



## Is a Global Climate Treaty Only a Pipe Dream?

### “ Terre Publishes a policy paper on Municipal Solid Waste Management- Challenges in Transforming Waste into Potential Resource for the Sustainable Society

Poverty, Climate Change and Municipal Solid Waste management are interlinked challenges of our times. The present crisis— be it financial, faith or food- are the visible manifestation of our inability of to address these challenges head- on,”

said Rajendra Shende, Chairman of TERRE Policy Centre and former Director of UNEP while releasing the Policy Paper on Challenges in Transforming Waste into Potential Resource for the Sustainable Society, here in New York City, on the eve of the United Nations Climate Summit.

The Policy Paper is jointly developed by TERRE Policy Centre and Sampurn (e) arth, a social enterprise supported by Tata Institute of Social Science in India and DBS Bank of Singapore.



When industrialized countries agreed in Kyoto way back in 1997 to produce 5 percent fewer greenhouse gases in 2008-2012 than they did in 1990, it was clear that would never lead to a stabilization of global warming, which nearly all countries had pledged to seek in the 1992 Rio summit. But coming out of the Kyoto's magnificent conference hall, I consoled myself that this small step would lead to a giant step later. That giant step never came, though. After 17 years, emissions are 60 percent greater, not 5 percent less.

The international climate agreement also failed miserably in meeting its pledge to provide developing countries with \$10 billion a year until 2010-2012, rising to 100 billion per year later, to mitigate the effects of climate change and help them deal with their own rising emissions as a result of needed development.

The Kyoto Protocol's tenure is over and negotiations for the next protocol, to be agreed to in Paris in 2015, have started. The world would be better with an alternative approach.

I witnessed the emergence of promising protocols -- albeit of different nature -- during the United Nations Climate Summit. Not only the march of hundreds of thousand of people from all the strata of the society, but also the innovations that communities, businesses and coalitions are

taking up without any international agreement.

The Rockefeller Foundation announced that it would disinvest all its assets in fossil energy starting with \$100 billion. Over 180 institutions, organizations and pension funds have begun to follow. The first ever Global Agricultural Alliance was launched to enable 500 million farmers worldwide to practice climate-smart agriculture by 2030. Climate and Clean Air Coalition, a voluntary group of nearly 100 states and non-state actors pledged to reduce short-lived greenhouse gases such as black carbon, methane and hydrofluorocarbons.

But to stabilize greenhouse gases and limit the earth's temperature rise to 2 degree Celsius, we need a third way to help communities, businesses and coalitions acting on their own agreements. We need the United Nations, with its multilateralism, to be a coordinator of all activities, to provide an early warning alarm to growing dangers, to identify the gaps between actions undertaken and actions needed, to prevent conflicts and inspire all to act and act as of urgency.

International agreements, like the Montreal Protocol, were needed to save the ozone layer. But that was an exception.

Continued on page 3

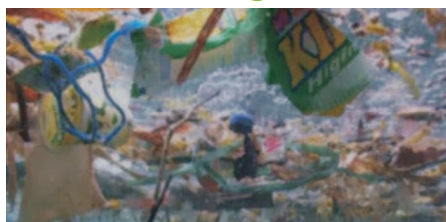


NUMBER OF  
THE MONTH

61.36

THE AVERAGE WORLD  
TEMPERATURE IN  
AUGUST WAS 61.36  
DEGREES FAHRENHEIT,  
MAKING IT THE EARTH'S  
HOTTEST AUGUST

## Interesting Videos



The answer to last quiz is We received few answers, but none was correct. In 1986 did the the International Whaling Commission (IWC) banned commercial whaling.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUTKZbTF\\_Ik](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUTKZbTF_Ik)

## QUICK QUESTION

ABOUT HOW LONG  
DOES IT TAKE A  
STYROFOAM CUP TO  
DECOMPOSE?



- A) 10 YEARS
- B) 2 MONTHS
- C) 400 YEARS
- D) 150 YEARS

The answer to last quiz is We received few answers, but none was correct. In 1986 did the the International Whaling Commission (IWC) banned commercial whaling.

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

## Summary of United Nations Secretary General's Climate summit:

The purpose of the 2014 Climate Summit on 23 September was to raise political momentum for a meaningful universal climate agreement in Paris in 2015 and to galvanize transformative action in all countries to reduce emissions and build resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change. TERRE Chairman participated in the Summit. An unprecedented number of world leaders attended the Summit, including 100 Heads of State and Government. They were joined by more than 800 leaders from business, finance and civil society. The biggest event was however earlier day, on 22 nd September, when nearly 400,000 marched on the streets of New York in support of action on climate change. There were similar marches in other cities like Paris and New Delhi.



development.

☞ Countries strongly reaffirmed their support for mobilising public and private finance to meet the \$100 billion dollar goal per annum by 2020.

☞ A new Compact of Mayors, representing 200 cities with a combined population of 400 million people, pledged new commitments to reduce annual emissions by between 12.4 and 16.4 per cent.

☞ Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC, avoluntary group of nearly 100 states and non-state actors pledged to reduce greatly harmful short-lived greenhouse gases such as black carbon, methane and Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) to get early benefits of reducing global warming.

☞ The Rockefeller Foundation announced that it would disinvest all its assets in fossil energy starting with USD 100 Billion, having already dumped the coal and tar sands. Following the Rockefeller example, over 180 institutions, organizations and pension funds have begun phasing out of fossil fuel investments.

☞ The International Development Finance Club (IDFC) announced that it is on track to increase direct green/climate financing to \$100 billion a year for new climate finance activities by the end of 2015.

☞ Leading commercial banks announced their plans to issue \$30 billion of Green Bonds by 2015, and announced their intention to increase the amount placed in climate-smart development to 10 times the current amount by 2020.

☞ A coalition of institutional investors, committed to decarbonizing \$100 billion by December 2015 and to measure and disclose the carbon footprint of at least \$500 billion in investments.

☞ The insurance industry committed to double its green investments to \$84 billion by the end of 2015.

For details see

[:http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/un-climate-summit-ban-ki-moon-final-summary/](http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/un-climate-summit-ban-ki-moon-final-summary/)

### Cutting Emissions, Financing the mitigation, and Risk management:

☞ European Union countries committed to a target of reducing emissions to 40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2030.

☞ Leaders from more than 40 countries, 30 cities and dozens of corporations launched large-scale commitment to double the rate of global energy efficiency by 2030 through vehicle fuel efficiency, lighting, appliances, buildings and district energy.

☞ The New York Declaration on Forests, launched and supported by more than 150 partners, including 28 government, 8 subnational governments, 35 companies, 16 indigenous peoples groups, and 45 NGO and civil society groups, aims to halve the loss of natural forests globally by 2030.

☞ Some of the world's largest retailers of meat and agricultural products committed to adapt their supply chains to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate change. They will assist 500 million farmers in the process.

☞ A new coalition of governments, business, finance, multilateral development banks and civil society leaders announced their intent to mobilise over \$200 billion for financing low-carbon and climate-resilient



## Ecology and Nature balance

In order to arouse a general awakening in the common man in favor of protection of wildlife and ecology, the Indian board of Wild Life decided to observe the Wildlife Week from October 2 - 8 every year. With a view to preserve the fauna of India, particularly to take urgent steps to prevent extinction of any species, the Government of India established an Indian Board of Wild Life (IBWL) in 1952. The Board has since been doing pioneering work to arouse public consciousness in favor of wildlife preservation which helps for the ecological balance.

From time immemorial, our wildlife has been closely associated with our legendary beliefs and with our epics and our history. Our lives would be very much poorer without these varied forms that build up the balance of nature. Preservation of wildlife need not and does not mean the blind perpetuation of all species and without any limit on numbers. Wildlife preservation in fact implies active and planned wildlife management under which all forms of life would progress side by side with human progress, each in its own sphere of influence and utility and without any detriment to human interests. In fact, it is with this end in view that wildlife sanctuaries and national parks have been established and developed in suitable localities all over the country.

Animals and birds are part of nature and environment. It is natural, therefore, that Vedic seers have mentioned about their characteristics and activities and have desired their welfare. Rig-Veda classifies them in three groups -sky animals like birds,

forest animals and animals in human habitation. All the three types of living creatures found in the universe have distance environment and every living creature has an environment of its own. But when we look from man's perspective all of them constitute his environment. There is a general feeling in the Vedic texts that animals should be safe, protected and healthy. Domestic animals, as well as wild animals along with human beings should live in peace under the control of certain deities like Rudra, Pushan etc. Vedic people have shown anxious solicitude for welfare of their cattle, cows, horses etc. The cow as the symbol of wealth and prosperity, occupied a very prominent place in the life of the people in Vedic times.

Animals were revered too. Kamadhenu was the wish-fulfilling cow, whose offspring are all the cattle on earth. The word "go" or cow was very important: gopura was the entrance to the village, gotra was the clan to which a person belonged, goshti was an assembly of good men, gosarga and godhuli represented dawn and dusk, while gopa and govalla were officials.

Krishna even lifts Mount Govardhana to save cattle from Indra's wrath, a recurring theme in Indian art. But the greatest honor given to animals was their elevation as the vehicles of the gods, and as the incarnations of Vishnu, roles that are repeated in sculpture and painting. Shiva rode the bull, Vishnu the eagle, Brahma the swan, and so on.

## Is a Global Climate ...

From page 1

Without international agreement the life expectancy all over the world has improved, many discoveries were made to fight diseases, digital technologies were developed and democracies are spreading steadily. All this occurred without international agreements, but with the United Nations playing an active role.

*(New York Times invited opinion of Mr. Shende on "Should world leaders give up on the idea of a strong international treaty on global warming as a pipe dream, or continue to pursue it despite the long-running difficulties? Would other paths be more fruitful?". Above Opinion appeared in New York Times on 28th September)*

**Rajendra Shende**  
Chairman, TERRE



**Application for the 6th  
Edition of the EARTH  
CARE AWARDS 2015 are  
now open.**

The Earth Care Awards seeks to identify and foster actions across several sectors with special reference to mitigation and adaptation imperatives related to climate change. This is in response to the growing consciousness on climate impacts and need to identify and foster locally evolved responses. We are inviting applications for the awards.

Last date of submission is 30  
November 2014.

For details please visit  
<http://www.gogreenindia.co.in/>







# Eco Fest exposes grim issues

BY RAGASUDHA VINJAMURI

**T**he two-day Environmental Film Festival in London brings light to several issues threatening the fabric of balanced ecosystem.

The event was jointly hosted by Sanskruti Centre for Cultural Excellence and TERRE Policy Centre. Baroness Sandip Verma, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, inaugurated the event by lighting the traditional lamp and watering a plant. She was joined by Dr S.K Singh from the High Commission of India, Dr Vinitaa Apte from TERRE and Ragasudha Vinjamuri from Sanskruti. Speaking on the occasion, the Baroness narrated how energy efficient businesses and individuals can be and how communities could contribute to cleaner and greener environment. She left a thought provoking message about children's future and asked all to act before it is too late. Mr Prakash Javdekar, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Government of India through his video message, spoke of the man-made disasters and current challenges, and commended the two host organisations for the initiative of bringing the environmental short films to the UK

audiences.

Results of essay competition conducted on the occasion were announced. The first prize went to Ujvala Vemuru from Australia, second prize was bagged by Atoshi Mariam from Bangladesh and Neha Bhayani from Epsom, UK and the third prize was won by Shefali from Delhi, India. A special appreciation was given to the essay written by Sarina Shah, UK. Vote of Thanks was rendered by Sushil Rapatwar, former President of Maharashtra Mandal London. A short animated film Ozzy Ozone was screened explaining the threats to the ozone layer and how children can protect themselves from the effects of ultraviolet radiation caused by its depletion. The film was the joint work of United Nations Environment Program and TERRE. United Nations Development Program film Himalayan Meltdown showed the huge threat to the people of India, Nepal, Bhutan, China and Bangladesh living in the areas bordering the mountains. Formation of large masses of glacier lakes due to the melting of Himalayan ice is resulting in flooding and erosion impacting communities



Dignitaries and organisers at the inaugural

and their life. Film screening continued on Saturday and included seven films produced jointly with the British Council, with special credits given to noted film maker Mike Pandey. The films focus on the threat to Leopards, Butterflies, Elephants, Turtles, Tigers, Sloth Bears, and Coral Reefs due to the demand and illegal trading in their products in the international market. The event was sponsored by JSW Times of India Earth Care Initiative and supported by Sunmark Ltd in the UK.



Vote of Thanks by Sushil Rapatwar



Baroness Verma lighting the lamp at the festival



Sarina Shah from the UK receiving appreciation certificate for her essay



Audience at the fest



Children rendering welcome





## Thousands March for Climate Change Before United Nations Summit



Hundreds of thousands of climate change demonstrators around the world took to

the streets in a series of marches leading up to the United Nations Climate Summit, where more than 120 world leaders will convene Tuesday to galvanize political will for a new global climate treaty by the end of 2015.

[Http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/thousands-march-climate-change-united-nations-summit-n208356](http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/thousands-march-climate-change-united-nations-summit-n208356)

## CO2 emissions set to reach record high in 2014

Carbon dioxide emissions will reach a record high of 40 billion tonnes in 2014, according to the latest report of the Global Carbon Project, which is co-led in the UK by researchers at the University of East Anglia and the University of Exeter. Historical and future CO2 emissions must remain below a total 3,200 billion tonnes to be in with a 66 per cent chance of keeping climate change below 2°C. But two thirds (2,000 billion tonnes) of this quota have already been used.

[Http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/global-warming/CO2-emissions-set-to-reach-record-high-in-2014/articleshow/43138366.cms](http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/global-warming/CO2-emissions-set-to-reach-record-high-in-2014/articleshow/43138366.cms)

## UN climate summit: China pledges emissions action

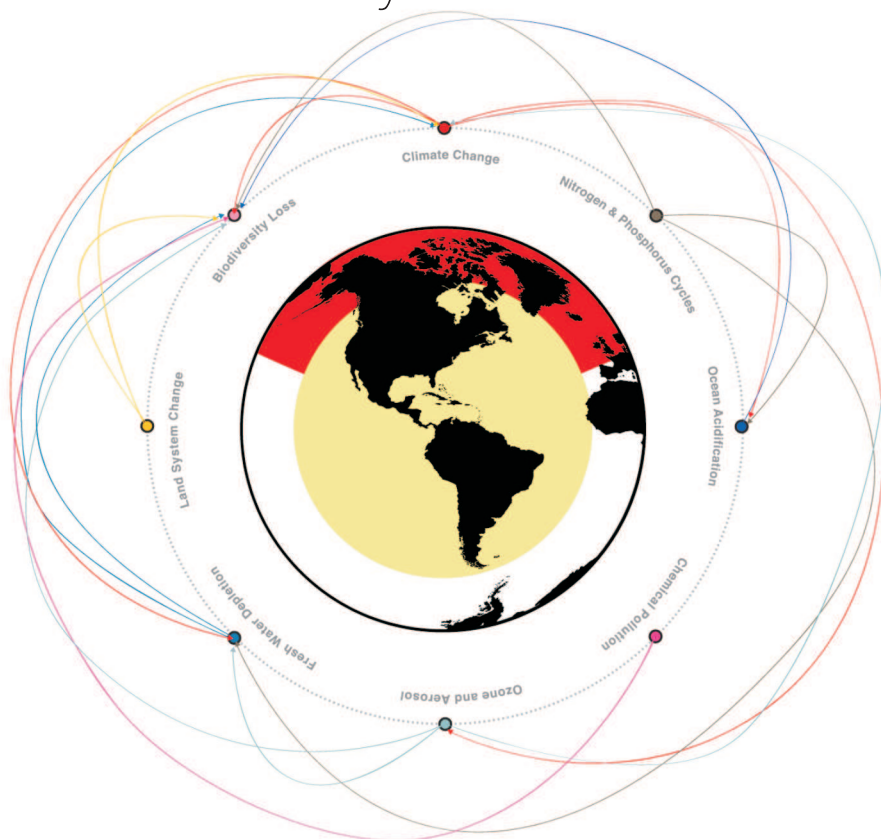


China has pledged for the first time to take firm action on climate

change, telling a UN summit that its emissions, the world's highest, would soon peak. Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli also said China would make its economy much more carbon efficient by 2020. US President Barack Obama said climate change was moving faster than efforts to address it, and the US and China had a responsibility to lead other nations.

[Http://www.bbc.com/news/world-29334807](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-29334807)

# Planetary Boundaries



Humanity has already transgressed three planetary boundaries : for climate changes, rate of biodiversity loss and changes to the global nitrogen cycle

Source for infographic: <http://visual.ly/planetary-boundaries>

## Climate Change Threatens South Asian Economy, Bank Warns



Climate change will slash up to nine percent off the South Asian economy every year by

the end of this century if the world continues on its current fossil-fuel intensive path, the Asian Development Bank warns in a new report. The human and financial toll could be even higher if the damage from floods, droughts, and other extreme weather events is included, the bank says. "South Asia's economy is under serious threat and the lives and livelihoods of millions of South Asians inhabiting the region's many mountains, deltas, and atolls are on a knife edge," said Bindu Lohani, ADB vice-president for knowledge management and sustainable development.

[Http://enewsnewswire.com/2014/08/20/climate-change-threatens-south-asian-economy-bank-warns/](http://enewsnewswire.com/2014/08/20/climate-change-threatens-south-asian-economy-bank-warns/)

**TERRE Policy Centre**

**City Office:** 22 Budhwar Peth, Pune - 411002

**Rural Office and demonstration centre:** Pandit Ajgaokar Scheme, Khandobacha Mal, Bhugaon, Pune - 411042

For feedback, suggestions and contributions contact us at

[info@terrepolicycentre.com](mailto:info@terrepolicycentre.com)

[www.terrepolicycentre.com](http://www.terrepolicycentre.com)

**Editor NewsleTERRE:**

Dr. Vinitaa Apte (President, TERRE)

**Editorial Team :** Mrunmayi Apte, Amol Ghorpade, Mohit Kalani

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