

# OUTREACH

a multi-stakeholder magazine on environment and sustainable development

## **REDD+: REDUCING THE RISK**

BY Dr. PETER WOOD

**KEY REDUCTIONS ON  
SAFEGUARDS IN NEW DRAFT  
OF REDD+ PARTNERSHIP  
WORKPLAN**

**GENDER IN THE  
CLIMATE MONEY GRAIL**

**COUNTRIES CALL FOR WATER  
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## OUTREACH

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# REDD+:

## Reducing the Risk

By Dr. Peter Wood

**T**here has been much talk about the potential for the Cancun climate talks to produce a decision on REDD+. Although no-one expected that all the details would be worked out, it was widely thought that there would be a basic decision establishing a framework for REDD+, setting the stage for further development under SBSTA. However, there are a number of fundamental issues that remain unresolved that hang in the balance, including environmental, social and governance safeguards, monitoring reporting and verification of safeguards, and the inclusion of logging in natural forests.

### Keeping Safeguards Safe

One of the main issues that has been discussed in the REDD negotiations is the need for environmental, social and governance safeguards, widely deemed fundamental to ensuring REDD+ leads to permanent reductions in deforestation and forest degradation while averting deleterious impacts. While some countries are pushing for the inclusion of language that would ensure that safeguards are upheld,

there is significant pressure to weaken this with discretionary terminology. An additional prerequisite to ensuring the integrity of REDD is that these safeguards must be subject to monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV), but this has also encountered resistance.

There are a number of benefits associated with the inclusion of strong safeguards that are subject to MRV, including:

- **Ensuring a level playing field** (all countries meeting the same international standards, so countries with a strong commitment to poverty reduction or biodiversity protection will not be at a disadvantage);
- **Increasing the likelihood that REDD+ will benefit local communities**, and thus attracting their support;
- **Improving transparency**, enabling information sharing and encouraging learning from experience;
- **Building confidence in the integrity of REDD+ actions**, thus attracting greater financial support;
- **Ensuring consistency with other in-**

**ternational objectives** (e.g. the Millennium Development Goals; Convention on Biodiversity, UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples).

Without monitoring of safeguards, it will be difficult to know whether safeguards are being upheld, rendering them ineffective and meaningless. Safeguards prefaced with discretionary language and based on self-reporting would be like a seatbelt made out of bungee cord- just enough to provide a false sense of assurance, but not enough to prevent catastrophe.

### Natural Forests: Our Best Bet

A major misconception reflected in media coverage of the issue is that REDD+ is about “preserving” or “protecting” forests. While this is what many NGOs would have liked REDD+ to be about (along with upholding the rights of forest-dependent peoples), the way the text on REDD+ has evolved suggests that this will not necessarily be the case. The lobbying positions of many governments has betrayed an overall bias towards forest

management, and it is entirely possible that this is what the bulk of REDD activities will involve. This catch-all term can mean anything from setting areas of forest aside as reserves, to all-out industrial logging. Thus, it is absolutely essential that “management” be disaggregated to reflect what should and should not be eligible for funding under REDD+: extractive forest management (i.e. logging) in natural forest can only decrease this capacity and must be excluded from REDD+. While it is unlikely that a decision at Cancun will address such technical details, it is absolutely essential that “sustainable management” be defined in a way that excludes forestry activities known to be highly emissive.

UN-REDD recently produced a paper that takes stock of scientific literature addressing the biodiversity and carbon benefits of natural forests, an essential read for anyone interested in REDD+. It concludes that there is “strong evidence that the carbon stocks of intact forests are more resilient than those of degraded or fragmented forest” and that “this evidence lends some additional support to the rationale for a safeguard on the conversion of natural forest, already justified in terms of emissions reduction.” As logging in tropical forests is a known precursor to conversion, this should also be extended to degradation as well.

## What’s so great about an intact natural forest?

- **They are at the pinnacle of their carbon carrying capacity** (both above and below ground), and are best able to withstand the effects of climate change, drought and natural disturbances such as fire;
- **They offer the broadest array of ecosystem services**, beyond carbon storage (e.g., water catchment, erosion control, provision of habitat for disturbance-sensitive species, and non-timber forest products such as medicine and food for forest dependent peoples);
- **They are the least vulnerable to unregulated access**, and minimize governance challenges associated with roaded areas.

Allowing management in natural forests under REDD+ presents several risks. First, it will allow for the introduction of new roads into intact areas. Regardless of “sustainable management” or “reduced impact” intentions, this opens up new areas to unregulated logging, agriculture and poaching, adding further stress to already limited monitoring resources. Second, funding the continual expansion of industrial logging in natural forests drives down the price of timber, and undermines



efforts to develop economically viable management of second-growth forests.

While protection of intact natural forests offers the safest bet for REDD+, this will only address the small amount of forest fortunate enough to remain unlogged (less than a quarter of the world’s forest remains intact). As pointed out in a recent letter from dozens of scientists to the leaders of Norway and Indonesia, REDD+ must ensure that the conservation value of logged forests is also maintained and restored. If not, there is a risk that they will be written off as “damaged goods” and made eligible for conversion to plantations. As stated by the scientists, “all remaining primary forests must be protected, but any tract of forest should be assessed for its current and potential future conservation value.”

The importance of natural forests must also be reflected in the definition of the term “forest” itself. Currently, the definition used by UNFCCC does not differentiate between plantations and natural forest, or even between standing forests and areas that have been completely cleared, a grave error that has recently been highlighted in a resolution adopted by the Association for Tropical Biology & Conservation, one of the largest scientific organizations dedicated to the study of tropical ecosystems. Again, this may appear at the surface to be a technical issue that can be worked out later, but it presents a fundamental decision regarding how REDD+ is going to affect the world’s forests.

## Reducing Demand

All of our efforts to combat deforestation and forest degradation will be for nothing if our levels of consumption remain at their current unsustainable levels. No amount of “sustainable management” or eco-labeling will get us out of this unavoidable fact. REDD+ must include a clause to reduce overall demand- not only for forest products, but also agricultural commodities grown on cleared land, including biofuels. This is a vital part of avoiding leakage

within REDD+, as unless demand goes down, logging and other pressures will only move to areas less able to withstand exploitation.

## Meaningful Engagement of Civil Society

After witnessing how the REDD+ Partnership has played out over the past year, civil society actors are understandably wary of processes that are not inclusive and transparent. REDD+ must recognize that forest dependent peoples and stakeholders need to be engaged in the design and implementation of REDD+, and given adequate time and resources to respond to developments in a meaningful way. Further, an appropriate dispute resolution mechanism must be established that is easily accessible to all. Proper implementation will require oversight by a multi-stakeholder body, and civil society has a major role to play in this, including ensuring fiscal transparency and robust monitoring of safeguards and performance.

## Next Steps

With governments charging ahead rapidly with REDD+ along several parallel processes (UNFCCC, UN-REDD, FCPF, the REDD+ Partnership), civil society’s resources have been spread thin while attempting to keep track of the many developments, diverting time and money away from important on-the-ground work. Adding to the strain is the large number of REDD+ projects that have sprung up all over the tropics, many of which have confirmed fears of what REDD+ might look like in the absence of strong safeguards and independent oversight. It is thus in everyone’s interest to have good “REDD rules” established. However, many civil society actors have indicated that if current efforts to undermine the strength of the mechanism win the day, this could be worse than having no agreement at all.

# Key Reductions on Safeguards in New Draft of REDD+ Partnership Workplan

By David Diaz and Rosalind Reeve

**T**he REDD+ Partnership, currently co-chaired by Japan and Papua New Guinea, is convening alongside the official Cancun climate negotiations to establish a Work Program through 2012. However, despite a reported consensus among Partners about the need for safeguards, the latest draft released by the Partnership removes many of the potentially binding guidelines for safeguards on social, environmental, and governance issues that were found in earlier drafts.

After a contentious year, the REDD+ Partnership seemed to be closing on a high note when they met on the eve of Cancun talks and agreeing worked through a draft of the Work Program for 2011-2012.

That draft had been released on November 26, 2010, and included several provisions that civil society stakeholders reported being pleasantly surprised to see

being incorporated. A revised Work Program, based on edits by the Partnership's Secretariat and allegedly by the Chairs themselves after receipt of the new draft, was released on December 1, 2010.

Although there are several additions and reformulations of text from the previous draft, the primary effect of the revisions was a substantial amount of cutting. Among the more noticeable reductions are many of the provisions on safeguards for monitoring, reporting, and verifying a range of issues associated with REDD+ activities. Earlier drafts had not gone as far as potentially binding guidelines.

However the previous work program had stronger provisions that would have led to a better basis for safeguards, implementation and monitoring, reporting and verification. Another element that's been lost is the provision for ensuring the

enforcement of a robust capacity building program. The hope with the new text is to leverage at least a common standard agreed through the FCPF/UN-REDD/FIP processes, drawing on existing safeguards and standards for example the World Bank Operational Policies. As much as it's hoped to achieve 'binding guidelines' it's unlikely. What is currently being built up is standards that countries are expected to meet through the different processes; not an easy process by any means. The base for these standards is the safeguards we now have in the draft UNFCCC REDD text.

The December 1 draft still does include text regarding safeguards, although they are generally scaled back. Unless any of the Partners object by e-mail by 8pm Sunday, the Work Plan will be approved as currently written.

## Countries Call for Water to be Addressed in the Climate Negotiations

Press release 2010-12-0

**Cancun** Over the weekend, six countries from around the world at COP16, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, called for water to be put on the climate agenda. The countries highlighted the fact that climate change stands to have a significant impact on water resources, and stressed the need for further discussions on how this issue can be addressed within the climate framework.

The call, which was put forward by both Ecuador and Sudan, was further supported by Syria, Chile, El Salvador and Sierra Leone. The six countries proposed that water should be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the body which provides scientific and technical advice to the climate convention, the SBSTA.

Ecuador feels that water should be addressed more prominently at the climate change negotiations, said the representative of Ecuador, Undersecretary Tarsicio Granizo. Climate change impacts will primarily be felt through water, and the way we manage our water will be critical to our resilience. This issue has long been neglected at the intergovernmental level and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss it at greater length in the future.

The representative of Ecuador also noted that his country has recognised that water is a human right.

Sudan understands the challenges facing countries through the impacts of climate change on water resources, said Lumumba

Di-Aping who represents Sudan. Yet so far we have not addressed this issue adequately through the climate change negotiations. Getting water on the agenda will help us to identify these challenges and propose solutions.

The proposal was much welcomed by the Water and Climate Coalition, an alliance of twelve international organisations and research centres which works to raise the profile of water issues in the context of the climate negotiations.

Water has previously been more or less absent from the discussions at the climate negotiations, says Hannah Stoddart of the Water and Climate Coalition and the Stakeholder Forum. The fact that several countries formally addressed this issue today is a big breakthrough.

In the run up to COP-16, the Water and Climate Coalition has been proposing the establishment of a work programme on water under the Convention, which would develop policy guidelines, provide advice to the climate change funds and promote action on water related issues at a country level. Karin Lexen of the Water and Climate Coalition and the Stockholm International Water Institute explains why this is important:

Climate change will have a drastic impact on the world's water resources. An increased global temperature will lead to changes in the water cycle that will affect people's livelihoods and development

opportunities. Millions more people will face water scarcity, and will have to deal with water hazards including floods, droughts and glacier-melt.

Natalie Seguin of Freshwater Action Network says:

To help communities and countries deal with climate change challenges, water should be integrated in the climate convention processes not as a sector but as a cross cutting natural resource. It's crucial to strengthen water aspects on adaptation processes but also understand the relations with mitigation.

### **Press Conference:**

*The Water and Climate Coalition will be holding a press conference at COP-16 on Monday December 6. Title: "Putting Water Security First". Time: 14.30-15.00. Place: Press conference room "Luna", ground floor of the Moon Palace Azteca/Expo Centre.*

*The secretariate of the Water and Climate Coalition is run by Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).*

**[www.waterclimatecoalition.org](http://www.waterclimatecoalition.org)**

### **More Information:**

*Water and Climate Coalition webpage:*

**[www.waterclimatecoalition.org](http://www.waterclimatecoalition.org/index.php/news/103-news/228-workprogramme.html)**  
**A draft paper on a work programme on water under the UNFCCC:**  
<http://www.waterclimatecoalition.org/index.php/news/103-news/228-workprogramme.html>

# Gender in the Climate Money Grail

by GenderCC Women for Climate Justice



**Everybody is talking about the new climate fund. Perhaps of all the areas of the negotiations, financing demonstrates most explicitly the various power relationships between and among governments and other stakeholders.**

**F**or the fund to be responsive to the needs of women and communities, gender must be integrated in all aspects of financing, from the management and operations of the Fund to the selection criteria of the projects to the monitoring of these projects. GenderCC Women for Climate Justice, the global network of women's organisations and gender activists, is pushing for a number of requirements in addition to those already voiced by environmental and development civil society organisations.

Funding criteria must ensure gender-sensitive spending. This includes, for instance, public infrastructures such as mass transportation for low carbon development, and water infrastructure for adaptation. High-risk technologies, which are particularly rejected by women, must not receive funding.

Reasonable portions of the budget must be earmarked for women, and the fund should include direct access modality particularly for organised women's groups and communities. Such modality can actually be a political alternative in contexts where

governments have been completely male-biased, repressive and unresponsive. The direct access modality is among the features of the Adaptation Fund, albeit limited to governments.

## **Governance and management of the fund: Gender balanced and gender budgeted**

Gender balance must be observed especially in the bodies governing the fund. Women's meaningful participation and community consultation must also be ensured in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the projects that are to be funded. Multilateral development banks must not have a role in managing the fund. In both the operations of the fund and its projects, gender budgeting must be applied.

## **Sources of the fund: No carbon markets and loans**

Funds need to be reliable and independent from carbon market volatility, should not be based on offsetting, and loans must

be avoided, as they would lead to further indebtedness and would exclude non-revenue generating programmes.

## **Recognize a broader picture**

Finally, we need to recognize a broader picture. There are more basic issues such as access to land and resources such as food and water, citizenship and conflicts, among others which must be immediately addressed. Unless these older issues are addressed, the availability of more money might only fuel a scramble for resources, resulting in further dispossession, indignity and disempowerment, including violence against women.

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**For more information:**  
GenderCC-Women for Climate Justice,  
<http://www.gendercc.net> or contact  
Gotelind Alber, [g.alber@gendercc.net](mailto:g.alber@gendercc.net)  
or Nina Somera [nina@gendercc.net](mailto:nina@gendercc.net)



# Monday 6 December

13.00 – 15.00

Please join the Government of Ireland, UNEP and the World Resources Institute (WRI) for a side event on policy frameworks to address climate change.

**Panelists include:**

Owen Ryan,  
Government of Ireland

Jennifer Morgan and Jake Werksman,  
World Resources Institute

Dan Bodansky,  
Arizona State University (TBC)

T. Jayaraman,  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TBC)

Kaveh Zahedi,  
UNEP

This new project aims to highlight global proposals that have been developed outside the UNFCCC process, along with innovative proposals generated by governments, to address some of the most pressing issues in the climate negotiations. The side event will provide an overview of the project and an opportunity for interested parties to share their views on innovative proposals. As an illustration, panelists will present their views for moving forward on the question of the legal form of the international agreement.

**The event will be held in the EU Pavilion at CancúnMesse. All registered participants at COP 16/CMP 6 are most welcome to attend.**



Cornshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Heritage and Local Government



WORLD  
RESOURCES  
INSTITUTE



# Conservationists Endorse Plan to Fold Mangroves into REDD+ Talks

By Steve Zwick and Hannah Kett

**C**ancun today is a beachfront, but less than a century ago it was a lush mangrove forest that protected the coast from storms and nurtured entire colonies of fish. If the mangroves still existed, they would also be slowing climate change by sequestering vast amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. In addition they would assist the region adapt to climate change by protecting the city from rising sea levels. Indeed, the value of mangroves has been a hot topic in Cancun since talks began – yet no formal mechanism exists for capturing the economic value of these vital ecological assets. A diverse network of conservationists, scientists, and policymakers aims to change that.

The UNFCCC explicitly aims to promote activities that both reduce emissions (“mitigation”) and help people adapt to climate change (“adaptation”), but the only nod to mangroves is an obscure provision for rewarding small-scale tree-planting in wetlands. As a result, mangroves are being destroyed at a rate of 1-2% per year, often to make way for luxury resorts like in Cancun, shrimp farms, and other projects offering short-term profits at the expense of the ecosystem on which the activities depend.

This despite the fact that a recent flurry of studies and position papers have pointed out that mangroves not only reduce emissions from greenhouse gasses, but also help protect people along the coast from rising sea levels and ever more violent storms.

A new report called “Capturing and Conserving Natural Coastal Carbon”, for example, shows that mangroves sequester up to 50 times as much carbon per hectare as do tropical rainforests, and the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 (GBO-3) highlights studies estimating that every hectare of mangrove fringe along Mexico’s Gulf of California contribute an average of US \$37,500 per year to fisheries while every kilometer of mangrove coastline saves the area roughly US \$300,000 in coastal protection.

**“This is a step along the lines of including wetlands in conservation schemes.”**

## The Failed Effort

“We have been extremely unsuccessful in reversing these trends,” says Eveline Trines, co-owner of forestry consultancy Silvestrum. “That is probably because so far there has been a serious lack of incentives.” She is one of more than 40 wetland scientists, economists, policymakers, and businesspeople from all five continents who have endorsed the “Call To Action Protecting Mangroves for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption”, which was formally announced last Wednesday.

“We know from the Southeast Asian Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina that areas with mangroves had reduced damages

and injury,” says Winnie Lau, who runs the Marine Ecosystem Services Program (MARES) of nonprofit environmental NGO Forest Trends and is spearheading the effort.

“We have seen from previous interventions that mitigating climate change by re-establishing mangroves is also a good adaptation strategy, because we are restoring the coastal defenses and helping people to survive,” says Trines, whose company is helping food giant

Danone develop methods of capturing the economic value of mangroves for its own supply-chain management.

“While mitigating, you have a good adaptation strategy,” she says. “And if you do it as an adaptation strategy, you have the benefits of mitigating climate change at the same time.”

## Call to Action

The Call to Action urges negotiators to embed mangrove protection in the concluding text of COP 16, although such an achievement looks increasingly unlikely. “The goal now is to raise awareness, so that mangroves are in play when talks resume,” says Lau.

Such awareness will, she hopes, set in motion the development of science-based methodologies for measuring, reporting, and verifying the amount of carbon captured in mangroves and the impact of human action on that carbon. That, in turn, will lay the groundwork for schemes that make it possible to offset industrial emissions by saving endangered mangroves or reviving degraded ones. Such schemes are also being considered under voluntary carbon schemes.

“There is also a new section, for instance, being introduced soon in the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) on peat land re-wetting and conservation,” says Trines. “This is a step along the lines of including wetlands in conservation schemes.”

The Call is accompanied by specific language for negotiators to insert into emerging climate-change accords, which are exploring ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by promoting good land stewardship. The bulk of these efforts fall under REDD+. As more research identifies more ways to lock carbon in the ground or in plants, the scope of REDD+ has been expanding.



“The stated goal of REDD+ is to reduce emissions from deforestation, and mangroves have high sequestration rates,” says Lau. “They’re also important for coastal developing countries’ adaptation strategies as seas rise, so if you’re a delegate, we urge you to read this text and bring it up in meetings – and if you aren’t a delegate but know some, pass this on to them.”

Ideally, the language being circulated with the Call to Action will be included in text being worked out in the UNFCCC’s

Advanced Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA), which is the negotiating track charged with developing a new treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol.

Within the AWG-LCA, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) is charged with determining which methodologies are scientifically sound. It normally does this by requesting assistance from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the document calls for an IPCC expert meeting to examine the science behind mangrove preservation.

“This legal language has been written in a format that can be plugged right into the decision text of SBSTA at the conclusion of the COP,” says Trines. “We can use all the help we can get in distributing it, but it will be made available to parties as well and to the secretariat – all the people who are working on the LCA text.” As the REDD+ negotiations proceed, with clear sea views from the Moon Palace to the convention centre in Durban, it’s hoped these considerations of mangroves are taken into account.

## Profile



### Belynda Petrie

**Nationality:** South African

**Country of residence:** South Africa

**Organisation:** OneWorld Sustainable Investments

**Current Position:** CEO and Director Regional Climate Change Programme

**How long have you been in this position?**  
9 years and 3 years respectively

**What prompted your early interest in environment?** I have a background in the corporate/private sector. I held various Board level positions and used to often find myself leading on various controversial arguments as to the role of the private sector and its one dimensional approach. Social and environmental responsibility as additional dimensions was big on my agenda. Eventually I realised that I could either carry on being a lone voice within, or take constructive action without.

**Describe your first attempt to ‘save the planet’:** I have no interest in ‘saving the planet’. My interest is in making a constructive, strategic and practical contribution to achieving a paradigm shift necessary if the world is truly going to conserve and preserve its resources in a meanin-

gful and sustainable way. So my really first attempt at this was leaving a lucrative and supposedly successful career in the international corporate world and investing what money and skills I had in OneWorld, a company designed to deliver on the aforementioned paradigm shift.

**Favourite quote:** “We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give” - Winston Churchill

**What jobs have you held that have led to the role you are in today?**

Strategic development roles at Board / Director level in 2 multinational organisations; Human Resource management and director roles (all private sector); change management consulting; labour relations management in private sector.

**What do you believe should be achieved at COP16?**

Solidarity among developing countries arguing for a fair deal; a multilateral climate finance deal; partnerships in responding to climate change.

**What do you consider the most significant hurdle to achieving an international agreement to succeed the Kyoto Protocol?**

Acceptance and alignment of development interests of countries developing at completely different paces/ from completely different departure points – all accepting that whatever the pace/departure point of development, it is going to take place in carbon constrained economies- global deal or not.

**What timeline is reasonable for an international agreement to be achieved? And what should this look like?**

And what should this look like? 2014-2015; legally binding commitments on financing climate change; the rest will automatically follow.

**What is your message to world leaders?**

LEAD! Our real global crisis is not so much economic or climate; it is leadership.

# Trading the forest Gods for carbon credit



By Uchita de Zoysa

Convenor – Climate Sustainability PLATFORM

**C**arbon trading is like exchanging bad karma for the good; while the rich climate sinners keep living their destructive lifestyles, the poor are asked to continue to conserve the environment so the sinful emissions could be absorbed. The price to sin is just a few dollars, and then they get to keep profiting from the prevalent dirty brown economy. If the brown economy is serious being challenged, then the plan would be to green wash it and find another marketplace to keep the exploitation alive.

## Trading ecological space for a few dollars

Sadly, some developing country governments are rushing into trading their forest gods and ecological space for a few dollars. That money will not be worth the cost that all nations will have to spend to adapt to climate change. But not like nations and communities, governments are only there for a few years and money matters more to be in power than serving the future generations!

During that short period their partners in crime, the corporations, have been generous to show them the way to money. A New York Times article reported that “carbon trading is one of the fastest-growing specialties in financial services and companies are scrambling to get a slice of a market now worth about \$30 billion and that could grow to \$1 trillion within a decade. Carbon will be the world’s biggest commodity market, and it could become the world’s biggest market over all.”

## Intra-national level climate justice and equity

While some developing country governments are looking at trading their forest gods, Indian mountain ecologist Prof. Ja-

yanta Bandyopadhyay writing to the Calcutta Daily Telegraph had said, “Although about half of the Indian population has historically not emitted any significant amount of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, it will face the greatest impacts of global warming and related climate change. The question of delivering climate justice at the intra-national level is equally significant. The rich in India should not seek protection behind the vast numbers of the poor to present a low per-capita emission figure. India’s demand for climate justice at the international level can be more authentic if steps are taken within the country to advance climate justice and equity”.

Adding to the Indian debate Pradeep Mehta, a consumer activist from the ‘Consumer Unity Trust Society’ writing to the Economic Times said, “as an emerging power, India should also assume the responsibility of leading by example in climate issues. The resulting moral pressure on the rich to clean up their act is sure to have a greater impact than expressions of resolve not to compromise, which have had ‘zero success’ in mitigating climate change. After all, the impacts of climate change through decreased agricultural yield, floods, droughts and desertification will be felt mostly in the tropical zone, and therefore on India, China and their neighbours.”

## Changing games of the carbon race

The Chinese President Hu Jintao, last year prior to COP15, pledged that China will change its fossil fuel based development course with significant cuts to their emissions, and that would be only if the developed countries can make their due commitments. China is the largest carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitting country today even though their per capita emissions are low.

The Americans have helped China to beat them in the emissions race simply by inducing an investment regime that saw a process which is called ‘made by America in China’. Now that the Chinese have inherited a new consumption culture, they would want to experience it for some time and that would increase the pressure on climate.

The world today is a place of inequity and injustice, and a new world needs to ensure equity in consumption, production, trade and well-being opportunities for all across the world and across society within nations. The struggle to achieving a better quality of life for consumers in developing countries is clearly denied by the over consumption lifestyles in developed countries.

If the rich consumers in the emerging economies start consumer higher and if the consumers in the industrialised countries continue on the current consumption patterns, we will require more than several planets of resources to sustain them. If not, and if they still wish to consume the same volumes on this single planet, they may as well get rid of all the poor, and that would mean to eliminate half of the global population. In such a scenario, forest gods are the last to be remembered and the first to be traded.

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Send your comments to:

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## The World of Work Pavilion: trade unions have solutions!

On December 7th, trade unions from the North and the South will share and discuss on their experiences and perspectives around climate change in a day full of activities at the WoW, the World of Work Pavilion.

While the multiple crisis the world is facing threatens the loss of millions of jobs all around the world, trade unions continue to send a strong message to the governments in Cancun: the crisis must not be a pretext for delaying a global, ambitious and binding agreement that ensures a Just Transition for workers.

The global crises show clearly that coherent and ambitious measures are needed to address the challenges. It demands an unprecedented transformation of the global production and consumption systems to build the way to an efficient, low-carbon economy, and trade unions could and must play a central role in this transformation.

A delegation composed by more than 200 trade unions delegates, from developed and developing countries, have come to Cancun to show that solutions are possible when they are based on solidarity an respectful dialogue. We need governments to be courageous and generous so an agreement that allow us to achieve a fairer and safer world in a low-carbon society could be reached.

The World of Work pavilion is a space for debate and exchange and, above all, a clear message from the trade union movement to show that workers are committed and prepared to face the challenges, and that they have already began working on it.

Experiences form Japan, Australia, from different European countries, as well as from the US, Canada, Latin America and Africa will be presented in a full day of activities and lively debate.

The WoW takes place on December 7th from 9:0 am to 7:00 pm at the Universidad del Sur (Súper Manzana 24, Manzana 15, Lote 10. Av. Uxmal. Cancún – Quintana Roo).

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**Programme of activities at:**  
<http://www.ituc-csi.org/wow-pavilion-ii-in-cancun-unions.htmlw>

**Contact:**  
 Laura Maffei – 9981083813

# Join the movement for one planet living

By Sue Riddlestone,  
Director & co-founder,  
BioRegional Development Group



As a global agreement to tackle climate change is still some way off, the best thing we can all do is work to implement low carbon communities and economies right where we are. This was the sentiment of local government and city leaders as things unravelled at Copenhagen last year. From our experience we know that if you can show people through real life projects what our sustainable future might look like, suddenly objections melt away and it is possible to achieve radical progress in policy and practice.

We are consuming resources and emitting greenhouse gases faster than the planet can deal with it and seeing the results from climate change to disappearing forests and fisheries. If everyone in the world lived like the average European we would need three planets to support us and yet a citizen of Bangladesh uses the equivalent of a third of a planet. What we all need is "one planet living" where we live within our fair share of the earth's resources and leave sufficient space for wildlife and wilderness.

It is what everyone at Cancun is working to see happen, but it sounds idealistic and far from our grasp. The immediate reaction if you come from a rich country is "it's all very well, but I don't want to cut back

on my standard of living or go without". If you come from a developing country, you would quite rightly think "it's not my mess, our country needs to grow and I want a European or American standard of living". Both people might think one planet living is not possible. But what if we can achieve it?

Residents at the BedZED eco-village [www.bioregional.com](http://www.bioregional.com) in London, UK can reduce their consumption based carbon and eco-footprint by half and yet they say they love the sense of community and have a great quality of life (add link). It's a mainstream project which BioRegional initiated back in 1997 in our local community, we have our offices there and some of us live there too. The approach we took was to make it easy for people to live sustainable lifestyles. Making it easy to do the right thing and difficult to do the wrong thing. So it's about low energy homes and renewable energy but also about sustainable travel options, reducing the need to travel, swapping and sharing goods with your neighbours and eating seasonal food. To make it easy for subsequent projects we formalised this as a framework of ten one planet living principles, which were endorsed by WWF. You can use these principles and download a tool-kit to create your own one planet plan from our website.

We wanted to show that all around the world and for different industry sectors one planet living is possible and we have been working over the last six years with some fantastic business and local government leaders from London to San Francisco, USA to Guangzhou, China.

As Dr Pachauri said at the Climate change communications forum here on Friday, the world needs more of these success stories. Do you want to show one planet living in your organisation or project? Do you know of existing projects which show one planet living in action? Please send them to us and we will post them on our website [sr@bioregional.com](mailto:sr@bioregional.com) or call +44(0)7949 265442. Visit us at stand 44 during Cancun.

You can look up your country's average footprint on the Global Footprint Network website:

[http://www.footprintnetwork.org/images/uploads/2010\\_NFA\\_data\\_tables.pdf](http://www.footprintnetwork.org/images/uploads/2010_NFA_data_tables.pdf)

and your carbon emissions at the carbon footprint of nations:

[http://www.carbonfootprintofnations.com/content/global\\_carbon\\_footprint/](http://www.carbonfootprintofnations.com/content/global_carbon_footprint/)

Download a one planet toolkit at:  
[www.oneplanetvision.net](http://www.oneplanetvision.net)

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