

Climate Action News **this week**

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Top Story

Species Dying 10,000 Times Faster than Normal

Climate change, pollution, habitat destruction, invasive species and over farming/fishing are killing off life at a rate 10,000 times faster than normal. The conclusion is contained in a new WWF report entitled "2010 & Beyond: Rising to the Biodiversity Challenge." The report contains the "Living Planet Index", a scale developed by WWF, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and the Global Footprint Network to track trends for land, marine and freshwater vertebrate species. Global biodiversity has declined by almost a third over the last 37 years. Climate change is cited as the single greatest threat in the coming decades.

Read the story:

www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/an-epidemic-of-extinctions-decimation-of-life-on-earth-829325.html

WWF press release:

www.panda.org/index.cfm?uNewsID=133781

2010 & Beyond: Rising to the Biodiversity Challenge

http://assets.panda.org/downloads/2010_beyond.pdf

Living Planet Index report:

http://assets.panda.org/downloads/living_planet_report.pdf

National News

C02 Emissions Drop in 2006 but Major Increases Expected -Environment Canada

Environment Canada's latest greenhouse gas inventory report confirms that Canada's total emissions for 2006 declined 1.9% compared to 2005 levels. The decrease is attributed to warmer winters, less power being produced from coal-fired plants and more power coming from hydro and nuclear. Large increases in annual emissions are expected over the next decade with a tripling of emissions from the Alberta oil sands.

Read the story:

www.canada.com/northshorenews/news/story.html?id=c49a6035-fa8d-400b-82f7-f5244e9b5628

Environment Canada press release:

www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=606F23D9-C0A2-4F38-B2F7-E03B28D1B12B
www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=Fr&n=714D9AAE-1&news=606F23D9-C0A2-4F38-B2F7-E03B28D1B12B

Canada's 2006 Greenhouse Gas Report Summary:

www.ec.gc.ca/pdb/ghg/inventory_report/2006/som-sum_eng.cfm#s1
www.ec.gc.ca/pdb/ghg/inventory_report/2006/som-sum_fra.cfm

Environment Canada has "Real Challenge" meshing Federal, Provincial Regulations and Plans

Judith Hull, director of trading regimes for Environment Canada, told an international conference in Germany last week that the provinces are threatening to "throw Canada's federal emissions trading plans into disarray" by establishing their own carbon taxes and by joining regional cap and trade agreements like the Western Climate Initiative. One emissions trader from London, England, said: "Canada's plan is called Turning the Corner, but it seems to me there are a number of other corners following this one."

Read the story:

www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSL0866720920080508

Across Canada

Oil Sands Battle Rages, Harper Fast-Tracks Imperial Oil Kearn Project

Alberta's rapidly growing environmental movement has become a thorn in the side of oil sands executives, who see their industry's public image deteriorating within Canada and abroad. And yet, Prime Minister Harper's cabinet is expected to override two federal court judgments and approve the Imperial Oil Kearn Project by June 5. In March and again last week, environmental groups had successfully argued in federal court that the project should not have received an approval without proper consideration being given to greenhouse gas emissions and other impacts in its environmental assessment.

Growing network of green activists battle the oilsands:

www.canada.com/vancouvernews/business/story.html?id=f4e243c9-54e8-4d3a-93da-0e64af0e3193

Ottawa Fast-Tracks Kearn Mine Permit:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080519.wrkearl0519/BNStory/energy/home

Justice and Equity News

Biotech Giants Seek Wide-ranging Patents on “Climate-Ready” Crops

Some of the world’s largest agricultural biotechnology firms such as BASF, Syngenta, Bayer and Monsanto are fighting for exclusive patents on crops which they claim are more resistant to drought, flooding, saltwater incursions, high temperatures and increased ultraviolet radiation. Developing countries in Africa and elsewhere that have been resisting the introduction of genetically altered crops are being pressured to accept them now as a means of adapting to the human ravages of climate change.

Read the article:

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/12/AR2008051202919.html

Related article from *Foreign Policy in Focus*:

www.fpif.org/fpiftxt/5223

UK Demands Repayment with interest on Adaptation Loans

The United Kingdom is being widely criticized for its plan to pay over \$1.5 billion to a World Bank loans fund that would have developing countries struggling to adapt to climate change repaying the money with interest. Critics also oppose the plan because the funding would not be “additional” (i.e. it would replace existing UK aid money) and would be managed by an organization that skims 13% off the top of climate change funds for “overhead.”

Read the story:

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/may/16/climatechange.internationalaidanddevelopment

Get Involved

STOP NEW OIL SANDS PROJECTS! Sign the petition at www.nonewapprovals.ca/

Would you like to see a \$120 billion/year U.N. Green Global Fund to save species from extinction due to global warming? Go here to sign the Care2 petition: www.thepetitionsite.com/1/to-un-secretary-general-for-creating-the-120-byr-global-green-fund-for-combatting-global-warming-and

Green Cars – Do you want cars that are truly fuel-efficient? Tell it to the federal government today at www.cleancarscanada.ca.

Looking Ahead

- May 21 Western Climate Initiative Face-to-face Stakeholder Meeting on Subcommittee Recommendations, Salt Lake City
- May 24-26 G8 Environment Meeting, Kobe, Japan
www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/summit/2008/info/map.html
- May 30 Montreal Climate Exchange Begins Trading Carbon Futures
- June 1-8 Environment Week
- June 3-5 High-Level Conference on Food Security, Climate Change and Bioenergy, Rome, Italy www.fao.org/foodclimate/conference.html
- June 2-13 2nd session of Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention & SBSTA & SBI, Bonn, Germany
- June 9-12 Montreal Conference (Int'l Economic Forum of the Americas)
www.conferencedemontreal.com/
- June 17 World Day to Combat Desertification
- June 24-26 7th World Wind Energy Conference & Exhibition, Kingston, Ontario
www.wwindea.org/home/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=194&Itemid=68

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