



TJIC Alert

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September 2009

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CLIMATE CHANGE

1. World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change

World Bank

September 15, 2009

365 p.

Full Text: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDR2010/Resources/5287678-1226014527953/WDR10-Full-Text.pdf>

According to the report, developing countries can shift to lower-carbon paths while promoting development and reducing poverty, but this depends on financial and technical assistance from high-income countries, says a new World Bank report released today. High-income countries also need to act quickly to reduce their carbon footprints and boost development of alternative energy sources to help tackle the problem of climate change.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

2. Fifty-Year Record of Glacier Reveals Shifting Climate in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, USA

U.S. Geological Survey

August 2009

Full Text: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2009/3046/>

The report shows that glaciers are dramatically changing in mass, length and thickness as a result of climate change. Over the past 50 years, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) scientists have monitored the melting of Alaska's Gulkana and Wolverine Glaciers and Washington's South Cascade Glacier, yielding the longest such records in North America.

3. Climate Change Perspectives

eJournal USA

September 2009

40 p.

Full Text: <http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0909.pdf>

This *eJournal USA* offers perspectives of experts and activists in several key countries on effective policies to curb greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate global warming and adapt to irreversible changes, and features an introduction by U.S. special envoy Todd Stern.

4. Climate Change & National Wildlife: A Survival Guide for a Warming World

National Parks Conservation Association

August 2009

60 p.

Full Text: http://www.npca.org/climatechange/wildlife_survival/pdfs/00-NPCA-Wildlife.pdf

Wildlife and public lands need help surviving the conditions caused by climate change, such as droughts, warmer temperatures, and loss of habitat. The report recommends strategies to help wildlife adapt, including providing land corridors and reducing stress from pollution and invasive species.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

5. The Role of Nongovernmental Organizations in Long-Term Human Recovery after Disaster

Anita Chandra and Joie Acosta

34 p.

RAND

September 23, 2009

Full Text: http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2009/RAND_OP277.pdf

In the four years since Hurricane Katrina, volunteers and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have been instrumental in supporting community efforts to recover and rebuild from the devastation in the Gulf States region. The period also provides a case study of the complex process of human recovery and the resource and policy constraints on NGO involvement in these efforts.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

6. Climate Change and the Future Impacts of Storm-Surge Disasters in Developing Countries

Susmita Dasgupta et al. Center for Global Development

September 24, 2009

Full Text: <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1422836/>

As the climate changes during the 21st century, larger cyclonic storm surges and growing populations may collide in disasters of unprecedented size. As conditions worsen, variations in coastal morphology will magnify the effects in some areas, while largely insulating others. The authors explore the implications of sea-level rise and storm surges for 84 developing countries and 577 of their cyclone-vulnerable coastal cities with populations greater than 100,000.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

7. Factoring People into Climate Change

Barbara Crossette

The Nation

September 14, 2009

Available online at <http://www.thenation.com/doc/20090928/crossette>

When the climate-change summit of world leaders convenes on September 22, it is very likely that the subject of women will not come up, notes the author. Although many governments pay lip service to population growth, few make the link between population and the environment. The subject of family planning is also taboo in many circles; one participant country in the

climate talks has already sounded a warning to keep population off the table. The U.N. and many global NGOs and activists agree on the necessity to accept that population and climate change need to be part of an integrated policy, although making inroads into political thinking is a slow process. The author notes that U.S. officials can go to the talks, knowing that American public opinion overwhelmingly supports family planning programs worldwide, despite the attempts of some American politicians to polarize the issue.

8. Climate Change and Vulnerable Societies

Kemal Dervis
Brookings Institution
July 23, 2009
Full Text: http://www.brookings.edu/testimony/2009/0723_climate_change_dervis.aspx

Kemal Derviş testifies before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on America's critical role in supporting climate change adaptation in the world's most vulnerable communities. Dervis recommends enacting globally accepted policies to effectively tackle climate change and protect those most affected.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

9. The Use of Offsets to Reduce Greenhouse Gases

Congressional Budget Office
August 3, 2009
8 p.
Full Text: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/104xx/doc10497/08-03-Offsets.pdf>

The cost savings to the economy generated by offsets could be substantial, according to the report. Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that between 2012 and 2050 average annual savings from offsets could be about 70 percent under ACESA. The intended environmental benefit would be fully realized only if the offsets provided the full reduction in GHGs for which they were credited.

10. Greenhouse Gas Legislation: Summary and Analysis of H.R. 2454 As Passed By the House of Representatives

Mark Holt and Gene Whitney
Congressional Research Service [R40643]
July 27, 2009
164 p.
Full Text: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40643_20090727.pdf

Among other items, the bill provides for smart grid technologies, including products that can be equipped with smart grid capability, requirements for electric power retailers to reduce their peak loads using smart grid and other energy efficient technologies, and requirements that power suppliers ensure that utility smart grid systems will be compatible with plug-in electric drive vehicles.

11. Final Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Rule.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
September 22, 2009
1302 p.
Full Text:
Preamble
<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/downloads09/FinalMandatoryGHGPreamble.pdf>
Rule
<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/downloads09/FinalMandatoryGHGReportingRule.pdf>

On January 1, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will, for the first time, require large emitters of heat-trapping emissions to begin collecting greenhouse gas (GHG) data under a new reporting system. This new program will cover approximately 85 percent of the nation's GHG emissions and apply to roughly 10,000 facilities.

12. The Other Climate Changers: Why Black Carbon and Ozone Also Matter

Jessica Seddon Wallack, Veerabhadran Ramanathan
Foreign Affairs

p. 105
Sep/Oct 2009

As world leaders finally recognized that climate change is a threat, they are launching initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, to slow or reverse it. The authors say that ozone in the lower level of the atmosphere is another major contributor to global warming that deserves attention. A promising feature of black carbon and ozone precursor emissions is that they can be significantly limited at relatively low cost with technologies that already exist. Although the sources of black carbon and ozone precursors vary worldwide, most emissions can be reduced without necessarily limiting the underlying activity that generated them. According to Wallack and Ramanathan, one logical first step is for governments, international development agencies, and philanthropists to increase financial support for reduction efforts. They said aid alone will not be enough. International organizations must also help governments identify and act on opportunities that mitigate climate change and promote development.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

13. The Shape of Things to Come: Why Is Climate Change So Predictable?

Marcia B. Baker, Gerard H. Roe
Journal of Climate

16 p.
September 1, 2009

The framework of feedback analysis is used to explore the controls on the shape of the probability distribution of global mean surface temperature response to climate forcing. It is shown that ocean heat uptake, which delays and damps the temperature rise, can be represented as a transient negative feedback. This transient negative feedback causes the transient climate change to have a narrower probability distribution than that of the equilibrium climate response (the climate sensitivity). In this sense, climate change is much more predictable than climate sensitivity. The width of the distribution grows gradually over time, a consequence of which is that the larger the climate change being contemplated, the greater the uncertainty is about when that change will be realized. Another consequence of this slow growth is that further efforts to constrain climate sensitivity will be of very limited value for climate projections on societally relevant time scales. Finally, it is demonstrated that the effect on climate predictability of reducing uncertainty in the atmospheric feedbacks is greater than the effect of reducing uncertainty in ocean feedbacks by the same proportion. However, at least at the global scale, the total impact of uncertainty in climate feedbacks is dwarfed by the impact of uncertainty in climate forcing, which in turn is contingent on choices made about future anthropogenic emissions.

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