



Newsletter

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Environmental Issues

July 2010

DOE Makes Public Detailed Information on the BP Oil Spill



WASHINGTON (June 8, 2010)

As part of the Obama Administration's ongoing commitment to transparency surrounding the response to the BP oil spill, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced today that Department is providing online access to schematics, pressure tests, diagnostic results and other data about the malfunctioning blowout preventer. The information is posted at energy.gov/oilspilldata.



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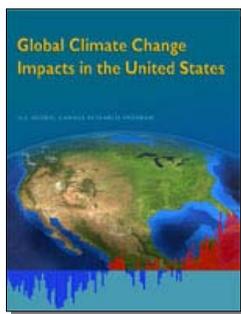
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GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE UNITED STATES. U.S. Global Change Research Program, June 16, 2009

This report summarizes the science of climate change and the impacts of climate change on the United States, now and in the future. It is largely based on results of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), and integrates those results with related research from around the world. This report discusses climate-related impacts for various societal and environmental sectors and regions across the nation. It is an authoritative scientific report written in plain language, with the goal of better informing public and private decision making at all levels. The USGCRP called for this report. An expert team of scientists operating under the authority of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, assisted by communication specialists, wrote the document. The report was extensively reviewed and revised based on comments from experts and the public. The report was approved by its lead USGCRP Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the other USGCRP agencies, and the Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources on behalf of the National Science and Technology Council. This report meets all Federal requirements associated with the Information Quality Act, including those pertaining to public comment and transparency. <http://www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts>

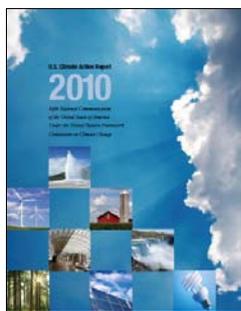
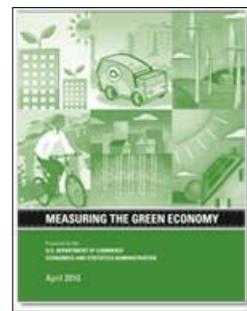


U.S. CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS AND INTENSITIES OVER TIME: A DETAILED ACCOUNTING OF INDUSTRIES, GOVERNMENT AND HOUSEHOLDS. U.S. Department of Commerce. April 21, 2010.

The study looks at the ways in which the American economy's greenhouse gas emissions have changed over the past decade. [PDF format, 42 pages]. <http://www.esa.doc.gov/co2/>

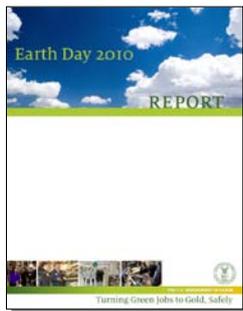
MEASURING THE GREEN ECONOMY. U.S. Department of Commerce. April 21, 2010.

The study defines and measures the size and scope of the green economy. [PDF format, 50 pages]. <http://www.esa.doc.gov/GreenEconomyReport/>



2010 U.S. CLIMATE ACTION REPORT: FIFTH NATIONAL COMMUNICATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE. U.S. Department of State. June 1, 2010.

In June 1992, the United States signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and ratified it in October of that year. Pursuant to the national Communication reporting requirements under Articles 4.2 and 12 of the Convention and to guidelines later adopted by the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP), the United States submitted the first U.S. Climate Action Report (CAR) to the UNFCCC Secretariat in 1994, the second in 1997, the third in 2002, and the fourth in 2007. The Fifth U.S. Climate Action Report presents a detailed outline of the actions the U.S. is taking to address climate change, contains updated projections on U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and underscores the United States commitment to address climate change. [PDF format, 193 pages]. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/140636.pdf>



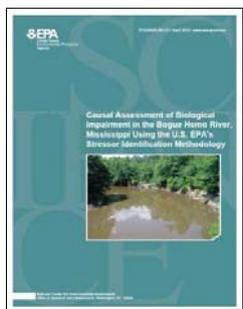
TURNING GREEN JOBS TO GOLD, SAFELY. U.S. Department of Labor. April 22, 2010.

The U.S. Department of Labor is turning green jobs into golden opportunities safely by working with its community, labor and industry partners to prepare the workforce for high growth fields while building a greener planet. The report demonstrates the programs being supported to promote green job growth. [PDF format, 10 pages].
http://www.dol.gov/dol/green/earthday_reportA.pdf



EPA'S RESPONSE TO THE BP OIL SPILL

Since the BP Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico on April 22, 2010, EPA has provided full support to the U.S. Coast Guard and is monitoring and responding to potential public health and environmental concerns. EPA continues to closely coordinate with federal, state and local agencies. Environmental data, including air quality and water samples, will be posted and frequently updated at www.epa.gov/bpspill as it is collected and validated by EPA's response teams along the impacted coastlines. This data is meant to determine potential risks to public health and the environment. <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>



CADDIS CASE STUDIES FINAL REPORTS. Environmental Protection Agency, June 2010

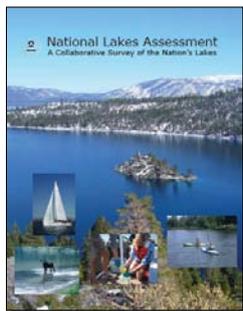
These reports provide examples of how some assessors have developed and interpreted evidence to determine causes of biological impairments and in some cases have improved the quality of an ecosystem. They provide different examples of how to organize an assessment report, analyze data, and present results. These cases assess rivers and streams in five different states across the U.S. The process for identifying causes of biological impairments continues to improve and was not intended to be interpreted in only one way. As a result you will note differences among the case studies. In some examples, comment boxes have been inserted to assist other users by suggesting alternative approaches that may be applied to their cases.
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=90004>

U.S. CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS IN 2009: A RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW. Environmental Protection Agency. May 5, 2010.

In 2009, energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in the United States saw their largest absolute and percentage decline (405 million metric tons or 7.0 percent) since the start of EIA's comprehensive record of annual energy data that begins in 1949, more than 60 years ago. While emissions have declined in three out of the last four years, 2009 was exceptional. As discussed below, emissions developments in 2009 reflect a combination of factors, including some particular to the economic downturn, other special circumstances during the year, and other factors that may reflect persistent trends in our economy and our energy use. [PDF format, 15 pages].
http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/environment/emissions/carbon/pdf/2009_co2_analysis.pdf

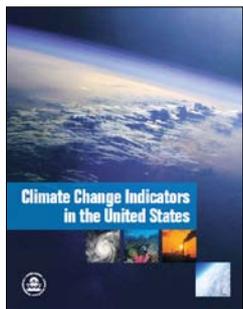
CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATORS IN THE UNITED STATES. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. April 27, 2010.

The report presents 24 indicators, each describing trends related to the causes and effects of climate change. It focuses primarily on the United States, but in some cases global trends are presented to provide context or a basis for comparison. [PDF format, 80 pages].
http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/indicators/pdfs/ClimateIndicators_full.pdf



NATIONAL LAKES ASSESSMENT; A COLLABORATIVE SURVEY OF THE NATION'S LAKES. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, April 2010.

EPA and its state and tribal partners have conducted a survey of the nation's lakes, ponds and reservoirs. This National Lakes Assessment is designed to provide statistically valid regional and national estimates of the condition of lakes. It uses a probability-based sampling design to represent the condition of all lakes in similar regions sharing similar ecological characteristics. Consistent sampling and analytical procedures ensure that the results can be compared across the country. The National Lakes Assessment helps build state and tribal capacity for monitoring and assessment and promotes collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries in the assessment of water quality. <http://www.epa.gov/owow/lakes/lakessurvey/index.htm>



ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITES: STRATEGY NEEDED TO SUSTAIN CRITICAL CLIMATE AND SPACE WEATHER MEASUREMENTS. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Web posted May 28, 2010.

Environmental satellites provide data on the earth and its space environment that are used for forecasting the weather, measuring variations in climate over time, and predicting space weather. In planning for the next generation of these satellites, federal agencies originally sought to fulfill weather, climate, and space weather requirements. However, in 2006, federal agencies restructured two key satellite acquisitions, the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) and the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-R series (GOES-R). This involved removing key climate and space weather instruments. [PDF format, 51 pages]. <http://go.usa.gov/3Kz>



RECOVERY ACT: CLEAN WATER PROJECTS ARE UNDERWAY, BUT PROCEDURES MAY NOT BE IN PLACE TO ENSURE ADEQUATE OVERSIGHT. U.S. Government Accountability Office. David C. Trimble. May 26, 2010.

Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) included \$4 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF). The testimony addresses (1) state efforts to meet requirements associated with the Recovery Act and SRF program, (2) the uses of Recovery Act funds, and (3) EPA's and states' efforts to oversee the use of these funds. GAO's review of the Clean Water SRF program focused on 14 states and selected localities—known as subrecipients, in each of these states. <http://go.usa.gov/3bz> [PDF format, 19 pages].

U.S. TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS: NOAA HAS EXPANDED ITS TSUNAMI PROGRAMS, BUT IMPROVED PLANNING COULD ENHANCE EFFECTIVENESS. U.S. Government Accountability Office. April 28, 2010.

NOAA adopted strategic plans for the Tsunami Program in 2008 and NTHMP in 2009, which it developed by following key planning practices and including most of the critical components of strategic plans identified by leading organizations, but some components have not been fully developed. GAO found that NOAA's planning process followed practices critical to creating effective strategic plans, such as involving stakeholders. Both plans also include most of the components of effective strategic plans--such as mission statements and long-term goals--but other necessary components were missing or incomplete. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10490.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages].



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) BP OIL SPILL INCIDENT RESPONSE:

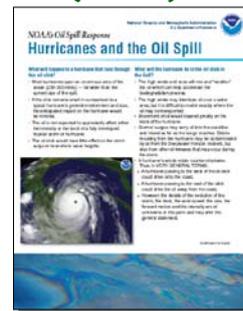
http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/dwh.php?entry_id=809

HURRICANES AND THE OIL SPILL. NOAA

What will happen to a hurricane that runs through this oil slick?

What will the hurricane do to the oil slick in the Gulf?

http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/book_shelf/2076_hurricanes_oil.pdf



CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS (HEARINGS, REPORTS, ETC.)

HOW POLICIES TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS COULD AFFECT EMPLOYMENT. Congressional Budget Office. May 5, 2010.

Human activities around the world are producing increasingly larger quantities of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide resulting from the use of fossil fuels and from deforestation. Adopting policies aimed at reducing emissions of greenhouse gases would shift the demand for goods and services away from fossil fuels and products that require substantial amounts of those fuels to make or to use and toward alternative forms of energy and products that require lesser amounts of fossil fuels. Employment patterns would shift to mirror those changes in demand. [PDF format, 11 pages]. <http://bit.ly/cdk1qs>



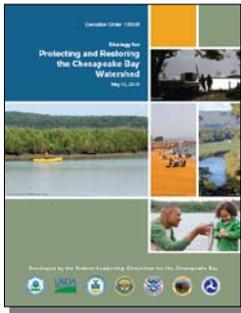
LEGISLATIVE APPROACHES TO DEFINING "WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES." Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Claude Copeland. April 30, 2010.

In the 111th Congress, legislation has been introduced that seeks to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) in the wake of Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2006 that interpreted the law's jurisdiction more narrowly than prior case law. The Court's narrow interpretation involved jurisdiction over some geographically isolated wetlands, intermittent streams, and other waters. The two cases are *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. Army Corps of Engineers* (SWANCC) and *Rapanos v. United States*. <http://bit.ly/98B1aE> [PDF format, 18 pages].

OIL SPILLS IN U.S. COASTAL WATERS: BACKGROUND, GOVERNANCE, AND ISSUES FOR CONGRESS. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jonathan L. Ramseur. April 30, 2010.

During the past two decades, while U.S. oil imports and consumption have steadily risen, oil spill incidents and the volume of oil spilled have not followed a similar course. In general, the annual number and volume of oil spills have shown declines--in some cases, dramatic declines. The 1989 Exxon Valdez spill in Alaskan waters played a large role in stimulating actions that contributed to this trend, particularly the decrease in the annual spill volumes. The Exxon Valdez spill highlighted the need for stronger legislation, inflamed public sentiment, and spurred Congress to enact comprehensive oil spill legislation, resulting in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-380). This law expanded and clarified the authority of the federal government and created new oil spill prevention and preparedness requirements. <http://bit.ly/ck6p7B> [PDF format, 38 pages].

THE WHITE HOUSE



EXECUTIVE ORDER 13508: STRATEGY FOR PROTECTING AND RESTORING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

On May 12, 2010, Obama Administration Officials released a new Federal strategy for the Chesapeake region, focused on protecting and restoring the environment in communities throughout the 64,000-square-mile watershed and in its thousands of streams, creeks and rivers.

<http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/post/New-Federal-Strategy-for-Chesapeake-Launches-Major-Initiatives-and-Holds-Government-Accountable-for-Progress.aspx>

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON OIL SPILL. The White House. President Barack Obama. May 2, 2010.

"Currently, the most advanced technology available is being used to try and stop a leak that is more than 5,000 feet under the surface. Because this leak is unique and unprecedented, it could take many days to stop. That's why we're also using every resource available to stop the oil from coming ashore and mitigating the damage it could cause. And much of the discussion here at the center was focused on if we, and when we have to deal with these mitigation efforts," says President Obama. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-oil-spill>

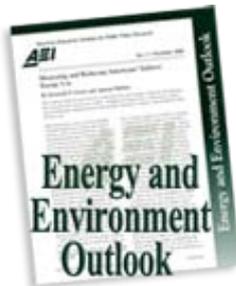
TIPS FOR GOING GREEN. The White House. April 2010.

The White House website, under Energy & Environment issue, offers ways to protect the planet's air, water, and other natural resources for future generations.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/energy-and-environment/new-foundation/going-green>

THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE



THE DANGERS OF OVERREACTING TO THE DEEPWATER HORIZON DISASTER. Kenneth P. Green, Steven F. Hayward. AEI OUTLOOK SERIES | AEI Online, June 2010

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon, a mobile, semisubmersible deep-sea oil-drilling rig leased by British Petroleum (BP), was completing a newly drilled well forty-one miles off the Louisiana coastline in the Gulf of Mexico when it exploded and sank, killing eleven oil-rig workers, injuring seventeen, and triggering the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. territory in American history. It will likely be one of the

top ten in world history if it is not stopped soon. The spill is clearly an ecological disaster, but overreaction to it could cause more environmental and economic harm than good. It should be viewed in perspective historically and environmentally, and policymakers should wait to make changes until the full effects of the spill can be understood.

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/01-2010-EEO-g.pdf>



DISTRIBUTIONAL IMPACTS IN A COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE POLICY PACKAGE. Kevin A. Hassett, Aparna Mathur, Gilbert E. Metcalf | AEI Online (June 23, 2010)

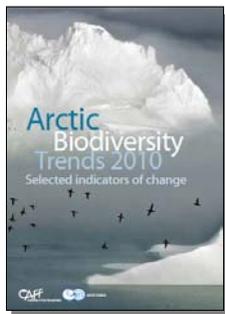
This paper provides a simple analytic approach for measuring the burden of carbon pricing that does not require sophisticated and numerically intensive economic models but which is not limited to restrictive assumptions of forward shifting of carbon prices. We also

show how to adjust for the capital income bias contained in the Consumer Expenditure Survey, a bias towards regressivity in carbon pricing due to underreporting of capital income in higher income deciles in the Survey. Many distributional analyses of carbon pricing focus on the uses-side incidence of carbon pricing. This is the differential burden resulting from heterogeneity in consumption across households. Once one allows for sources-side incidence (i.e. differential impacts of changes in real factor prices), carbon policies look more progressive. Perhaps more important than the findings from any one scenario, our results on the progressivity of the leading cap and trade proposals are robust to the assumptions made on the relative importance of uses and sources side heterogeneity. . . <http://www.aei.org/paper/100122>

POLLS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL WARMING. Karlyn Bowman, Andrew Rugg | AEI Studies in Public Opinion, April 22, 2010

This study includes up-to-date trends and opinions on the party best able to handle environmental issues, the environment as a voting issue, recent presidential administrations and environmental policy, and views on the importance, causes, and potential that can be taken regarding global warming. <http://www.aei.org/paper/14888>

ARCTIC COUNCIL



ARCTIC BIODIVERSITY TRENDS 2010. Arctic Council, June 2010

For this report, twenty-two indicators were selected to provide a snapshot of the trends being observed in Arctic biodiversity today. The indicators were selected to cover major species groups with wide distributions across Arctic ecosystems. Special consideration was given to indicators closely associated with biodiversity use by indigenous and local communities, as well as those with relevance to decision-makers. Indicators were also selected on the basis of what was achievable in terms of existing data and in the timeframe available. Each indicator chapter provides an overview of the status and trends of a given

indicator, information on stressors, and concerns for the future.
<http://www.arcticbiodiversity.is/index.php/en/the-report>

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

MAKING THE CASE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE. William J. Antholis, Strobe Talbott. The Brookings Institution, June 30, 2010

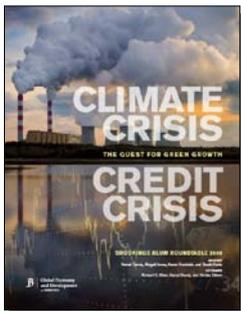
If Obama really wants to address climate change, he needs to do two things simultaneously: be more explicit about the dangers of global warming and manage anxiety that the necessary measures won't impede economic recovery and growth. The president has yet to use the bully pulpit to raise awareness of global warming and the urgency of aggressive action to slow it down. http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0630_climate_antholis_talbott.aspx

THE OIL SPILL AND AMERICAN CONSUMERS, BP'S OTHER ACCOMPLICE. Brookings Institution. Charles K. Ebinger and Kevin Massy. June 17, 2010.

As Tony Hayward, BP's beleaguered chief executive, made the trek up to Capitol Hill today to appear before the House Energy Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, he faced variations on a familiar line of questioning. What was BP, a foreign company, doing cavorting around in U.S. waters, blithely drilling holes miles beneath the surface without so much as a back-up plan if things went wrong? [HTML format, various paging].
<http://bit.ly/cQZV4x>

COMPARING CLIMATE COMMITMENTS: A MODEL-BASED ANALYSIS OF THE COPENHAGEN ACCORD. Brookings Institution. Warwick J. McKibbin et al. May 27, 2010.

The political accord struck by world leaders at the United Nations negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009 allows participating countries to express their greenhouse gas commitments in a variety of ways. For example, developed countries promised different percent emissions reductions relative to different base years by 2020. China and India committed to reducing their emissions per unit of gross domestic product (GDP) relative to 2005 by 40 and 20 percent respectively. Such flexibility promotes consensus by allowing each country to use its preferred commitment formulation. However, the disparate approaches and widely varying baseline trends across different economies complicate comparing the likely emissions reductions and economic efforts required to achieve the commitments. <http://bit.ly/dyMyCx> [PDF format, 43 pages].



CLIMATE CRISIS, CREDIT CRISIS: THE QUEST FOR GREEN GROWTH. Brookings Institution. Kemal Dervis et al. Web posted April 22, 2010.

As the global economy struggles to sustain its recovery from the deepest recession in sixty years, another challenge looms large: preventing the Earth from warming more than 3.6 °F, widely considered by climate experts as the acceptable level to reduce the risk of irreversible global damage resulting from climate change. To meet these challenges, authors contend that we must look beyond our national borders, recognize that we face an uncertain future, and collaborate to

ensure our collective well-being. [PDF format, 40 pages].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/0422_climate_change_poverty/0422_climate_change_poverty.pdf



SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE MIDDLE EAST: TOWARD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION. Brookings Institution. Ehaab Abdou et al. April 22, 2010.

Despite the promise of an increasingly educated population of young people, the Middle East's "youth bulge" generates pressure on education systems, labor markets, health care, natural resources and infrastructure. In this context, and with constrained public and private resources, traditional development frameworks in the Middle East are proving inadequate and are in need of transformation, according to the

report. [PDF format, 74 pages].

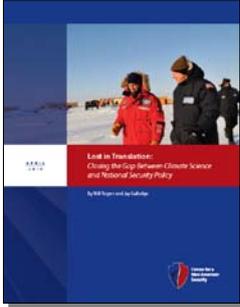
http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/04_social_entrepreneurship/04_social_entrepreneurship.pdf

CENTER FOR A NEW AMERICAN SECURITY



SUSTAINING SECURITY: HOW NATURAL RESOURCES INFLUENCE NATIONAL SECURITY. Christine Parthemore, Will Rogers. Center for a New American Security, 06/03/2010

In the 21st century, the security of nations will depend increasingly on the security of natural resources, or "natural security." This report points to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Mexico and Yemen as examples for how natural security challenges within those countries borders are directly linked to regional stability and U.S. security and foreign policy interests. <http://www.cnas.org/node/4546>



LOST IN TRANSLATION: CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN CLIMATE SCIENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY. Center for a New American Security. Will Rogers and Jay Gulledge. April 25, 2010.

National security policymakers point to climate change as a key trend that will shape the current and future global security environment, but do not always have the scientific information they need to plan and prepare for the security challenges it may cause. The report explores the gap between the science and policy communities and offers recommendations for how they can work together to ensure the United

States can effectively plan for the national security implications of climate change.

http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/Lost%20in%20Translation_Code406_Web_0.pdf

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

LAW OF SEA IMPLICATIONS FOR GULF SPILL. Interviewee: Caitlyn Antrim, Executive Director, Rule of Law Committee for the Oceans; Interviewer: Toni Johnson, CFR staff writer. July 2, 2010

The expanding environmental and economic toll of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill could focus attention on the need to clarify the rules for dealing with pollution that exceeds territorial boundaries. Caitlyn Antrim, an expert on ocean governance, says the *Law of the Sea Treaty* covers many of the issues raised by the spill, and even though the United States has not acceded to the treaty, it has agreed to abide by it. But she says many of the guidelines required by the treaty, which are necessary to address the liability and pollution issues among affected countries for this type of spill, have not been written. She notes that the Gulf oil spill should be used as an opportunity to craft regional standards for oil and gas exploration. http://www.cfr.org/publication/22585/law_of_sea_implications_for_gulf_spill.html

A CHILLING RESPONSE TO GULF OIL SPILL. Interviewee: Jack Coleman, Managing Partner, EnergyNorthAmerica, LLC interviewed by Toni Johnson, CFR staff writer. July 2, 2010

The Obama administration has overreacted to the Gulf oil spill by suspending most new offshore drilling and moving to expand liabilities for future accidents, with implications for U.S. energy security, says Jack Coleman, an energy industry official and legal expert. http://www.cfr.org/publication/22573/chilling_response_to_gulf_oil_spill.html?breadcrumb=%2Fissue%2F17%2Fenergyenvironment

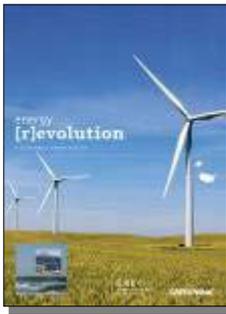
U.S. DEEPWATER DRILLING'S FUTURE. Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johnson. May 25, 2010.

The Gulf of Mexico oil spill spotlights the growth of deepwater drilling and the challenges of balancing environmental regulation with efforts to expand U.S. domestic oil production. <http://bit.ly/csuYBB> [HTML format, various paging].

THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE REGIME. Council on Foreign Relations. April 20, 2010.

The report gives a broad-sweeping look at international efforts to combat climate change. This is part of the Global Governance Monitor, an interactive feature tracking multilateral approaches to several global challenges. [HTML format, various paging]. http://www.cfr.org/publication/21831/global_climate_change_regime.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackground

GREENPEACE



GREENPEACE ENERGY [R]EVOLUTION 2010. Greenpeace, June 09, 2010

Every day, millions of people whose stories you won't hear are suffering the direct effects of our addiction to fossil fuels. Asthma, cancer, mutilated ecosystems, devastated communities — these are the hidden costs of our backward energy system, and we're paying those costs right now, whether we know it or not. The threat of climate change demands nothing short of an Energy Revolution — a transformation that has already started, as renewable energy markets exhibit huge and steady growth. At the core of this revolution will be a change in the way that

energy is produced, distributed and consumed.

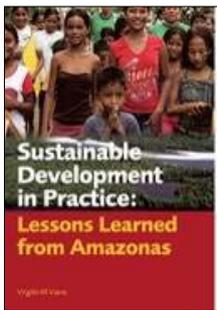
<http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/press-center/reports4/greenpeace-energy-r-evolution>

HERITAGE FOUNDATION

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AN OFFSHORE DRILLING BAN. David Kreutzer, Ph.D. and John Ligon. Heritage Foundation WebMemo #2945. July 1, 2010

Responding to the BP oil leak, President Obama instituted a moratorium on deepwater (over 500 feet) drilling. Though a judge ruled against the moratorium, drilling has not restarted. In addition, though no official moratorium was issued for drilling in shallower water, the permitting process has slowed considerably. The President has raised questions about the long-term necessity for drilling. Others would take this argument much further and ban all drilling offshore. To help policymakers evaluate the arguments for limiting or eliminating offshore drilling, this paper analyzes the economic impact of a total offshore drilling ban on the U.S. economy. The authors use a mainstream model of the U.S. economy to simulate a policy change that prevents new wells from being drilled and allows offshore production to decline as the current set of wells reach the end of their productive lives. <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2010/06/The-Economic-Impact-of-an-Offshore-Drilling-Ban>

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN PRACTICE: LESSONS LEARNED FROM AMAZONAS. Virgilio M. Viana. IIED, June 2010

Historically, the Amazon region has taken a 'frontier' approach to development that has destroyed forests. From 2000-2002, Professor Virgilio Viana worked with IIED to explore options for more forest-friendly forms of development. The Governor of Amazonas subsequently appointed Viana as the first ever Secretary for Environment and Sustainable Development. Viana was able to make the case for and implement several options, which were marked out by being scientifically based, simple to understand, and attractive to many stakeholders. IIED believes that the ideas developed and honed over the last few years are both timely and inspiring – both for Brazil and for countries further afield, as they now search for new 'green economies'.

<http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=17508IIED>

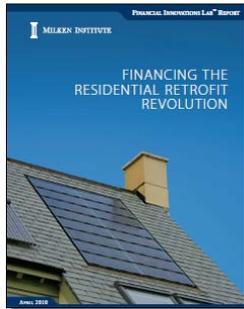


CHANNELS FOR CHANGE: PRIVATE WATER AND THE URBAN POOR. International Institute for Environment and Development. Matthew Lynch et al. May 2010.

For the rapidly urbanizing developing world, safe and affordable water is a key to health and livelihoods, as well as meeting the Millennium Development Goals. But providing it demands innovative models. Where the context allows and the approach is appropriate, private sector involvement can generate win-win outcomes. Poor people can gain access

to high-quality, affordable services, and companies can gain access to new and profitable business opportunities. [PDF format, 4 pages]. <http://bit.ly/cLdcu2>

MILKEN INSTITUTE



FINANCING THE RESIDENTIAL RETROFIT REVOLUTION. Milken Institute. Web posted June 4, 2010.

Our homes produce 20 percent of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and study after study finds that efficiency measures are the cheapest way to save energy. Residential upgrades would pay for themselves by reducing home energy usage by 40 percent and creating green jobs. Unfortunately, no one has figured out how to cover the costs of a nationwide retrofit. The report finds that various government programs and private-sector financing options, if properly integrated, can jumpstart the transition to a cleaner, more efficient use of energy in houses. [PDF format, 40 pages]. <http://bit.ly/cysBvr>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOLARS

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SUSTAINABILITY, 4th Edition. Ashley Thorne. NAS, July 08, 2010

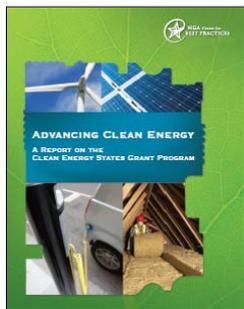
The National Association of Scholars presents our fourth edition of the encyclopedia of sustainability (PDF). Our quarterly updated “sustainapedia” contains key names, terms, books, colleges and organizations that NAS has observed through our research of the sustainability movement in higher education. http://www.nas.org/polArticles.cfm?Doc_Id=1423

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

ENERGY CONSERVATION “NUDGES” AND ENVIRONMENTALIST IDEOLOGY: EVIDENCE FROM A RANDOMIZED RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY FIELD EXPERIMENT. National Bureau of Economic Research. Dora L. Costa and Matthew E. Kahn. April 26, 2010.

“Nudges” are being widely promoted to encourage energy conservation. The report shows that while the electricity conservation “nudge” of providing feedback to households on own and peers’ home electricity usage works with liberals, it can backfire with conservatives. It predicts that a Democratic household that pays for electricity from renewable sources, that donates to environmental groups, and that lives in a liberal neighborhood reduces its consumption by 3 percent in response to this nudge. A Republican household, that does not pay for electricity from renewable sources and does not donate to environmental groups, increases its consumption by 1 percent. [PDF format, 34 pages]. <http://www.nber.org/papers/w15939.pdf>

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION



ADVANCING CLEAN ENERGY: A REPORT ON THE CLEAN ENERGY STATES GRANT PROGRAM. National Governors Association. Andrew Kambour et al. Web posted May 7, 2010.

Throughout the decade, states have launched initiatives to improve energy efficiency, promote alternative energy sources and lower greenhouse gas emissions. The report profiles the work of 12 states, which were selected for participation in the Clean Energy States Grant Program, as part of the Securing a Clean Energy Future Initiative. The program provided states an opportunity to explore and expand new techniques for promoting clean energy, as well as develop and implement their own state programs. [PDF format, 36 pages]. <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/1004ADVANCINGCLEANENERGY.PDF>

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH

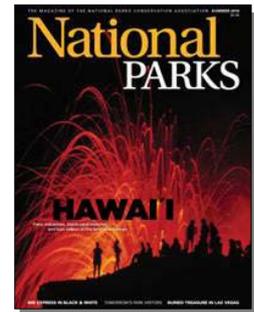
A HUMAN HEALTH PERSPECTIVE ON CLIMATE CHANGE. National Institute of Health. April 21, 2010.

The report highlights 11 key categories of diseases and other health consequences that are occurring or will occur due to climate change. It provides a starting point for coordination of federal research to better understand climate's impact on human health. The recommendations of the working group include research to identify who will be most vulnerable, and what efforts will be most beneficial. [PDF format, 80 pages].
<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/docs/climatereport2010.pdf>

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, Summer 2010. National Parks Conservation Association

Feature: Hawai'i: Life in the Extreme
<http://www.npca.org/magazine/2010/summer/>

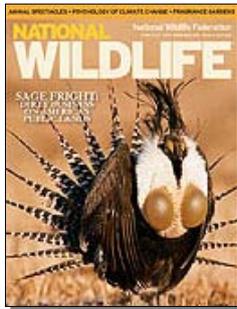


NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION: A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF A CHANGING OCEAN. National Research Council. April 22, 2010.

Unless man-made carbon dioxide emissions are substantially curbed, or atmospheric carbon dioxide is controlled by some other means, the oceans will continue to become more acidic, says the summary of the report. [HTML format, 175 pages].
http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12904#toc

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION



NATIONAL WILDLIFE MAGAZINE, June-July 2010

Featuring: CAN WE RESCUE OILED WILDLIFE?

By mid-June, rescuers at four wildlife rehabilitation centers in the gulf had cleaned, nourished and released several dozen pelicans, northern gannets and herons. Even this seemingly successful operation is not without controversy. "It's a humanitarian effort that shouldn't be confused with really making a difference to the birds and their populations," warns Oregon ornithologist and biological consultant Brian Sharp, who helped determine the number of birds killed by the Exxon Valdez spill.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife.aspx>

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL



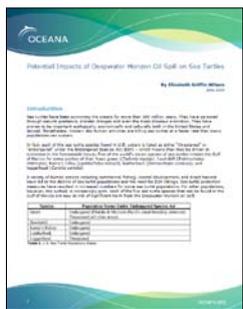
ONEARTH MAGAZINE, Summer 2010. NRDC.

FEATURE STORIES:

- What's the Catch? by Bruce Barcott
- Patriots Act, by Joseph D'Agnes
- Are We Losing the Green Tech Race? by Josephine Hearn, George Kokkinidis
- The Data Trail, by Tim Folger
- The Synthesist, by Alan Burdick

<http://www.onearth.org/10sum>

OCEANA



POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL ON SEA TURTLES. Oceana. Elizabeth Griffin Wilson. June 10, 2010.

The report finds the Deepwater Horizon oil spill extremely dangerous for sea turtles inhabiting the Gulf of Mexico. Specifically, sea turtles can become coated in oil or inhale volatile chemicals when they surface to breathe, swallow oil or contaminated prey, and swim through oil or come in contact with it on nesting beaches. "Sea turtles can suffer both internal and external injuries from contact with oil or chemical dispersants," says the author. "In addition to regulating bycatch in commercial fisheries and protecting critical habitat areas, the U.S. government can now add 'preventing future oil spills' to its list of essential sea turtle protections." [PDF format, 14 pages]. <http://bit.ly/a8WZkl>

ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT'S (OECD)

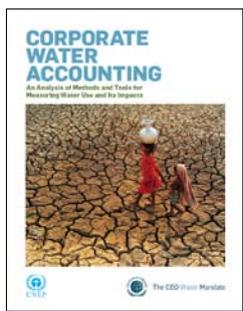
A FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING GREEN GROWTH POLICIES. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Alain de Serres et al. Web posted May 27, 2010.

The paper proposes an analytical framework for assessing policies that will contribute to a better integration of environmental externalities in the pursuit of economic efficiency and growth objectives. [PDF format, 70 pages]. <http://bit.ly/97qxsV>

THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND POLICY BENEFITS AT CITY SCALE. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Stephane Hallegatte et al. Web posted May 25, 2010.

The paper aims to explore the city-scale risks of climate change and the local benefits of both adaptation policies and (global) mitigation strategies. [PDF format, 49 pages]. <http://bit.ly/cfN8nr>

PACIFIC INSTITUTE



CORPORATE WATER ACCOUNTING: AN ANALYSIS OF METHODS AND TOOLS FOR MEASURING WATER USE AND ITS IMPACTS. Pacific Institute. Jason Morrison et al. April 2010.

Effective business water accounting methods are critical for sustainable water management, according to the report, prepared for the United Nations Environment Programme and the CEO Water Mandate. Current methods are a good start for measuring water use and impacts, but they are inadequate for benchmarking. Advancing effective and coordinated accounting methods for corporate water use and impacts is essential to help companies identify risk, drive improvement, and address stakeholders' needs. http://www.pacinst.org/reports/corporate_water_accounting_analysis/corporate_water_accounting_analysis.pdf

PEW CENTER ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

SIDE BY SIDE: COPENHAGEN ACCORD, DRAFT LCA TEXT, AND LCA CHAIR'S TEXT. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. June 2010.

As negotiators meet in Bonn, Germany, the Pew Center issues a side-by-side comparison of the Copenhagen Accord, the main UNFCCC negotiating texts emerging from Copenhagen, and new text prepared for further talks. <http://bit.ly/dx7bao> [PDF format, 9 pages].



THE BUSINESS CASE FOR CLIMATE LEGISLATION. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. June 2010.

In recent years, leading businesses have emerged as some of the strongest advocates for passage of national climate and energy legislation that mandates reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The analysis explains why an unprecedented number of businesses are supporting passage of clean energy and climate legislation.

<http://bit.ly/aelp46> [PDF format, 16 pages].

OIL SPILL SEEN AS ECOLOGICAL DISASTER. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. May 11, 2010.

Americans are critical of the government's response to the environmental disaster in the Gulf, but even more so of BP. Support for offshore oil drilling is down, though Republican opinion is unchanged, according to the survey. [HTML format, various paging].

<http://bit.ly/cXjCE9>

ASSESSING THE BENEFITS OF AVOIDED CLIMATE CHANGE: COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS AND BEYOND. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. May 2010.

The report conveys the proceedings of an expert workshop on the economic benefits of avoided climate change. Drawing from the environmental economics, impacts and vulnerability, and risk analysis communities, the workshop sought to glean insights on how to better quantify the benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. [PDF format, 252 pages]. <http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/benefits-workshop-proceedings.pdf>

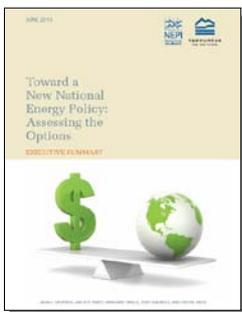
RAND

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE TRACK PROGRAM. RAND Corporation. Scott Hassell etc. May 24, 2010.

The report addresses the conceptual basis of the National Environmental Performance Track program, a voluntary program run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency between 2000 and 2009; its program design; and its implementation. Performance Track sought to improve the quality of the environment by encouraging facilities to recognize and improve all aspects of their environmental performance and by providing a range of benefits, including broad-based recognition, regulatory benefits, and a more open and collaborative relationship between facilities and their regulators. [PDF format, 135 pages].

<http://bit.ly/90YR9b>

RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE



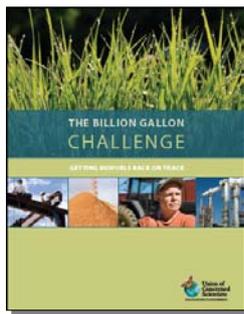
TOWARD A NEW NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY: ASSESSING THE OPTIONS. Resources for the Future, June 2010

The report analyzes and appraises U.S. energy policy choices and provides policymakers with a wealth of valuable information for developing a coordinated national energy policy.

Carried out by RFF and the National Energy Policy Institute with support from the George Kaiser Family Foundation, it assesses 35 different policies and policy combinations based on their societal costs and their ability to reduce oil consumption and CO2 emissions. Each is evaluated and ranked using a consistent and rigorous methodology, underpinned by an RFF version of the Energy Information Administration's National Energy Modeling System.

Executive Summary is available at <http://www.rff.org/toward-a-new-energy-policy>

UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS



BILLION GALLON CHALLENGE: GETTING BIOFUELS BACK ON TRACK. Union of Concerned Scientists, June 2010

Advanced biofuels from diverse sources such as grasses and agricultural waste hold the promise of sustainably reducing U.S. oil dependence and global warming emissions. Unfortunately the advanced biofuels industry not been able to meet the demand as set out in the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). The *Billion Gallon Challenge* is an effort to build the support and policies needed to bring the fledgling advanced biofuels industry to maturity. It also seeks to ensure that the biofuels market maximizes taxpayer investment and helps to strengthen U.S. energy

and environmental security. Executive Summary:

http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/clean_vehicles/Billion-Gallon-Challenge-Executive-Summary.pdf

http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/clean_vehicles/The-Billion-Gallon-Challenge.pdf

URBAN INSTITUTE



LOW-SKILL WORKERS' ACCESS TO QUALITY GREEN JOBS. Urban Institute. Karin Martinson et al. May 21, 2010.

"Green jobs" have garnered attention and support from many circles. The brief discusses strategies for improving access to green jobs for low-skill individuals, particularly jobs that can improve workers' economic standing and better support families. To understand where green jobs for low-skill individuals can be found, we review green industries and occupations and what they pay. Next we identify "good" green jobs that pay enough to support employees' families. Finally we discuss how

training for green jobs can equip low-skill workers with needed skills, recommend how to improve these training efforts, and detail examples of innovative programs. [PDF format, 10 pages]. <http://bit.ly/97wSW0>

U.S. INSTITUTE OF PEACE

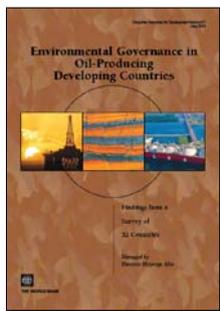


THE TIGRIS-EUPHRATES RIVER BASIN: A SCIENCE DIPLOMACY OPPORTUNITY. U.S. Institute of Peace. Joel Whitaker and Anand Varghese. April 22, 2010.

Iraq's post-conflict struggles for sustainable economic growth and regional stability are undermined in both the short and long term by poor water management in the Tigris-Euphrates basin. Poor regional water management has negative effects on Iraq's regional political relationships, its economy and its ecology. [PDF format, 5 pages].

http://www.usip.org/files/resources/PB%202020Tigris-Euphrates_River_Basin.pdf

WORLD BANK



ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE IN OIL-PRODUCING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. The World Bank. Eleodoro Mayorga Alba. June 2010.

The Petroleum Governance Initiative (PGI) encompasses three general themes, or pillars, that address issues of transparency and economic responsibility, environmental sustainability and responsible community development. Of particular interest here is the second pillar, environmental sustainability; the PGI is currently involved in four main activities surrounding this theme: 1) assessing environmental governance and management in oil-producing countries-the topic of this paper; 2)

conducting a strategic environmental assessment of oil and gas activity in Mauritania; 3) conducting workshops and preparing a toolkit on decommissioning and abandonment; and

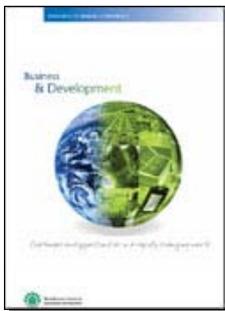
4) providing in-country assistance on environmental management to a limited number of countries. [PDF format, 48 pages].
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTOGMC/Resources/336929-1266963339030/eifd17_environmental_governance.pdf

CLIMATE CHANGE AND URBAN WATER UTILITIES: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES. The World Bank. Alexander Danilenko et al. April 2010.

The key objectives of this document are to: 1) improve understanding and awareness of the operational implications of climate change on the provision of water and wastewater services by urban utilities; 2) present adaptation actions conducted at the utility level for inspiration; 3) establish an analytical framework to assist Bank staff and client countries' utility managers to identify and prioritize potential climate change adaptation measures; and 4) assess the feasibility of implementing adaptation measures based on a set of criteria. [PDF format, 84 pages].

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/04/26/000334955_20100426044056/Rendered/PDF/542350NWP0WN2410Box345640B01PUBLIC1.pdf

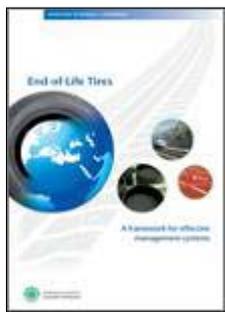
WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD. World Business Council for Sustainable Development, July 2010

What are the links between business and development? And what is the business role and opportunity in addressing sustainability challenges of developing countries and emerging economies? These questions are addressed in a report launched today by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). As the report highlights, enhancing energy and resource efficiency, and finding new ways of sustainably meeting the rising demand for food, healthcare, shelter, energy, mobility, water, sanitation and communication are defining challenges.

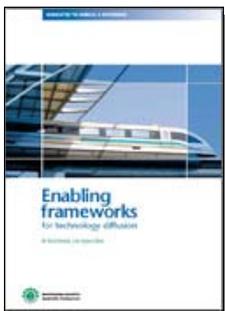
<http://www.wbcd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&ObjectId=Mzg1MDQ>



END-OF-LIFE TIRES: A FRAMEWORK FOR EFFECTIVE ELT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS. World Business Council for Sustainable Development, July 2010

The new manual, developed by the WBCSD's Tire Industry Project, outlines the different stages of an ELT flow. It covers legislative and functional needs for effective ELT management, stockpile abatement, financing an effective system, and the need for sustainable end markets. Its appendices include references to more detailed information and case studies on existing systems from around the world.

<http://www.wbcd.org/Plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?DocTypeId=251&ObjectId=Mzg0NzQ>



ENABLING FRAMEWORKS FOR TECHNOLOGY DIFFUSION. World Business Council for Sustainable Development, June 2010

In its latest report on Enabling frameworks for technology diffusion, the WBCSD puts forward six key elements to enhance investments and sales of low-carbon technologies in developing countries. These range from government signals to foster low-carbon solutions to engaging business more actively into the international and national climate change process.

<http://www.wbcd.org/Plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?DocTypeId=251&ObjectId=Mzg0Mzg>

THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION (IUCN)

EASTERN CHIMPANZEE (PAN TROGLODYTES SCHWEINFURTHII): STATUS SURVEY AND CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN 2010-2020. IUCN & WCS, June 2010

Ninety-six per cent of known populations of eastern chimpanzees, that's an estimated 50,000 individuals, could be protected with a new action plan, which puts stamping out illegal hunting and trafficking as key to saving one of man's closest relatives. The nations of East and Central Africa have developed a 10-year plan to save the eastern chimpanzee from hunting, habitat loss, disease, the capture of infants for the pet trade and other threats, IUCN and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) announced today. <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2010-023.pdf>

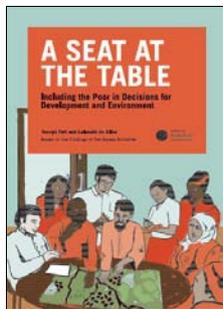


WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE



2010 GLOBAL ECOLABEL MONITOR. World Resources Institute and Big Room, Inc. July, 2010

How do consumers and institutional buyers know if something is 'green' or 'ecofriendly'? As environmental qualities are often imperceptible in the final product, producers need to make them visible to consumers. Many ecolabels and eco-certification schemes have been launched to validate green claims, guide green purchasing, and improve environmental performance standards. Done well, ecolabels and eco-certifications can provide an effective baseline within industry sectors by encouraging best practice and providing guidelines that companies must meet in order to meet a certified standard. <http://www.wri.org/publication/global-ecolabel-monitor>



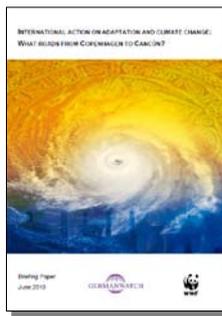
A SEAT AT THE TABLE: INCLUDING THE POOR IN DECISIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT. World Resources Institute. Joseph Foti and Lalanath de Silva. May 2010.

Decisions that have significant environmental and social consequences are often made without the involvement of those whose interests are directly at stake. For poor people whose lives and livelihoods often depend on natural resources, and who are therefore most vulnerable to environmental risks, the consequences of exclusion can be especially severe. Weak access to decision-making may expose poor communities to high levels of pollution, remove them from productive land, and deprive them of the everyday benefits provided by natural resources, according to the report. [PDF format, 42 pages]. <http://bit.ly/9fZSp1>

FROM COPENHAGEN TO CANCUN: FORESTS AND REDD. World Resources Institute. Florence Daviet. May 17, 2010.

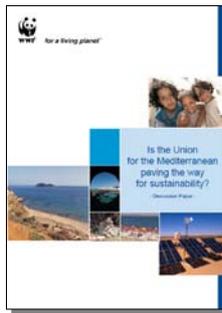
Deforestation and forest degradation threaten the global climate system by removing one of the planet's essential absorbers and storehouses of carbon. Currently, forest loss is thought to contribute between 12-17 percent of annual global greenhouse gas emissions. The United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations offer an opportunity to better recognize and protect forests' contribution to the global climate system. It can do this in part by providing positive incentives to developing countries who take actions to reduce emissions from forest loss and degradation (known as "REDD"). [HTML format, various paging]. <http://www.wri.org/stories/2010/05/copenhagen-cancun-forests-and-redd>

WORLD WILDLIFE FEDERATION



INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON ADAPTATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT ROADS FROM COPENHAGEN TO CANCUN? World Wildlife Fund. Sven Harmeling et al. June 2010.

The paper assesses the state of the adaptation negotiations under the UNFCCC after the historic climate summit of Copenhagen. It compares the current draft negotiating text (June 2010) and compares it to key essentials that an ambitious adaptation action framework needs to contain to assist developing countries living up to the challenge of adaptation. It further provides an assessment of the key unresolved negotiation issues and scenarios of possible outcomes at the next climate summit in Cancún. [PDF format, 40 pages]. <http://bit.ly/c77V3J>



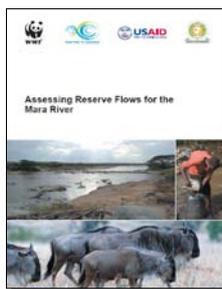
IS THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN PAVING THE WAY FOR SUSTAINABILITY? World Wildlife Fund. Paloma Agrasot et al. June 14, 2010.

The discussion paper outlines the need to take environmental cooperation to the next level to ensure that the main assets of the Mediterranean region and its priceless natural capital are preserved. [PDF format, 32 pages]. <http://bit.ly/b7eq0N>



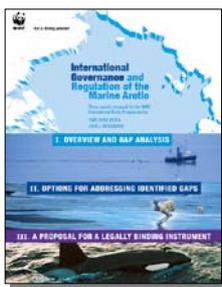
TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE THE BALTIC SEA. World Wildlife Fund. May 12, 2010.

The WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme is an active, ambitious and highly influential force in the efforts to conserve and restore the Baltic Sea. They combine scientific knowledge and expertise with creative innovation and political determination to save the unique life and beauty of the Baltic Sea. Highly experienced international experts works to forge unprecedented regional partnerships to save the Baltic Sea. The brief offers ways to find the best solutions. <http://assets.panda.org/downloads/togetherwecansavethebalticsea.pdf>



ASSESSING RESERVE FLOWS FOR THE MARA RIVER: KENYA AND TANZANIA. World Wildlife Fund. Web posted April 27, 2010.

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission is a specialized institution of the East African Community that is responsible for coordinating the sustainable development agenda of the Lake Victoria Basin. Its vision is to promote, facilitate and coordinate activities of different actors towards sustainable development and poverty eradication of the Lake Victoria Basin. http://assets.panda.org/downloads/environmental_flows_assessment_mara_1.pdf



INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION OF THE MARINE ARCTIC. World Wildlife Fund. Timo Koivurova and Erik J. Molenaar. 2010.

A new, warmer Arctic cannot continue to operate under rules that assume it is ice-covered and essentially closed to fishing, resource exploration and development and shipping, according to the report. It also reports on protecting a newly accessible, highly vulnerable environment with profound significance for global climate, the global economy and global security. http://assets.panda.org/downloads/3in1_final.pdf

YALE UNIVERSITY



A MOUNTAIN BIRD'S SURVIVAL GUIDE TO CLIMATE CHANGE. Yale, June 8, 2010

Researchers at Yale University have found that the risk of extinction for mountain birds due to global warming is greatest for species that occupy a narrow range of altitude. In fact, a species' vertical distribution is a better predictor of extinction risk than the extent of temperature change they experience, the researchers report in the June 9 issue of the Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences. <http://opa.yale.edu/news/article.aspx?id=7607>

ARTICLES FROM U.S. JOURNALS

CALL OF THE WILD. Thomas, Mike. *National Parks*, vol. 84, no. 2, Spring 2010, pp. 49-54

Summary: George Melendez Wright was one of the first Latinos to be employed by the U.S. Park Service, and whose vision for national parks was ahead of his time. This profile recounts his efforts in the 1920s and 30s to promote park management that actually supports flora and fauna, rather than tourists. His untimely death halted his progress for several decades. His studies on park wildlife are still relevant and influential. "Perhaps our greatest national heritage is nature itself, with all its complexity and its abundance of life," he said. Available online at <http://www.npca.org/magazine/2010/spring/call-of-the-wild.html>

THE GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL: AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN. McQuaid, John. *Yale Environment* 360, May 10, 2010

Summary: Recent calls to expand offshore drilling in the U.S. reflected a belief that deepwater oil operations had become so safe and technologically advanced that the danger of an accident was infinitesimal. McQuaid, a journalist specializing in environmental and science issues, writes that the growing volume of crude oil billowing from a ruptured well at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, puts to rest the notion that offshore drilling is a risk-free endeavor. While the exact causes of well blowout, explosion and sinking of the Deepwater Horizon offshore rig may not be known for months, systemic problems are becoming apparent, including lax government oversight, complacency by the oil industry, the reluctance of government agencies and oil companies to consider worst-case scenarios, the fragmentation of tasks among different contractors, and the complexities of drilling miles under the ocean floor in an unforgiving environment. Currently available online at <http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2272>

A PIONEERING BIOLOGIST DISCUSSES THE KEYS TO FOREST CONSERVATION. Fraser, Caroline. *Yale Environment* 360, March 23, 2010

Summary: In a half century of studying the rainforests of Central America, biologist Daniel Janzen became alarmed at their rapid disappearance. In this interview, Janzen believes that the best hope for saving the remaining tropical forests is to preserve them in large blocks to enable optimal biodiversity; because of fragmentation, smaller areas become isolated and are more susceptible to perturbation. To preserve large blocks of intact rainforest, alliances of conservation groups and national governments are required to raise the large amounts of money needed to keep them off-limits to development and agriculture. He says that most of humanity is "blind" to the amount of biodiversity in nature, but he has hopes that a DNA "barcoding" device can bring the extent of species diversity to the general public via the online world; otherwise, he fears, we "will never willingly give the planet back to the wild world." Available online at <http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2253>

More about environmental issues:
<http://www.america.gov/global/environ.html>
