

Sprouting of Good News from Landmines of Bad news



9 May 2013 was a different day for the two teams of scientists at the Mauna Loa Observatory in island of Hawaii. One was from U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the other from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography working independently. They have been measuring carbon dioxide concentration there for decades. On that day both of them recorded a long-feared climate milestone: the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere there had just exceeded 400 parts per million (ppm) for the first time in 55 years of measurement—and probably more than 3 million years of Earth history.

CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere is rising like never before. Since then even monthly average has crossed 400 ppm in May 2014. And we may as well have annual global average crossing 400 PPM in 2014 if WMO's announcement of unprecedented annual rate of rise in Green House Gases is to be believed. That will be when the UN meeting on climate

change meets in Lima in Dec 2014.

World has not only recorded CO₂ concentration rising but have also logged that the 12 hottest years on record since the measurements of GHG started, all occurred in the last decade and a half.

The unfolding drama of more than last two decades on global warming is story of unfulfilled promises by the developed countries. Developed countries agreed to reduce the GHG emissions to very modest level of 5 percent from base level of 1990. This target is not only missed but the world increased GHG emissions almost by 45 percent as compared to 1990 level.

Paris. 20th November 2014. Here comes sprouts of good news from quagmire of bad news. I was participating in the United Nations Meeting on Ozone Layer protection. The meeting reconfirmed that after the concerted efforts during last nearly three decades, 'the Earth's protective ozone layer is well on track to recovery in the next few decades thanks to concerted international action against ozone depleting substances'.

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International Youth CONFERENCE 2015

Water, Climate & Energy Sustainability

(IYCWCES – 2015)

This time TERRE is organizing an International Youth Conference for students, researchers and organization on environmental issues including: Water, Climate and Energy. It will be a great chance for the participants to present their research and study on mentioned subjects to the experts of the respective fields. This is a great opportunity for the participants to discuss and share their innovative ideas and experiences with such eminent people. Also the selected paper will be published in the TERRE Policy Centre website and in Electronic Journal. Participants will be awarded with participating certificates.





Sprouting of Good News...

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The panel of nearly 400 scientists from more than 30 countries based this conclusion on the decades of the satellite and ground level measurements monitored by World Meteorological Organization. Encouraged by these results developed countries agreed to continue financial and technical support to the developing countries for the residual work of protecting the ozone layer. They agreed to provide for next three years half a billion dollars over and above 3.2 billion dollars already provided.

Indian Environment Minister Mr. Javdekar spoke highly of the success of the ozone layer protection and stated that, "This is 325th anniversary of the French revolution that changed the world, and India hopes to see in Paris next year in 2015, yet another revolution on climate change to reset the world clock towards climate resilient society."

While bad news continues to frustrate, sprouts of good news dominate with renewed hopes.

- Rajendra Shende
Chairman, TERRE

QUICK QUESTION

**THE AMOUNT OF FUND
ANNOUNCED BY OBAMA FOR
GREEN CLIMATE FUND**



- A) 3 billion
- B) 5 billion
- C) 7 billion

If you know the answer, send in your entry to us at :
info@terrepolycycentre.com

Conference: Save Great Indian Bustard



What is it like being on verge of extinction? Not just the end of a caste, creed, political community or regional extinction; but the end of entire species! Imagine only 100 people are left in entire world. Only one lonely man in some distant land; only four in another distant land; and a few others hundreds of miles apart and constant threat to their safety! Can our species exist in such circumstances? No. So how can the Great Indian Bustard survive in such conditions? This is clearly a herald for absolutely desperate measures. TERRE Policy Centre organized a conference at Anandashram to address this issue and contribute our part in saving this majestic bird. The chief speaker was Dr. Pramod Patil (he works with BNHS on GIB conservation).

In the past, GIB was one of the common birds in India. One example is through the narrations of Colonel Roberts Mansfield. He is noted to have shot (or hunted) 961 GIBs within 20 years in one single district of Ahmednagar (from 1808-1833). But with time, excessive poaching, building of infrastructure and destruction of grasslands, their population dropped drastically. So much so that, from 1980 to 2014, they declined in population from some 2000 to less than 200. This

decline is so rapid that before the danger could be noted, their number has fallen to a degree of absolute helplessness. However, when people like Dr. Patil, Dr. Rajendra Shende (Chairman, TERRE Policy Centre) and Dr. Anand Kharde engage into a brainstorming, there is a beginning of silver lining to the dark cloud.

These birds prefer grasslands to live in. Thus, in India, they were initially found in dry regions of Rajasthan, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Now, they remain only in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. But even these places are not proving to be habitable for GIB. As more and more infrastructure comes in, the species of Homo sapiens is encroaching the habitable land of GIB species. Plantation of exotic trees, removal of endemic grasslands, building of roads, transmission lines, cultivation of cash crops like sugarcane instead of traditional farming and irrational tourism are the human threats to GIB. These appear to be signs of development of human beings, but if it endangers another form of life then how can we humans show the audacity of not restricting such activities as though we own the rights of life of another species? To add to the disgust that is stigmatized

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Report on Drawing Competition

PMC, Pune, organized a drawing competition on the theme of Eco friendly festivals.

The competition was divided into three categories. The first category for children of standard 1-3, second for standard 4-7 and third for standard 8-10. The competition was followed by 30 children from different schools of Pune. The competition was organized at Sarasbagh Pune. The event was inaugurated at 8 am and dismissed at 11 am. Chief Guest for the drawing competition was Mr. Mangesh Tendulkar, well known writer and cartoonist in art circle of India and other persons invited during drawing competition were Suchita Karande, Mangesh Dighe (Environment officer PMC), Dr Vinitaa Apte (President TERRE), Vikrant Argade (Secretary, TERRE Policy Center) and TERRE members. The examination of the participant's drawings was done by our upcoming cartoonist friend, Niraj Kumar.

In India, 14th November is celebrated as children's day annually. India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was born on 14th November. He was very fond of children and thus this day is celebrated as children's day. It is not just a day to let the future generation have its say, it is a day to remember a leader who, in his quiet but determined way laid the foundation to convert a nascent nation into a world power.

It is celebrated all over India. It is specially celebrated at the schools. Children are made to realize the goodness of childhood. On this special day this year, Terre policy Centre in collaboration with Indradhanush Environment Centre,

Junior batch from class 1, class 2 and class 3

1st : Rutuj Harshal

School : Maharashtra Mandla Tilak road

Result for class 4, 5, 6, and 7

1st : Purva Vijay Gavali

Class : 5

School : Hujr Paga Madhyamic Vidyalaya

Ph. No : 9922608311

2nd: Maithali Anil Kute

Class: 7

School : Samaaj Bhusan Baburao Phule High School

3rd: Purva Raju Pachkale

Class: 6 A

School: Samaaj Bhusan Baburao Phule High School

Not Given Result for class 8, 9 and 10

1st: Pawar Pournima Somnath

Class: 10

School : Samaaj Bhusan Baburao Phule High School

Ph. No: Not Given

2nd: Hiwale Megha Anil

Class: 10

School: Samaaj Bhusan Baburao Phule High School

3rd: Prajakta Dattatray Chindhe

Class: 10

School: Samaaj Bhusan Baburao Phule High School

Ph. No: Not Given

From Page 2

on us, the so-called protection measures are absolutely nuisance. The sanctuaries are the places from where the birds disappear, the policy is flawed to that an extent! The birds are in fact found in dry, lightly cultivated land and lightly populated places like Pokhran!

Dr. Patil proposes an idea of landscape perspective as an alternative of random sections of land declared as sanctuaries. This incorporated cultivation of traditional mosaic dry land cultivation of grasslands. They are the ultimate homes and feeding centers of GIBs. These are the “non-abadi” centers or “dhanis” as they are called in regions of Rajasthan. This engages into conservation activities the private individuals in those regions rather than importing trained and plastic people into a new habitat. It is the practices of native communities that completes the ecosystem which is prolific to all its components. Forceful and incorrect incorporation of foreign components either result in harm to native ecosystem or give rise to a new ecosystem altogether. This trend is very common in the issue of GIB. After brainstorming, the experts came up with few more ideas that should come into action shortly. These are:

1. Searching for policies like protecting and maintain permanent grasslands or “gaayran”
2. Protection of endemic ecosystems
3. Spreading awareness widely

The conference that gave a stark and draconian view of the plight of the Great Indian Bustard ended with an extremely positive message by Dr. Shende. He said, “Dr. Patil, we will call this meeting a success if we are able to take actions giving conditions conducive for finding one more GIB in Maharashtra soon.” The road is very long but not impossible, as says Dr. Patil. Thus, we hope that GIB does stand its Greatness in India and next generation will be fortunate to see it more frequently.

Garden birds in 'alarming' decline



Common birds such as sparrows, starlings and skylarks are suffering "alarming" declines in their numbers, a new study has warned.

Figures from bird monitoring schemes suggest that populations of the most widespread species have dropped by around 421 million across Europe since 1980.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/wildlife/11204029/Garden-birds-in-alarming-decline.html>

Wetlands facing threat in India



Basai Wetland of Gurgaon in Haryana, one of the important bird areas of country, is facing threat of being lost forever. Located close to national capital Delhi, migratory bird count of this wetland has shown a decline, mainly because of habitat loss due to human encroachment.

[Http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-29618889](http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-29618889)

Cyclone Hudhud: Vizag's megacity plan takes a big hit, death toll rises to 25



Death toll in the devastating Hudhud cyclone that battered the Andhra coast mounted to 25 on 14th October even

as Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an interim assistance of Rs 1000 crore....

[Http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Cyclone-Hudhud-Vizags-megacity-plan-takes-a-big-bit-death-toll-rises-to-25/articleshow/44816284.cms](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Cyclone-Hudhud-Vizags-megacity-plan-takes-a-big-bit-death-toll-rises-to-25/articleshow/44816284.cms)

SEEDING THE GREEN FUND

1 Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a financial instrument to assist developing countries in mitigating emissions and adapting to impact of climate change

2 Rich countries are supposed to contribute to the fund
3 Goal is to make available a corpus of \$100 billion per year to developing nations from 2020



NUMBER OF THE MONTH

20,000

THE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION MINISTRY HAS SET A TARGET OF INSTALLING 20,000 SOLAR POWER-BASED PUMPING SYSTEMS IN TRIBAL AND INACCESSIBLE HAMLETS/HABITATION DURING THIS FINANCIAL YEAR TO PROVIDE POTABLE PIPED WATER TO THE LOCALS.

IN SUCH AREAS, PIPED DRINKING WATER IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE DUE TO NON-AVAILABILITY OF ELECTRICITY. AS PER THE PLAN, CHHATTISGARH, JHARKHAND, ODISHA AND RAJASTHAN WOULD GET 2,000 PUMPING SYSTEMS EACH.



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