



*If we take care of the Earth,
the Earth will take care of us.*

Forum for Environment (FfE)

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National news

Noise Pollution in Addis

Addis Ababa, Fortune- Over the years, noise pollution has proved to be more and more of a problem for residents of Addis Ababa. Research conducted by FfE, published in May 2011, reveals that the number of noise complaints increased gradually from 2003 to 2010 with complaints at their highest in the Yeka district, followed by the Nefaselk Lafto and the Lideta districts. Sound pressure is measured in decibels (dB). Generally, a normal conversation between two people measures 60 dB while a whisper measures 30dB and shouting measures 80dB. Although we only start to feel pain when subjected to noise levels of roughly 120dB, noise levels of about 85dB in itself are harmful to our ears and can be considered sound pollution. According to the World Health Organization, continuous exposure to noise pollution can result in a range of health problems. You can access the full research report from www.ffe-ethiopia.org.

(Source www.addisfortune.com October 23, 2011)

UN demands Ethiopia show assessment on Gibe III

Addis Ababa, Capital- The United Nations sent a letter to the Ethiopian government demanding reliable evidences that they have conducted independent studies on the impact of the Gibe III dam. Previously, the Ethiopian government said it did commission independent studies on the socioeconomic impact of the Gibe III, which is scheduled to be completed by 2013. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), accountable to the UN general Assembly, has given Ethiopia until the end of January 2012 to provide reliable evidence that independent assessment. CERD made its call for a halt to the project on the basis of information received from two of the more persistent and vociferous campaigners against the dam; International Rivers and Friends of Lake Turkana.

(Source www.capitalethiopia.com October 23, 2011)

Ethiopia on way to national energy map

Addis Ababa, Fortune- The first phase of a project aimed at producing a comprehensive and updated energy sector data for the country, conducted at a cost of 4.3 million birr, was finalized and submitted to the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE). The first phase, which took 16 months, developed a web based and Geographic Information System (GIS) enabled energy database. The database enables the production of a

variety of energy maps based on data collected on the supply side of electricity, biomass, renewable energy and hydrocarbons. With hydropower being the dominant source of electricity in the country, there is not enough data about the potentials of local alternative sources for power generation such as wind and solar power.

(Source www.addisfortune.com October 23, 2011)

Tata eyes Ethiopia's tea sector

Addis Ababa, Capital quoting The Ethiopian Herald- The TATA group plan to grow tea in Ethiopia. The group, owner of the Tetley tea brand has approached Ethiopian authorities with a proposal to venture into tea plantation, according to an official from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

(Source www.capitalethiopia.com October 23, 2011)

International news

Seven billion and more

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)- The UN has announced that the population of the planet has now reached seven billion people.

But will this number continue to rise in future years - and if so, what could this mean?

(For more information visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-15445092>)

Javan rhino now extinct in Vietnam

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)- A critically endangered species of rhino is now extinct in Vietnam, according to a report by conservation groups. The WWF and the International Rhino Foundation said the country's last Javan rhino was probably killed by poachers, as its horn had been cut off. Experts said the news was not a surprise, as only one sighting had been recorded in Vietnam since 2008. Fewer than 50 individuals are now estimated to remain in the wild. "It is painful that despite significant investment in Vietnamese rhino conservation, efforts failed to save this unique animal," said WWF's Vietnam director Tran Thi Minh Hien. "Vietnam has lost part of its natural heritage." The authors of the report, Extinction of the Javan Rhino from Vietnam, said genetic analysis of dung samples collected between 2009-2010 in the Cat Tien National Park showed that they all belonged to just one

individual. Shortly after the survey was completed, conservationists found out that the rhino had been killed. They say it was likely to have been the work of poachers because it had been shot in a leg and its horn had been cut off. Globally, there has been a sharp increase in the number of rhino poaching cases. Earlier this year, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) published a report that said rhino populations in Africa were facing their worst poaching crisis for decades. An assessment carried out by Traffic, the global wildlife trade monitoring network, said the surge in the illegal trade in rhino horns was being driven by demands from Asian medicinal markets.

(Source

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-15430787>)

Many thanks for reading and see you in the next issue!

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