakh people were affected as Assam and parts of North-East India were struck by floods in July 2012 leaving

at least 33 people dead. The flood has been attributed to breaches in the upper areas of river Brahmaputra. The floods also caused death of about 600 wild animals including hog deer, elephants and rhinos.

### Beijing flash flood

Beijing was hit by Flash floods in July 2012, due to which 56,933 people had to be evacuated. The disaster killed 79 people and has been estimated to cause damage amounting to US \$1.6 billion. In the city, more than 1.6 million people were affected by the flood overall.

### Pakistan flood

More than 5 million people were affected by the monsoon floods that hit Pakistani districts of Southern Punjab, Northern Sindh and North-Eastern Balochistan in August 2012. Around 480 people are believed to be dead and evacuated count was approximately 160,000.

Based on article in Hindustan Times,

Available online at

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/973173.aspx>

We all enjoy seeing beauties of the nature. Have you ever imagined what all this beauty would mean if there was no one to see it? If we all living ones existed without eyes...how would it be? All grand views, like a sunset or colourful galaxies...and just no one to see!! Ever wondered all eyes are just as much a part of the nature? I think then it's everyone's humble first duty to preserve nature in every which way possible and never ever damage it. We owe everything to the nature! I resolve to dedicate myself to the nature from the New Year!

Chandrashekhar Sonawane  
Proprietor, Suryam Enterprises, Pune



## In the Headlines

### Major Global Happenings related to environment in 2012

#### Contd from Pg 2

#### Down with the mines.. or not..

A cross-country march was carried out in Ecuador against the plans for large-scale mining projects. It was triggered when a Chinese company was authorized to develop a huge open-cast copper mine. This threatens to contaminate land and water resources on which the local people depend. In a counter-protest march, a group of citizens supported the decision of the Ecuadorian President, saying that mining would be helpful for boosting the economy and development of infrastructure in the country.

#### Damned Dams

The Baram Dam is one of 12 dams planned in the Sarawak region of Borneo. The proposed dam would result in flooding of 41200 hectares of rainforest area and about 26 indigenous villages. A campaign to build international pressure against the Sarawak Dams has

been initiated to protect this biodiversity rich region.

#### Adieu Mokihinui Hydro

The proposed Mokihinui Hydro project in New Zealand was officially cancelled after the construction company, Meridian, withdrew the case from Environment Court. Department of Conservation had opposed the construction of the dam as it would have resulted in inundation of conserved forest area and other historic sites.

#### The Future We Want - Rio+20



Rio+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, was held in June 2012 to follow-up the 1992 Rio Summit. World Leaders approved the outcome document,

“The Future We Want”. The members are positive about the path towards sustainable development, owing to more \$500bn mobilized and 700 commitments made during the conference.

#### UNEP: strengthened and upgraded

The landmark resolution of General Assembly aimed at increasing the role of UNEP as the leading environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, was adopted 40 years after UNEP was established by the General Assembly, following the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

As per the resolution in December 2012, General Assembly of the United Nations strengthened and upgraded the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and established universal membership of its governing body as per the Rio+20 document called "Future we want".

#### Natural Gas from Fracking: Game changer

The Natural Gas from Fracking in USA and soon elsewhere can change the whole geopolitics in coming years. USA and other countries may become energy-independent and dependence of oil may decrease substantially. The prospects of reduced oil prices would change the power equations in the world as never before.

#### 100 years of “Lonesome George”

“Lonesome George”, believed to be the last remaining Pinta Island Tortoise, died in captivity. It was more than 100 years old. Scientists have, however, found ‘cousins’ of the Galapagos tortoise in the nearby region. Further research and genetic tests are being conducted.

*(Image Sources: ulc.ac.uk, wakpaper.com, sanosansar.org, smb.com.au, zeugware.wordpress.com)*

### Quick Question

Which of the following is an alternative material for making paper?

- Sheep skin
- Panda excrement
- Both

### Last Issue's Answer: Wind Energy

#### Quick Answers

**D.R. Sawkar** (Pune)  
**Marco Buoni** (Centro Galileo, Italy)

#### Special Mention for a thoughtful answer

**Ian Tansley** (True Energy, UK)

“The obvious answer is wind energy because these are Wind Turbines but as we all know the wind is derived from energy from the sun so strictly speaking you're looking at solar energy!”

*Send in your entry to us at  
terrepolicycentre@gmail.com  
before 12th January 2013*

Let's Talk Numbers

**19 Trillion**

is the amount of electricity, in KWh, consumed globally in 2012.

(Source: [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov))

Reader's Speak

Many thanks for the NewsleTERRE. It is indeed very informative.

Regarding Climate Change & sea level rise, personally I have noticed that after the tsunami 2004 that affected the Asian coast, sea water has permanently intruded into the beaches at the land's tip Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin).

Also, owing to the climate change, forest ecology is affected, that the edible species of delicate mushrooms, could not be seen as they were harvested a decade ago by the indigenous forest inhabitants in Kanyakumari forests in the Western Ghats.

As a practical measure in the town, where we live, I am motivating students to green the campus with indigenous species of trees. A long range project, that the planted trees are watered till they are established well.

**S.S. Davidson**  
Tamil Nadu

Happy  
New Year

2013



Wishing all a *Lautus Viridius Mundi*

These three words can sum up what we really need to make the world a better place.

May 2013 be

*Lautus* - Cleaner.. For the air we breathe and water we drink

*Viridus* - Greener.. For our homes, surroundings and the entire *Mundi* (World)

What can we do?

It's the beginning of a brand new year. All the more a reason to pick up an environment-friendly habit and do your bit towards a sustainable future.

**Volunteer for the environment.** Start or get associated with at least one environmental project in your neighbourhood or workplace. It might be as simple as planting a tree or a clean-up drive for the park.

**Spread the word.** Encourage environment friendly habits by talking to your friends and colleagues about them. More and more people will practice them if they realize the benefits of 'going green'.

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