



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

Forum for Environment (FfE)

Greenbites: Environmental News

Issue Number 94

May 25, 2012

National news

The greenhouse next door

The Reporter– About twenty years ago, phrases like Energy efficiency, Sustainability, Eco friendly, Green credentials, were either seldom heard or considered buzz words that lacked substance. Now, however, it is impossible to avoid the huge implications that come along with them. Cities and urbanization are the table of the 21st century. Already, most live in cities. This century, though, the building boom is unlike anything humanity has ever seen, or may ever see again, as the world's cities swell by billions. All that growth means opportunity at a time when it is badly needed. In all sorts of ways, how environmentally friendly are cities built determines the world tomorrow. The reusing of waste materials to build homes is one sustainable approach to conserving the world's natural materials. While having seen eco-friendly homes utilize materials such as wood or plastic, the use of discarded metal containers may strike as somewhat of a foreign concept. Yet for Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development (EiABC), this is sustainability in housing that Africa needs today. EiABC has researched and tested new sustainable building designs from mud and recycled cargo containers. With the mud technology

you can build your dream exotic house not only in your village but also in the city and with all the benefits that accompany it, like saving half of the budget, no carbon emissions, no waste to burn up, this truly is the building messiah of Africa.

(For more information visit www.ethiopianreporter.com May 26, 2012)

Institute urges governments to invest in resilience, strengthen local control over natural resources

Addis Ababa, Capital- The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) urge governments to invest in resilience, strengthen local control over natural resources, and apply realistic values to the environment and human wellbeing in order to steer societies onto a more secure path. The call comes in a paper published by IIED's director Camilla Toulmin, ahead of the Rio + 20 conference in Brazil next month, when world leaders will meet to agree ways to tackle the environment and development challenges facing humanity, IIED recommends action in three areas among others; Local control: Evidence shows that local control of natural assets is the best way to ensure strong investment in and sustainable use of forests, water, soils and other resources, in ways that create jobs, profits and secure livelihoods in both rural and urban areas. After four decades of research on the links between the environment and development, IIED has identified three clear policy shifts that are realistic, achievable and effective ways to reshape our future and create a fair, greener and more secure world.

(For more information visit www.capitalethiopia.com May 20, 2012)

International news

Land and Sea Species Differ in Climate Change Response

Science Daily - Marine and terrestrial species will likely differ in their responses to climate warming, new research by Simon Fraser University and Australia's University of Tasmania has found. The study, published this week in *Nature Climate Change*, provides insights into why and how species are moving around the globe in response to global warming. Researchers gathered published data from tests determining the physiological temperature limits -- tolerance to heating and cooling levels -- on 169 cold-blooded marine and terrestrial species, then compared the data with the regions the species inhabit. They found that while marine animals closely conformed to the temperature regions they could potentially occupy, terrestrial species live farther from the equator than their internal thermometers suggest they can live. In other words warm temperatures aren't limiting them from living in closer to the equator. Finding that marine and terrestrial species are limited by their cold tolerance suggest that warming will allow expansions of animals towards the poles to take advantage of newly opened up habitats.

(For more information visit <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/05/120529102427.htm>)

Rio+20 must launch SDGs to guide countries through complex development challenges, argues Colombian ministry official Paula Caballero Gómez.

scidev.net (May 24, 2012) - Despite countries' growing commitment to alternative energy and more efficient use of resources, twenty years after the Earth Summit sustainable development is still seen by many as an idea rooted in environmental concerns. This creates a fundamental disconnect between proponents of sustainability and those who, leaving environmental concerns aside, claim that commitment to human wellbeing and poverty eradication demand exclusively socioeconomic responses. The proposals for adopting a suite of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) potentially a key outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) next month (20–22 June) can address this disconnect by articulating complex development challenges. SDGs are about metrics, which have proven their importance as drivers of public policy in addressing critical issues such as rural sanitation and child mortality look at the impact of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), or ecosystem valuations. If properly developed and designed, SDGs will doubtless play a similarly key role in driving sustainability. But the value of SDGs doesn't end there. One of their most crucial contributions will be to clarify how the three dimensions of sustainable development economic, environmental and social depend on each other.

(For more information visit <http://www.scidev.net/en/agriculture-and-environment/opinions/why-we-need-sustainable-development-goals-1.html>)

Compiled by:Eden Mesfin

Forum for Environment

(FfE)

T: +251 115 521662

F: +251 115 521034

P: 10386

E:

edenmesfin@gmail.com

W: www.ffe-ethiopia.org