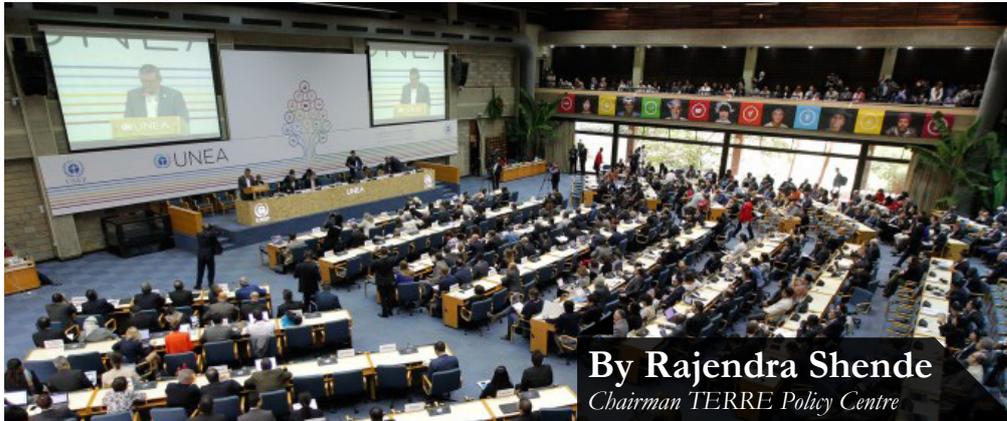


## United Nations Environment Assembly ( UNEA ) : What has changed?



**By Rajendra Shende**  
*Chairman TERRE Policy Centre*

United Nations Environment Programme was established as a result of Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. The UN General Assembly ( UNGA ) in the same year , established UNEP as the central UN node for global environmental cooperation and making of multilateral environmental treaties. It also established Governing Council (GC) of UNEP, with 58 member-countries as elected members based on the principle of equitable regional representation.

40 years later UN General Assembly established universal membership in the GC, mainly with an intention of upgrading UNEP and strengthening its authoritative voice on environmental issues. In 2013 the first ever “universal” session of GC was held. That widened the forum for the international community to address major and emerging environmental policy issues in wiser and inclusive ways

where all 193 UN Member states participated. GC of the United Nations Environment Programme became the United Nations Environment Assembly ( UNEA ) of the United Nations Environment Programme.

The first session of UNEA took place in 2014. The second session of UNEA has just ended in Nairobi. Four years after the idea of UNEA was floated at Rio+20, and two years after UNEA was established, in what way the global environmental storyline has changed?

It is too short a time to judge the transformation. But the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) released by UNEP at the start of second session Of UNEA on 19 May 2016 set an alarming tone. We all knew for last 40 years that the degradation of ecosystems continued unabated. But latest GEO stated that it has been accelerating at unprecedented speed that we did not know before.

I was taken aback to read there

that in 2015 the Asia-Pacific region continued to be the world’s most disaster prone region. About 41 per cent of all natural disasters reported over the last two decades occurred in the Asia-Pacific region, which also accounted for 91 per cent of the world’s deaths attributable to natural disasters in the last century.

The main driver for accelerating domestic material consumption is the expanding middle class. The size of the global middle class is projected to increase from 1.8 billion in 2009 to 4.9 billion in 2030 with most of this growth coming from Asia.

After all it is not only 193 governments that should act on these alarms, but 7.3 billions of us. May be UNEA needs to have 7.3 billion member-representatives?



### President's Corner

**“ Every drop of water is as precious as original pearls. One can produce artificial pearls but man can not produce anything without water. Preserve rain water ultimately life on earth.”**

**- Dr. Vinitaa Apte**  
*President, TERRE*



## Earth Care Awards 2016



The first meeting of JSW – The Times of India Earth Care Awards 2016 took place on 19th – 21st May 2016 at YASHADA, Pune. This meeting was mainly to shortlist the applications received for the award, from the four different categories; Urban, Community, Innovation and Large Scale Industries. This time, a new category Urban was introduced. This included urban issues like Waste management, Eco-Restoration, Urban Green, Transportation, and so on. This time we did receive a total

275 Application for the award, out of which approximately 75 applications are from urban category. This time we also received quite good number applications from SAARC countries. Out of these, about 25 applications were selected for the next level. The Shortlisting panel includes experts from various fields of Environmental Science like Ms. Aneeta Benninger, Ms. Kishori Gadre, and Ms. Sanskriti R. Menon, along with JSW, CEE and Terre members.



### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Following is the most widely discussed impact of climate change?

- A. Deforestation
- B. Soil Erosion
- C. Increase in average sea level
- D. None of the above



If you know the answer, send in your entry to us at [info@terrepolicycentre.com](mailto:info@terrepolicycentre.com)

### WINNER OF LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

**Jayant K. Deshmukh**  
(jayantdeshmukh@bharatforge.com)



### NUMBER OF MONTH

# 12

*Average temperature will increase by as much as 12 degree Fahrenheit by the end of 21 st century to rise at the current pace*

## Reducing Water Use at Home

There are a number of easy practical measures every family can take to ensure they're not wasting water in and around the home.



- ① Use a low-flow shower head
- ② Install a low-flow toilet
- ③ Ensure all leaky faucets are repaired
- ④ Use a front-load washer
- ⑤ Collect rainwater for use in the lawn and garden
- ⑥ Fix all leaky hoses



TERRE recently got the consultative status for ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) , so Dr Vinitaa Apte during her US visit met Mr Manjunath secretary UN mission to India and Mr Mayank Joshi, NGO committee and discussed various projects . Photo is taken at the New York office in front of the wall painted by M F Hussein. The renowned Indian artist .



## NEWS NETWORK



### UN selects Mexican diplomat Patricia Espinosa as next chief of its climate change body

Mexico's ambassador to Germany, Patricia Espinosa, will be the new UN climate chief. She will play an important role in implementing the Paris Agreement on climate change that was approved by 195 countries in the French Capital in December last year.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/the-good-earth/UN-selects-Mexican-diplomat-Patricia-Espinosa-as-next-chief-of-its-climate-change-body/articleshow/52096239.cms>



### Over 1,900 kangaroos to be killed in Australia as it can cause 'devastating impact on environment'

Australia will cull over 1,900 kangaroos from Monday in a bid to reduce its population as it can cause a "devastating impact on the local environment", an official has said. The announcement was made on its annual measure to control the kangaroo population. The culling of kangaroos will be done across Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

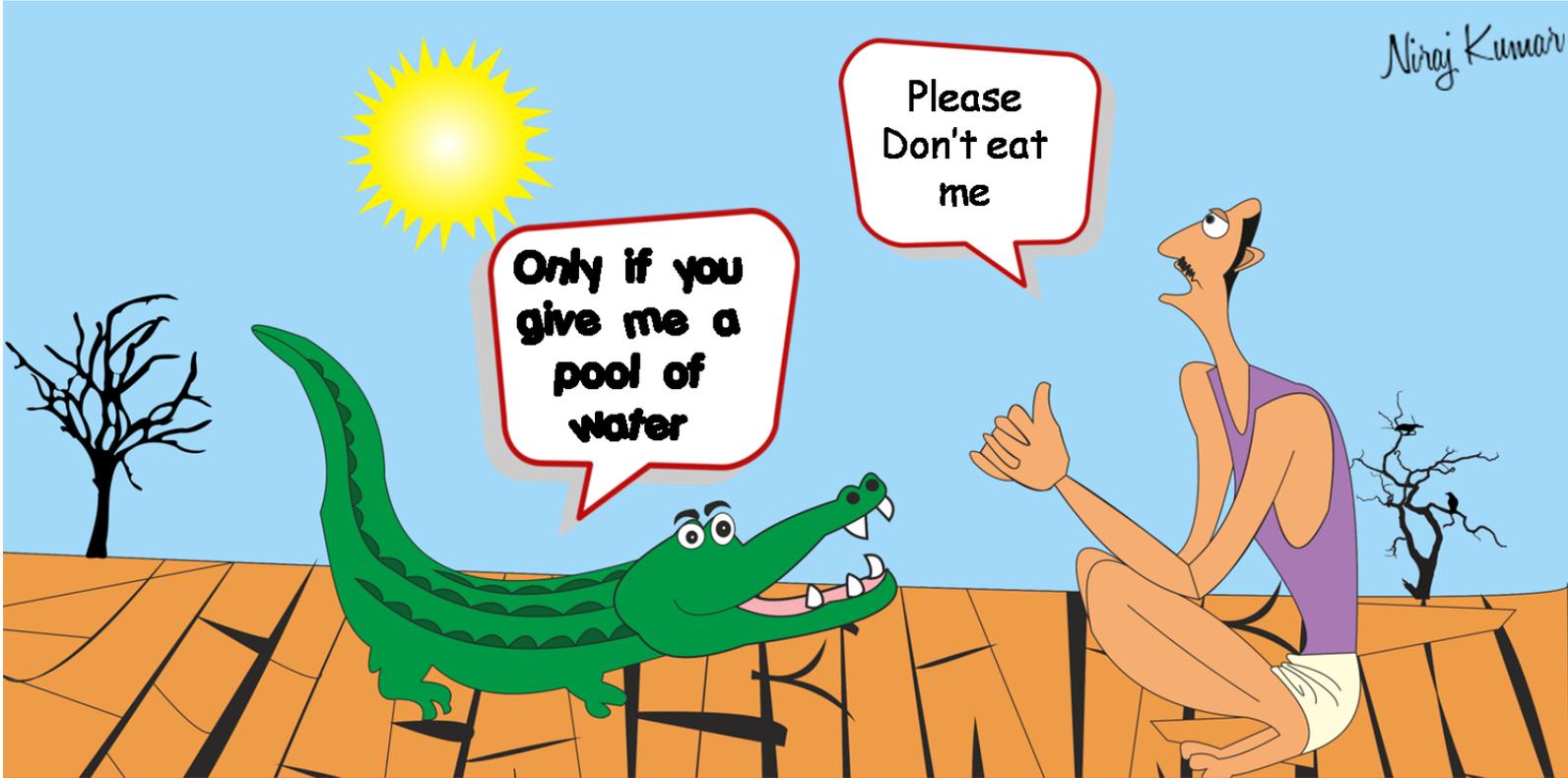
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/Over-1900-kangaroos-to-be-killed-in-Australia-as-it-can-cause-devastating-impact-on-environment/articleshow/52257948.cms>



### Rising mercury melts away hills' snow cover

The maximum temperatures of Manali and Shimla (27 and 29 degrees C, respectively) may come as a soother for people belonging to the plains, especially from Rajasthan where the mercury has crossed 50-degree mark, but the situation is far from pleasant for the natives of the hill state as Himalayan peaks have started losing snow cover at least a month in advance with greenery replacing the whiteness.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/shimla/Rising-mercury-melts-away-hills-snow-cover/articleshow/52367854.cms>



Niraj Kumar

Current situation in drought prone area in Maharashtra



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