

## Come September

Globally, two environment related critically important events would be watched closely in September 2014. These events symbolize the striking contrasts in human approaches to address the man-made global environmental issues that pose the sweeping risk of disastrous consequences to the existence of very life on the planet. The first of the events heralds success and second is intended to be a rescue mission from our utter failure. One was tackled with the finesse hitherto unknown in environmental diplomacy and other was dealt with volumes of rhetoric speeches, appealing announcements but no action. One was guided by targeted milestones and well carved out road map that was meticulously traced and implemented strategically by all the countries in the world. The other started with fragile targets, low-ambition, stumbled miserably on the self-created road-blocks and now stands at the precipice of catastrophe. The first is 16th September. It is declared by the United Nations General Assembly as International Day for the preservation of the Ozone Layer. 27 years of the valiant and daring efforts by government, business and civil society under the Montreal Protocol have resulted in decreases in the atmospheric abundances of chlorofluorocarbons -CFCs- and other 100 ozone-depleting substances and set recovery of the ozone layer toward 1980 levels by middle of this century. In single

generation the humanity prevented the man-made global disaster. That is the inspiring story, not yet fully completed, but we are nearly there. "The Mission Goes On" is the theme set by United Nations for this year's Ozone Day. A week before ozone day, on 10th September, the scientists in UN-New York will present the latest status of the Ozone layer and the options for the policy makers to remain 'mission ready'.

The second event in September is UN Climate Summit 2014, taking place in UN Head Quarter in New York. 17 years back the developed countries pledged to reduce Green House Gas emissions by meager 5 % from its 1990 level under the Kyoto Protocol. Instead the emissions today have increased by nearly 40 %. Having failed miserably in achieving even this less ambitious target of 5 %, the world leaders are now crafting yet another climate protocol intended to be agreed in Paris in 2015. So, why this yet another high profile summit now?

There is a sense that change is in the air. Climate change is disrupting national economies, costing us dearly today and even more tomorrow. But

there is a growing recognition that affordable, scalable solutions are available now that will enable us all to leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economies.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has invited world leaders, from government, finance, business, and civil society to Climate Summit on 23 September to galvanize and catalyze climate action. The event is expected to provide, through bold announcements by head of states to champion an ambitious vision, anchored in commitment that will enable a meaningful, global agreement in Paris in 2015.

All roads lead to New York in September. TERRE is part of both events. I am expert reviewer of the Ozone Layer Scientific Assessment for the policy makers to be released at New York and TERRE is also invited for the events related to climate summit there. Would first event inspire the second? Time will tell.

- **Rajendra Shende**  
chairman, TERRE





Number of the Month

22 %

Number of Threatened Coral Species Jumps From 2 to 22. A ruling by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration bumps the number of protected coral species to 22. Twenty coral species—ten times the number listed previously—are the newest animals slated for protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Source:

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/08/140828-coral-reef-endangered-species-act-listing-ocean-science/>



## Quick Question

When the International Whaling Commission (IWC) did banned commercial whaling?

- A) 1986 B) 1968  
C) 1999 D) 2005

The answer to last quiz is We received few answers, but none was correct. Barbados island is located in North Atlantic Ocean.

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

# Kaas Community Dialogue 2014



TERRE Policy Centre along with Ranwata and the local community undertook a challenge in association with the local forest officers to make a small beginning towards leveraging the Kaas Natural Heritage site for sustainable development. This humble beginning has led to incremental progress in nature conservation and community development of the area.

A one-day event was recently organized at the Kaasai temple in Kaas on the 26th of August 2014 by TERRE Policy Centre and UNESCO in association with the Forest Department-Satara, Grampanchayat of Kaas and Ranwata-Satara. This event mainly included review discussions on the progress of the activities undertaken in the year 2013 at Kaas, discussions about the successes and the failures, key barriers faced, key achievements, what could be done more effectively moving forward, how locals could be involved to a greater extend and how new partnerships could be developed.

The overall objective of this event was to review the progress of conservation activities undertaken at the Kaas natural heritage site and to plan for future activities with active involvement of organizations working at the grass-root, state, national and international level.

Many experts and dignitaries were present at this event including Dr. Ram Boojh-Programme Specialist Environment and Natural Heritage-UNESCO, Mr. Praveen Gawda – Forest Officer-Satara, Mr. Mohite-

MTDC, Mr. Chavan-Bank Of Maharashtra, Mr. Rajendra Shende- TERRE Policy Centre, Dr. Vinitaa Apte-TERRE Policy Centre, Mr. Vishnu Kirdat-Sarpanch Kaas and Mr. Shtrotri-Ranwata.

Various points were highlighted by the residents of Kaas and the surrounding villages. The villagers spoke about the progress of the Kaas community and about some of the problems that they currently face. The positives and negatives that they highlighted are listed below:

### Positives:

1. All the villagers at this point are happy about the progress and development of the Kaas Plateau.
2. Villagers are happy about the fact that there are many new means of earning a livelihood in the area.
3. New gas stoves and solar lamps provided to the villagers are being greatly appreciated.
4. The villagers inform that initially they would try to keep away from the forest department, but now things have changed. Villagers are now learning from the forest department, which is a result of greater partnership development.
5. The older generation does not wish to shift out of Kaas. The new generation which has shifted to cities for work is also willing to come back to work in the village since the number of employment and earning prospects has increased.

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## Kaas Community Dialogue 2014

Reader's  
Feedbacks

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6. Villagers now feel like they have a lot of support from different agencies including the forest department, various NGOs, MTDC etc. and hence are not scared of approaching anyone for redressing their problems. Due to this, problems such as forest fires, traffic, tourism related complex issues are slowing coming under control. 7. 'Guide' trainings are being greatly appreciated by the new guides and are proving very useful.

8. Villagers are overall very positive and enthusiastic about the future of the plateau and the surrounding community.

### Negatives:

1. There are some portions of land that get drowned in water every year. Villagers demand that they get land in return of land instead of money.

2. Villagers seek permanent employment on the Kaas plateau.

3. Farming is being neglected to some extent and needs to be focused on for which they seek help.

4. Funds are necessary for commissioning of mobile toilets.

5. There is a persistent electricity shortage. The Kaas village has not had a steady electricity supply for the past 3-4 months. This could also act as a hindrance to the homestay concept development as it will affect tourism.

6. Existing toilets need to be made functional.

### Future Direction

After considering all the viewpoints of the villagers, representatives of the different organizations and the experts, Mr. Rajendra Shende of the TERRE Policy Centre delineated the following future direction for the progress, conservation and community development efforts at Kaas:

1. To increase the exposure levels of the community, study tours should be organized for the representatives of the four villages to other similar World Heritage sites which have implemented some unique features for successful

conservation and community development.

2. Efforts should be made to communicate the success of Kaas as an example to other heritage sites in Maharashtra state. This will also facilitate networking and dialogue between the four heritage sites in the state.

3. A world class first of its kind interpretation centre should be set up at Kaas.

4. A research institute should be developed which could slowly develop into a full grown research facility with tie-ups with other national and international research and development agencies.

5. Efforts should be directed towards the beautification of the homestays/hotels in-order to attract international tourists.

6. Training activities should be continued as per requirement.

7. Some beautification measures should be undertaken in-order to blend the fence that currently exists on the plateau with its surroundings.

8. TERRE Policy Centre and UNESCO will be willing to provide the necessary help with advertising for targeting tourism development as also the development of the homestay concept.

9. A scholarship of Rs. 500 per month would be provided by the TERRE Policy Centre to a bright student from the Kaas village.

Apart from this, Dr. Ram Boojh of UNESCO suggested that the government should demarcate a buffer zone around plateau to restrict construction and promote sustainable development of the area.

Overall, the one-day community dialogue undertaken at the Kaasai temple in Kaas turned out to be another key event in the development of the Kaas plateau. It brought to the forefront the thoughts and concerns of the residents of the plateau and the surrounding villages. Ways and means of redressing problems currently faced by the villagers were also discussed on the same platform, thus making the event a great success.

I read every time your Terre newsletter pops up in my e-mails. I admire your efforts to publish and circulate it. The newsletter is quite informative. Thank you for sending it regularly.

I wish you and your organization continued success in future years for whatever you are doing to create awareness about protecting the environment around us. As the noted author Swift said "Whoever could grow two ears of corn or two blades of grass on a spot where only one grew before, deserve better of mankind and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together." I am glad you are creating such spots.

However, our tragedy, as I observe the world, is we are growing two politicians on every spot where only one grew before -and there seems to be no end to that crop or for our undertaking.

Greetings and good wishes,

- Vijay Alsi, Newyork

To fall in love is easy. To remain in it is not difficult; our loneliness is cause enough. But it is a hard quest worth making to find a comrade through whose steady presence one becomes steadily the person one desires to be.

- Anna Louise Strona

A very good and educative issue. Particulary, I did not know so much about rain forests.

P. B. Kulkarni





## "Global Roadmap" Created to Balance Development with Environmental Protection



Roads make it possible to bring goods to market, to get to the office, to log a forest, to hunt its wildlife. Without

roads, human society as we know it could not exist. However, to build roads, trees must be cleared and swamps drained, shrinking valuable wildlife habitat and fragmenting populations in the process. A new study, published today in Nature, unveils an innovative map that defines which areas of the world would best be—  
[Http://www.enm.com/wildlife/article/47769](http://www.enm.com/wildlife/article/47769)

## Managing coasts under threat from climate change and sea-level rise



Coastal regions under threat from climate change and sea-level rise need to tackle the more immediate threats of human-led

and other non-climatic changes, according to a team of international scientists. The team of 27 scientists from five continents, led by Dr Sally Brown at the University of Southampton, reviewed 24 years of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessments (the fifth and latest set being published in 2013 and 2014).

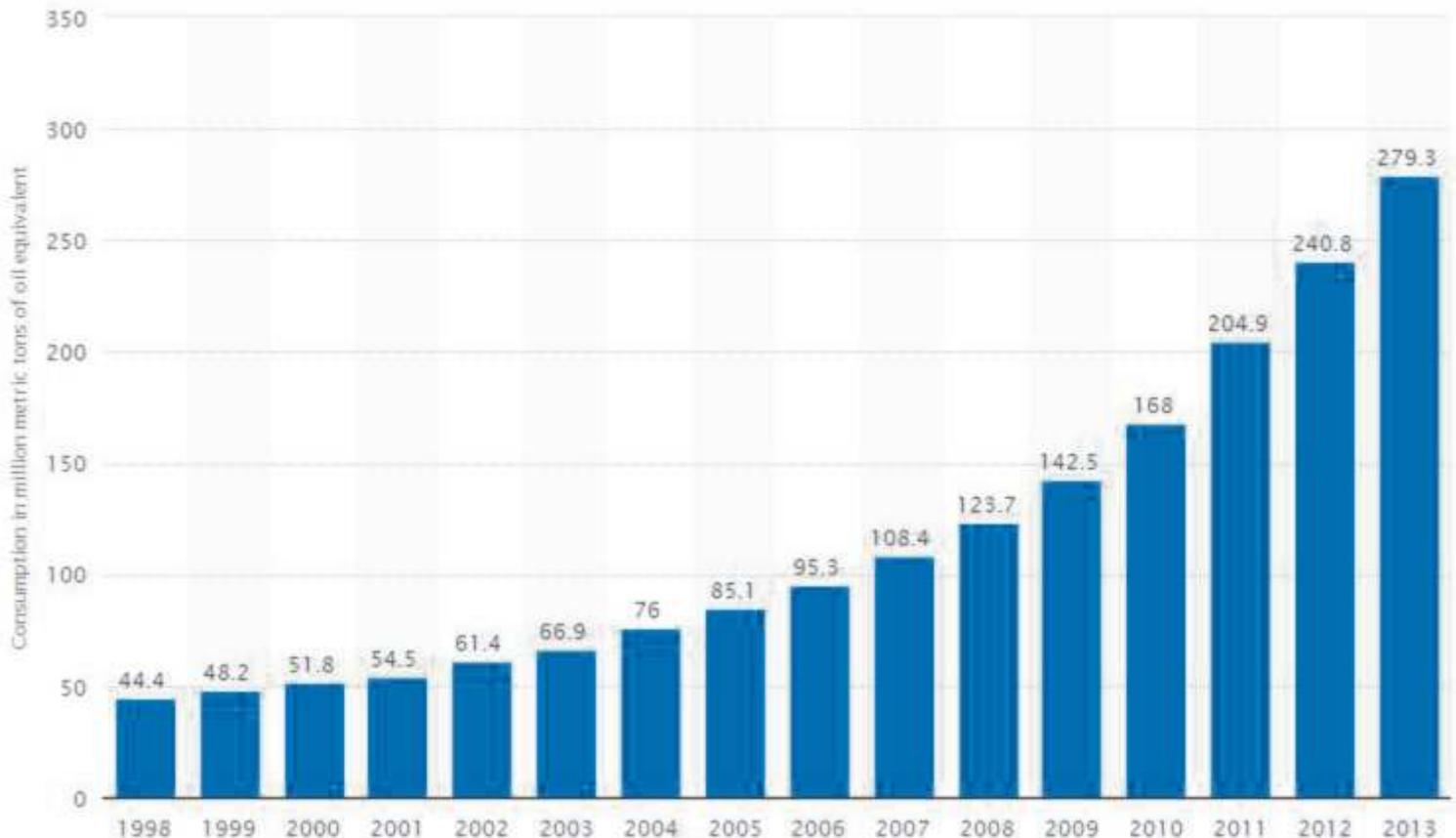
[Http://phys.org/news/2014-08-coasts-threat-climate-sea-level.html](http://phys.org/news/2014-08-coasts-threat-climate-sea-level.html)

## Polar Vortex Escape: Arctic Ice Melt Lets Cold Air Flow South: Study

A new study says that as the world gets warmer, parts of North America, Europe and Asia could see more frequent and stronger visits of the polar vortex, the huge mass of Arctic air. Shrinking ice in the seas off Russia leaves more water uncovered, allowing more energy to enter the atmosphere and weakening the jet stream, which usually keeps Arctic air from wandering south, said study co-author Jin-Ho Yoon of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington.

[Http://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/polar-vortex-escape-arctic-ice-melt-lets-cold-air-flow-n194061](http://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/polar-vortex-escape-arctic-ice-melt-lets-cold-air-flow-n194061)

## World renewable energy consumption from 1998 to 2013 (in million metric tons of oil equivalent)



Source for infographic: <http://www.statista.com/statistics/274101/world-renewable-energy-consumption/>

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