



ISSUE 2  
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# NEWSLETTER



## GDP of the Poor: estimates for ecosystem-service dependence

Poverty often occurs when links between ecosystem services and human well-being have been damaged or broken. Healthy ecosystems are 'the wealth of the poor'. It has been estimated that ecosystem services and other non-marketed goods make up between 50 and 90 per cent of the total source of livelihoods among poor rural and forest-dwelling households the so-called 'GDP of the poor' (TEEB 2010). This contrasts with various national GDP figures where, for the most part, agriculture, forestry and fisheries account for between 6 and 17 per cent of overall GDP.

The message? The world is more and more interdependent but at the same time the determined mind of individuals and policies of select countries can turn the mighty tides and trends. Be the change in 2014 that you want to see-with determined mind.

## Car Culture Changes Climate: American Anti-Climax



Chairman Message

United States of America once described as a nation 'addicted' to petrol and diesel and whose foreign and economic policies are described to be 'as fluid as oil from exporting countries', is now moving towards energy independence.

The notorious 'gas guzzlers' nation that imports nearly 60% of its oil, will soon reduce its requirement by half. Indeed, 'new oil' i.e. shale gas (called 'fracking gas') being extracted in huge quantities in USA has been the game changer in moving away from America's fuel-deficit.

But very few realize that half of the credit for this anti-climax goes to fuel efficiency and energy efficiency measures set by USA for the passenger cars.

Last year, Obama administration set new standards called CAFÉ (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) regulations stipulating the average CO2 emissions for cars and light vehicles made in 2025 onwards to be half of that produced in 2010.

Auto manufacturers can achieve this either by improving fuel efficiency of engines or using less carbon intensive fuels.

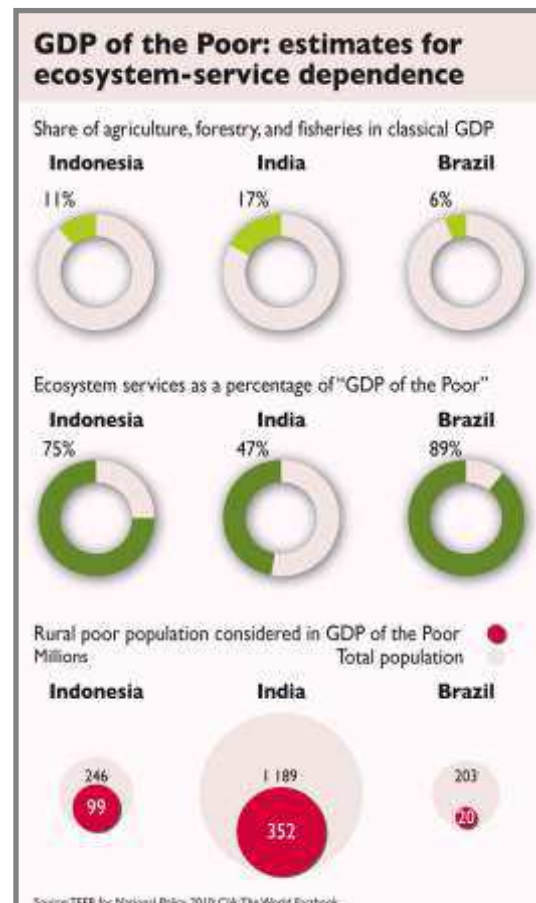
World wide transport sector

contributes up to 30 percent of all man-made emissions. Improving fuel efficiency of the engines is just one of the ways to reduce CO2 emissions and save money for the car owner. But it is not the only 'driving' factor for the environmental and economic solution.

Balanced-mind and non-aggressive driving can save up to 30 percent fuel, correct and optimum tire pressure can save 5 percent, optimum use of air-conditioning in car can save another 5 percent. Road conditions, regular tuning of the engines, better tire quality are some of the other factors that can save fuel and money.

There are critics who are worried that saving money for car owners will make owners to drive more and buy more cars thereby nullifying the benefits for environment. The past experiences in improving efficiency however do not support such 'rebound' effect.

At present we in India are 'bound' by the addiction of the better-looking car, fast-cooling ACs, accelerating speeds, pot-filled roads and fuel efficiency policies that are far behind that of USA and even China. Can we push on the accelerator for speeding towards super fuel-efficient vehicles?



Credit: GRID-Arendal

Further read :  
[http://www.grida.no/graphicslib/detail/gdp-of-the-poor-estimates-for-ecosystem-service-dependence\\_ff7a](http://www.grida.no/graphicslib/detail/gdp-of-the-poor-estimates-for-ecosystem-service-dependence_ff7a)



**Rajendra Shende**  
Chairman TERRE,  
former Director UNEP





## Global Environment Management through Indian Wisdom

### Quick Question

TEEB is a global initiative focused on drawing attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity including the growing cost of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. What is the full-form of TEEB?

- The Energy and Economics Business**
- The Energy and Environment Business**
- The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity**
- The Economics of Environment Biodiversity**



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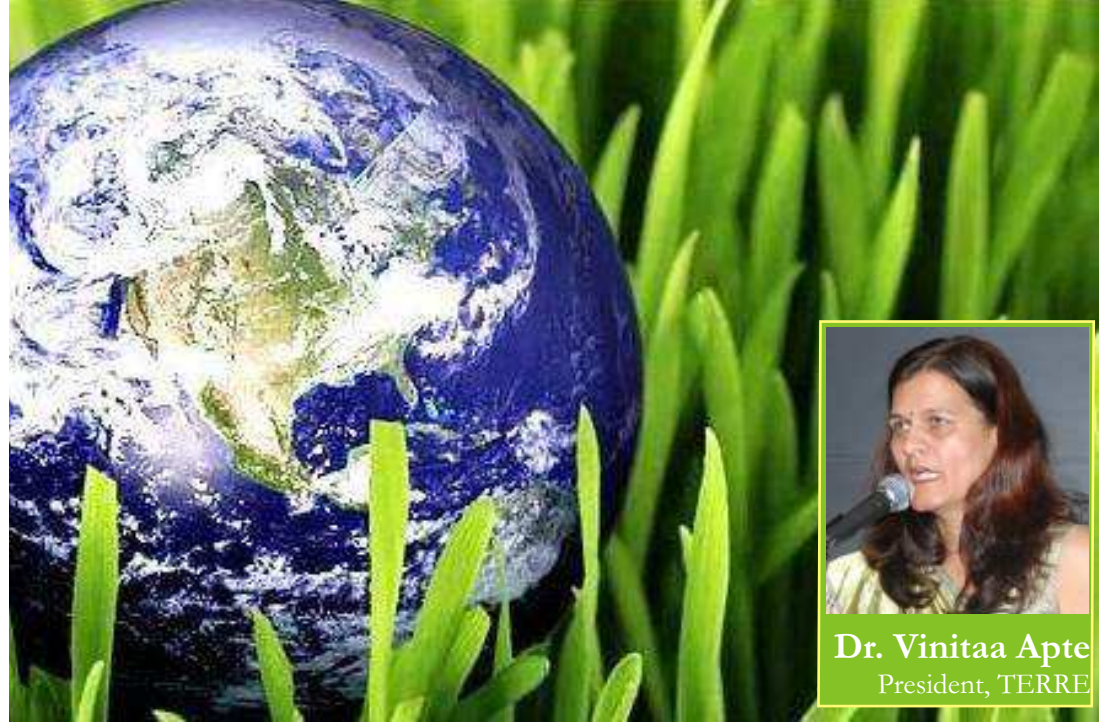
### Answer for the last quiz

According to EU Directive 2002/95/EC on the restriction of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS Directive), mercury content in CFLs should not exceed 5 mg per lamp. We received some responses, but none was correct.

**Refer -**

[http://www.grida.no/graphicslib/detail/compact-fluorescent-lamps-clfs\\_2bce](http://www.grida.no/graphicslib/detail/compact-fluorescent-lamps-clfs_2bce)

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



**Dr. Vinitaa Apte**  
President, TERRE

The term 'Science' is said to be widely 'established' in 20th century, but its origin can be seen long back in the Vedic and ancient Sanskrit literature. In recent days, environmental science and ecology are disciplines of modern science under which study of environment and its constituents is done with minute details. The concepts of environment differ from age to age, since it depends upon the conditions prevalent at that particular time. Looking at the concept of Earth the Vedas have very different forms. We found the most fascinating form of the Earth in the Rig Vedas. It is mostly addressed along with the heaven in to a dual conception (Rodasi, dyavaprithivi). There is one small hymn addressed to Prithivi, while there are six hymns addressed to Dyavaprithivi.

Prithivi is considered the mother and Dyau is considered the father in the Rigvedas, and they form a pair together.

One of the most beautiful verses of the Rigveda says,

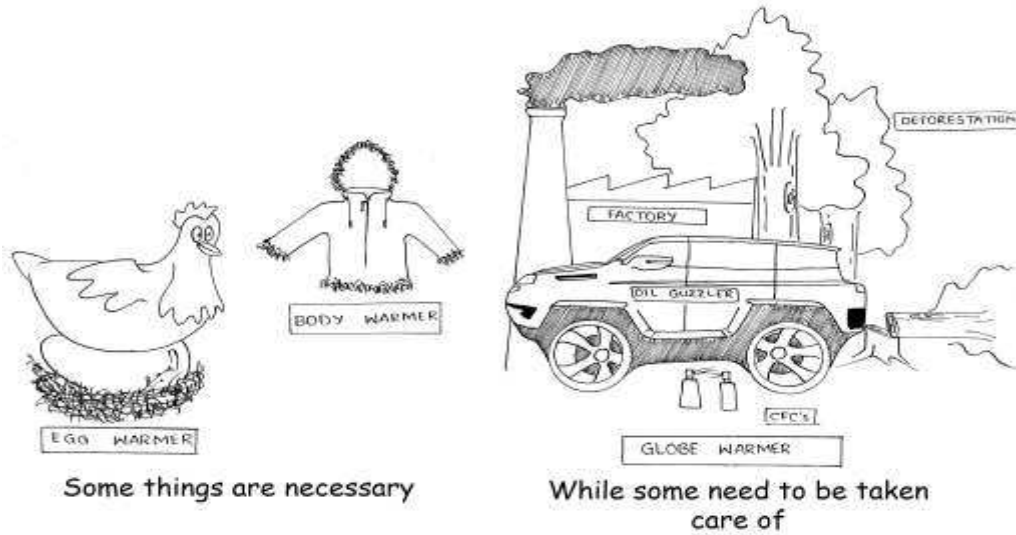
*'Heaven is my father, brother atmosphere is my navel and the great earth is my mother.'*

Heaven and earth are parents: Matara - mother, Pitara - father, janitara is union. They sustain all creatures. They are parents of all gods. They are great (Mahi) and widespread. Earth is described as goddess in Rig-Veda. This interprets that all human being should take care of our Mother, father and relatives i.e. the earth & the atmosphere.

(Rug Veda 1.25 Hymn 7,8,9)

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**WARMING: WHAT IS IT?**



### Number of the Month

**4%**- The Wall Street bailout is costing taxpayers around \$700 billion and growing. Yet, just 4% of the Wall Street bailout could end world hunger. Though the problem is often touted as insurmountable, in truth, global food insecurity could be completely solved by creating agricultural programs that would cost about \$30 billion a year. 854 million people in the world, one in seven do not get enough food to be healthy, making hunger the number one risk to health worldwide. *Source :- www.webecoist.com*





## The world and India : Sustainable Development

“Freedom from want, freedom from fear, and the freedom of future generations to sustain their lives on this planet” are the three grand global challenges for the 21st Century(1) India as we know, belongs to the list of developing countries. Developing countries are said to have low incomes and yet high population. Even in India the population by-far exceeds the available resources. However, it doesn't necessarily mean that the resources are scarce. According to general estimates India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables (2), second largest software exporter, third largest producer of cotton(2), fourth largest producer of coal. Considering the consumption rates, India ranks number one in sugar consumption, second largest in consumption of wheat and rice, second largest in consumption of cotton and fourth largest consumer of energy.

So, essentially it is either the artificial non-availability of these resources or lack of proper planning and management. However, developed countries also have their own share of misfortunes. These nations 'developed' early because of the so-called 'industrial revolution'(3) that began from England and swept across Europe and America during the early 18th century. The innovations of the industrial revolution brought in job opportunities for the masses. It gave them the freedom to improve their standard of living. As these nations prospered, they were faced with the problems that came-in with industrialization. Cities were not prepared for the sudden jump in population that migrated for work. Dirty streets, cramped living and smoke from the factories made a perfect breeding ground for diseases. Factories put profit above the health and safety of their workers. Chemical fertilizers and factory waste caused soil to degenerate and increased the

amount of land used in farming, thus ruining animal habitats.

It took nearly a century for these nations to understand the consequences of this rapid unplanned industrialization and growth. A vast amount of legislation, from minimum wage to antitrust laws today, owes its existence to the anti-capitalist mentality created by the mediocre views of the industrial revolution. Today these nations are developed in proper sense and have overcome most of the bad effects of the industrial revolution. They now have a more 'sustainable' approach to most of the issues that modern lifestyle brings with it. The situation in India is very much similar to these countries when they were developing. In the past 65 years India could have possibly achieved a planned growth taking a cue from the experience of the developed nations. Though we use modern day machineries in production and try to practice western style of living, a lot remains to be learnt from these nations on the sustainable development approach

A familiar set of sectors that promote growth in India can be reviewed with sustainability in mind, which can be a turning point in the development of the nation.

### Agriculture

Daily sustenance of life depends on agriculture. “Everything else can wait but not agriculture”, said Jawaharlal Nehru.(4) India ranks second in agricultural output worldwide and agriculture contributes 33% of the nation's GDP. Organic farming, non-pesticidal treatment, water conservation, ethno-veterinary practices, promoting locally adapted farming systems, open source seeds, etc need to be practiced to promote ecological and economic

sustainability. Creation and promotion of small and medium enterprises which can increase the farmers share in the consumer price and thus improve village economy.

### Climate change

“Climate change is mostly the responsibility of developed countries, though unfortunately developing countries are adopting the same economic growth patterns that brought us to this disastrous situation.”(5)

### ◆ Bio-diversity conservation

Expanding scientific understanding of the interactions of natural and human processes integral to biodiversity conservation is necessary. Major initiative should be to restore degraded ecosystems, while conserving biodiversity elsewhere.

### ◆ Industry and policy governance

There is a need for social dialogue, coordinated industrial policies and research. Investment in low carbon technologies and transparent, democratic and effective governance in the transition to a low carbon and resource efficient economy. Programs for green initiatives at workplace to cut energy use and emissions by positively engaging the workforce. Encouraging the generation of less waste, re-use of consumables, and the recycling and recovery of waste that is produced.

### Infrastructure

Infrastructure forms the arteries of urban development. There is a need for efficient transport, sanitation, energy and communications systems. Promoting collaborative efforts to collect and share data on infrastructure investments and its impacts. Tailor-made systems need to be designed to accommodate 2-3x growth of today's urban population.



**Amol Ghorpade**  
Project Leader, TERRE

1. Ex- UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in his Millennium Report to the General Assembly(March-2000)

2. CHAPTER XXI-Agriculture, Indian National Science Academy Publication

3. The Origins of the Industrial Revolution in England-Steven Kreis (<http://www.historyguide.org/intellect/>)

4. Jawaharlal Nehru, first Prime Minister of India in 1948

5. 2nd World Congress, International Trade Union Confederation (June 2010)





**NEWS NETWORK**

**Accidents Surge as Oil Industry Takes the Train**



As domestic oil production has increased rapidly in recent years, more and more of it is being transported by rail because of the lack of pipeline capacity. The trains often travel through populated areas, leading to concerns among residents over the hazards they can pose, including spills and fires.

[Http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/26/business/energy-environment/accidents-surge-as-oil-industry-takes-the-train.html?ref=earth&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/26/business/energy-environment/accidents-surge-as-oil-industry-takes-the-train.html?ref=earth&_r=0)

**IPCC hearing brings UK closer to US polarisation on climate change**

A parliamentary committee will this week provide further proof that political debate in the UK about climate change is becoming as depressingly unscientific and polarised as it is in the United States.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/blog/2014/jan/27/ipcc-bearing-uk-us-climate-change>



**Major trade powers pledge free trade in green goods**



The world's biggest trading powers pledged to work toward a global agreement on free trade in environmental goods, but they gave no timeline for talks intended to support the fight against climate change.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/01/24/us-davos-trade-idINBREAO1N00M20140124>

**Yukon Government Opens Vast Wilderness to Mining**

Canada's Yukon Territory announced that it has opened one of the largest unbroken wilderness areas in North America to mining and mineral exploration.

[Http://news.nationalgeographic.co.in/news/2014/01/140124-canada-yukon-peel-watershed-wilderness-mining-first-nations/](http://news.nationalgeographic.co.in/news/2014/01/140124-canada-yukon-peel-watershed-wilderness-mining-first-nations/)



A very interesting short documentary by Greenpeace showing the harm that computer recycling in India is inflicting on workers' health. Underlines why recycling needs to be carefully regulated.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3fOLL10jxY>

**INTERESTING VIDEOS**

More than half of India's population will live in urban areas by 2025 in search of better opportunities. Such mega migration of lower and middle class families will create unprecedented energy and space challenges for India. IIT Bombay along with Rachana Sansad's Academy of Architecture is the first ever Indian college team to participate in the prestigious Solar Decathlon Europe 2014, where it will present a solution to deal with this challenge. TERRE is a knowledge partner for Team Shunya.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jlb\\_v5MdCE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jlb_v5MdCE)



**TERRE Policy Centre**

7, Hemdatta Apartments, 38 Mrutyunjay Colony Kothrud, Pune - 411029  
Pandit Ajsaokar 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

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