

# NEWSLETTER

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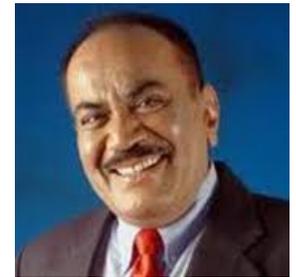
"TERRE Policy Centre congratulates people of USA for reelecting President Obama for the second term. TERRE feels that global environmental agenda will be reenergized in coming years."

Image: President Obama at the Heil family farm on Aug. 14, 2012, in Haverhill, Iowa

(Image Source: usatoday.com)



## Guest Message



We are dependent on the environment for all our needs. Still it is surprising that we don't think twice about exploiting the resources of this earth. It is time that we realise our responsibility towards the environment and other creatures that are a part of it. Making even the smallest changes in our life will go a long way.

I congratulate TERRE Policy Centre for having started the initiative of NewsleTERRE, which aims at spreading awareness about environmental issues. NewsleTERRE is indeed informative and thought provoking. I hope that their team continues to release more volumes which talk about critical issues.

**Shivaji Satam**

Veteran Award-winning  
TV and Cine Actor



This week its festivities galore as Diwali, the Indian 'festival of lights', is being celebrated throughout India.

TERRE wishes all an eco-friendly, pollution-free and prosperous Diwali!!

## Protecting global biodiversity will take more than 'small change'

Huge funds are needed to meet biodiversity targets and as nations commit to double current funding, Pavan Sukhdev reflects on whether this is enough

I recently spent a week at the bi-annual conference of parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 11) in Hyderabad, India, where more than 170 of the 193 signatories to the convention worked away feverishly until the early hours negotiating the heavy outcome document.

These discussions led to a doubling of developed country commitments

to biodiversity, from \$6bn (£3.8bn) to \$12bn (£7.5bn) by 2015. But as I left Hyderabad, I wondered if I should be pleased or disappointed.

My recent work as chair of the High Level Panel, whose task was to estimate the amount of finance needed to meet the 20 Aichi targets agreed upon in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010, was among the inputs into the process now happening

in India. However, our estimates of what was truly needed to achieve the targets were of a higher order of magnitude – higher than both the existing baselines and the commitments made. Will this \$6bn increase make a difference when financing needs are really in the tens and hundreds of billions of dollars?

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## TERRE Event Calendar

- **World Forum Lille** - World Forum Lille is an initiative to advance the Responsible Economy through showcasing best practices adopted by corporations.
  - **Third Industrial Revolution: Constructing Positive Buildings** - Rajendra Shende, Chairman, TERRE, will moderate the event to discuss how industries can shift to renewable energy, generate and store their own power, share energy and transit to eco-friendly options for transportation.  
Event Date: 15th November 2012
  - **Diwali -CSR Lunch** - Organized and moderated by Vinitaa Apte (President, TERRE) in partnership with WFL The event will serve as a platform to debate about CSR activities in India.  
Event Date : 16th November 2012
- **Montreal Protocol 25th Anniversary** - Year 2012 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, which is a landmark global agreement for the protection of the Ozone Layer. A congregation of NGOs took place in Geneva to mark this milestone. Rajendra Shende Organized the event jointly with NoE21, an NGO in Switzerland

## From the Chairman's Desk



### How long we could be Cliff-hangers?

*"The world failed to reach the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target of a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010." That was the statement in the report by UNEP in June 2012. I have never seen such clear-cut description of 'failure' in any of the UN's reports that are known for their eternal articulation defined as the 'art of diplomacy' in issuing them*

*But such is the fate of our biosphere. Over the last decade ending in 2010, we lost 5.2 million hectares of forest per year, i.e. equivalent of one Kenya per year. Around 20% of vertebrate species are under threat. The extinction risk is increasing faster for corals than for any other group of living organisms. The fish and marine food chain thrive on corals but with the condition of coral reefs declining by 38 per cent since 1980, the already overexploited fish stocks are under threat. Rapid contraction is projected by 2050. With more than 30% of the Earth's land surface used for agricultural production, some natural habitats have been shrinking by more than 20% since the 1980s. The state of biosphere is bringing us to the cliff of food security.*

*One of the greatest challenges before the reelected President of USA is stated as "fiscal cliff" that would need Democrats and Republicans to work together. That is for USA. For the world, the greatest challenge is 'food cliff'. The reason why Food Security is focus for TERRE is evident. Hope that Divali lights will add spotlight on need for all of the humanity to work together to cross over food-cliff.*

**Rajendra Shende**  
Chairman, TERRE

## Protecting global biodiversity will take more than 'small change'

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Biodiversity is the living fabric of this planet; its ecosystems, species and genes. Conserving biodiversity includes reducing forest losses and restoring forest cover to increase soil fertility (Aichi Targets #5 and #14), prevent droughts, mitigate flood damage, stop the spread of desertification and provide better livelihoods for the world's 1.3bn small farmers.

Increasing marine protected areas (part of Aichi Target #11) and increasing the stocks of fish in the sea, which provide the main source of animal protein for more than 1 billion people in the developing world, are just as important, as is controlling pollution (Aichi Target #8), which will not just reduce biodiversity loss but will improve human health, fresh water, agriculture, fisheries ... the list goes on. These Aichi targets are a large part of sustainable development for the world – no wonder that their financing is not small change.

The results of COP 11 discussions were not disappointing in themselves, but it was sad that the wider goals of sustainable development for which they are essential did not receive more urgent and widespread attention. Meanwhile, the need for transitioning to a "green economy" to deliver these goals grows more palpable and urgent every year.

The silos in which we all operate are part of the problem. Desertification and climate change fall under separate UN conventions, even though they are inextricably linked to the maintenance and restoration of ecosystems; the large-scale layer of biodiversity.



TIGER MONASTERY, BHUTAN

(Source:  
[www.budbhanet.net](http://www.budbhanet.net))

It can be difficult to see anything in perspective if one is immersed in it. Lucky for me, I had to fly from Hyderabad to Bhutan just after COP 11 to attend a conference of tiger range countries, organised by the World Bank's global tiger initiative.

I drove along the Paro river through mountain-flanked valleys from the airport to Thimphu, Bhutan's capital, and was greeted by legions of fluttering prayer flags dancing out their hymns to the drumbeat of a bracing mountain wind. Far below, the crystal waters of the Paro sparkled in rhythmic company, flashing clear Himalayan sunlight. Carpets of red chilies, carefully laid to dry on the low sloping tin roofs of Bhutanese homes, soaked in this bright hot sun.

In Bhutan, biodiversity is everywhere around you, abundant and healthy. People love it and respect it. This is the kind of world that all those Aichi targets seek to achieve, and it lives here for all to see.

Bhutan doesn't have billions of dollars to finance this biodiversity conservation. Instead, it is ingrained in the culture and history of the land. The country's constitution commits 60% of Bhutan to

forest cover. At the conference, Lyonpo Dr Pema Gyamtsho, Bhutan's agriculture and forests minister, said: "There can be no justice unless other living beings have equal rights of existence on this planet."

We often hear of rights-based approaches to biodiversity conservation, but in Bhutan this is not just dreamy talk – it is visible reality.

*Pavan Sukhdev is an environmental economist and board member for Conservation International. He is also the UNEP's goodwill ambassador. A former banker, he led the UNEP's green economy initiative and is author of a new book, Corporation 2020.*

(Source: The Guardian)

"As per the latest report of the UNEP (Title: Resourcing The Aichi Biodiversity Targets), the costs of preserving different habitats vary widely, especially depending on how they are to be managed. For instance, conserving fish stocks would cost about \$800m to \$3bn a year from 2013-2020, but this would be far outweighed by the benefits – currently, according to the report, global fisheries could be worth \$50bn a year more to fishermen and consumers if they were better managed. Spending on making agriculture more sustainable would cost a total of \$12bn by 2020, but the result would be greater productivity and better nutrition for millions. Reacting to the findings, the Indian government made a landmark pledge to spend \$50m on biodiversity, both within India and with other developing countries. Civil Society campaigners praised the pledge as a good example to other nations".



## 10 facts about Biodiversity

1. About 60 million people are employed for the forest-based industries.
2. Trade in Forest produce was estimated at USD 327 billion in 2004
3. 30 per cent of Forest products are used for the production of wood and non-wood products
4. Forests are home for 80% of the terrestrial bio diversity.
5. Forests are home to 300 million people around the world.
6. Annual value of the wood removed from the forest is estimated to be more than USD 100 billion
7. Livelihoods of over 1.6 billion people depend on the forests.
8. Forests cover 31% of the total land area of the Earth.
9. Deforestation accounts for 12-20 percent of the emissions of GHGs that contribute to global warming.
10. Year 2012 marks 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Convention of the Biodiversity (CBD). Indian Government hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting of the Parties to CBD in Hyderabad. The logo of this meeting had inscribed "Prakruti Rakshita Rakshita"- which means "Nature protects id she is protected".

"Yesterday this earth was clean and green

Birds were chirping and mornings were inspiring water was dancing in rivers....

Today the earth is gloomy and grey

Birds are scared and mornings are very hot

rivers are without water ....

Tomorrow....

we can see the birds, the rivers and inspiring mornings in only in pictures.....

Save the Earth...."

Vinitaa Apte  
President,  
TERRE Policy Centre

## Birds of Paradise: A Photo Story



**PIED HORNBILL**

During incubation, the female lays two or three white eggs in a tree hole, which is blocked off with a cement made of mud, droppings and fruit pulp. There is only one narrow aperture, just big enough for the male to transfer food to the mother and the chicks. This species is omnivorous, taking fruits, small mammals, birds, small reptiles, insects etc.



**BLACK DRONGO**

The species is famous for its aggressive behaviour towards much larger birds, such as crows, never hesitating to dive-bomb any birds of prey that invades its territory. The informal name of King Crow is based on this behaviour.



**PURPLE SUNBIRD**

Like other sunbirds they feed mainly on nectar, although they will also take insects, especially when feeding young. They have a fast and direct flight and can take nectar by hovering like a hummingbird but often perch at the base of flowers.

(Source for write-up:  
Wikipedia)

Photo courtesy: Milind Halbe  
Source:  
[westernghatworldheritage.org](http://westernghatworldheritage.org)

This website was launched by TERRE, in association with RAANVATAA (Satara), and is dedicated to the Western Ghats World Heritage.

"This web site will be one window facility to get information on the World Heritage Sites of the Western Ghats. It also invites you to join the movement of protecting our degraded environment to protect us and our generations to come."

(Source: [westernghatworldheritage.org](http://westernghatworldheritage.org))



### Quick Question

The green plants are called :

- Producers
- Consumers
- Decomposers
- None of these

*If you know the answer, send in your entry to us at [terrepolicycentre@gmail.com](mailto:terrepolicycentre@gmail.com) before 26th November 2012*

Last Issue's Answer:  
Biology and Diversity

Quick Answers  
Ashish Patankar  
(ICICI Bank, Pune)  
Sameer Inamdar  
(Editor Lokmat, Solapur)



*Let's Talk Numbers*

**97%**

is the estimated percentage of tigers lost, during the last century, globally.

(Source: [www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org))

**Reader's Speak**

"NewsleTERRE has come out extremely well and certainly fills a gap in the information available to the public on environmental and related issues. The name NewsleTERRE is also imaginative. Congratulations!"

**-Dr. P.B. Kulkarni**  
Former Chairman  
Bank of Maharashtra

"The coverage of CBD reminded me of the coverage of UNFCCC COPs by IISD daily bulletins brought out during the conferences and which were eagerly awaited by all to get an update of the happenings in the various fora of COPs."

**- Ashok Mangotra**  
Secretary, Home Ministry  
(IAS)

"Thanks a lot for the information. We are glad to involve our students in this program and educate them on such issues"

**- Dr. Shashikala Gurpur**  
Director, SLS, Pune

**India's Festival of Lights darkens the future for owls**

**New Delhi, India,  
7th November 2012**

TRAFFIC is warning of a possible increase in illegal owl trade and sacrifices around Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, which this year falls on 13th November.

Owls are sacrificed on auspicious occasions such as Diwali and their body parts used in ceremonial pujas and rituals, when Shaman or black magic practitioners, also referred to as tantriks, prescribe various uses for owls and their body parts, including the skull, feathers, ear-tuffs, claws, heart, liver, kidney, blood, eyes, fat, beak, tears, eggshells, meat and bones.

"It is unfortunate that although many people consider the owl sacred in Indian culture and a vehicle (vahan) of Goddess Lakshmi, superstitions and false beliefs manipulated over the ages have created a demand for owls and their body parts in black magic ceremonies," said TRAFFIC's Abrar Ahmed, an expert on the Indian bird trade.

Although hunting and trade in all Indian owl species is banned under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, hundreds of owls are trapped and traded



**INDIAN EAGLE OWL**

(Source: [www.screechowlshsanctuary.co.uk](http://www.screechowlshsanctuary.co.uk))

every year.

Owl species most highly sought after by traders are large species, particularly those with false "ear-tufts" (feather extensions on the head), since these are considered to have the greatest magical properties.

In 2010, TRAFFIC released Imperilled Custodians of the Night, a report highlighting the various ways owls or their body parts are used in black magic, street performances, taxidermy, consumption, occult medicines, for capturing other birds and even their eggs used for gambling.

The report highlighted that of the 30 owl species recorded from India, 15 had been recorded in the domestic live bird trade with the Spotted Owlet, Barn Owl and Rock Eagle-Owl the most commonly recorded species.

"Owls play an extremely useful ecological role by controlling the population of rats and large insects. In an agrarian country, where 60% of the population is dependent on agriculture, the role of owls should be recognized and strict protection should be given to these magnificent nocturnal birds," said Ahmed.

MKS Pasha, Associate Director and Interim Head of TRAFFIC in India added, "Enforcement officers from forest departments, railways, Customs and police need to monitor and control the illegal bird trade through making regular raids and taking legal action against the perpetrators."

He also noted the need for establishment of rescue and rehabilitation centers for seized owls and also adherence to proper release protocols.

(Source: TRAFFIC)

**What can we do?**

**Discourage religious practices which harm the biodiversity.** Talk to your friends and neighbours to increase their sensitivity towards such issues.

**Do not keep illegal species as pets.** Such species may be part of illegal animal trade. There are many animals which can be enjoyed as pets and are legal.

**TERRE Policy Centre**

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