



Special Report on Selected Side Events at the United Nations Climate Change Conference - Bali

published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development
in cooperation with UNDP and UNEP



Online at
<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop13/enbots/>

Issue #6 | UN Climate Change Conference | 3-14 December 2007 | Bali, Indonesia | Monday, 10 December 2007

Events convened on Saturday, 8 December 2007

US global warming emissions reductions - targets and strategies

Presented by the Natural Resources Defense Council



Alden Meyer, Union of Concerned Scientists, highlighted US regional initiatives requiring mandatory emission limitations, and the wide range of support that the climate change issue has gained recently

Alden Meyer, Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), presented on "How to Avoid Dangerous Climate Change," a UCS report that details targets for US emission reductions consistent with maintaining a 50% probability of staying under a two degree change in average global temperatures. He noted that this would require the US emissions to be reduced 80% below 2000 levels by 2050. Meyer indicated that their predictions assume that emissions will peak in 2010 for industrialized nations, and in 2020-2025 for developing countries, adding that this will require unprecedented de-carbonization rates.

Meyer also described the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act, which was passed by the US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee this week, noting that it is the first economy-wide global warming bill to do so. He added that if the Act is approved by the Senate, it will be submitted to the President just prior to the 2008 election, and thus there may be pressure from Republicans not to veto it. Meyer noted that the climate issue has played a prominent role in the 2008 presidential candidates' campaigns.

David Doniger, Natural Resources Defense Council, described actions required to meet the objectives contained in the UCS report, noting that 40% of the North Pole's ice cap has melted since 1979. He reflected on progress achieved since the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in gaining support for action, noting that the plight of the polar bear and the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina had been important determinants of public opinion.

Doniger then presented the outcome of a study that evaluated which sectors would be able to deliver the most cost-effective emissions savings, noting that these could be used to offset the cost of more expensive emission reduction efforts. He cautioned against the expansion of nuclear power, and supported the transition away from coal-fired power plants. He underscored that meeting the 2050 objectives would cost US\$ three trillion in projected energy infrastructure, in addition to US\$ one trillion in investment.

Participants discussed: de-carbonizing development; auctioning of emissions trading permits; linkages between the US domestic and Kyoto systems; and "escape valve" provisions.

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<http://ucusa.org>
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The *Earth Negotiations Bulletin on the side (ENBOTS)* © <enb@iisd.org> is a special publication of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This issue has been written by Alice Bisiaux, Suzanne Carter, Alexandra Conliffe and Peter Wood. The Digital Editor is Diego Noguera. The Editor is Soledad Aguilar <soledad@iisd.org>. The Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James "Kimo" Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. Funding for the publication of *ENBOTS* at the United Nations Climate Change Conference - Bali is provided by UNDP and UNEP. The opinions expressed in *ENBOTS* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD and funders. Excerpts from *ENBOTS* may be used in non-commercial publications only with appropriate academic citation. For permission to use this material in commercial publications, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>. Electronic versions of issues of *ENBOTS* from the United Nations Climate Change Conference - Bali can be found on the Linkages website at <<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop13/enbots/>>. This issue of *ENBOTS* was published in Bali on recycled paper. The ENBOTS Team at the UN Climate Change Conference - Bali can be contacted by e-mail at <alice@iisd.org>.

UN HABITAT strategy on cities in climate change

Presented by UN HABITAT

Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, UN Human Settlements Programme (UN HABITAT), presented UN HABITAT's mandate to promote sustainable urban development and adequate shelter for all, and stressed its local-level focus.

Marco Keiner, UN HABITAT, emphasized that cities are the biggest contributors to, and most impacted by, climate change and that they must be involved in the solutions. He outlined UN HABITAT's strategy on cities in climate change.

Sylvie Lemmet, UNEP, welcomed UN HABITAT's focus on the resilience of cities. She suggested that significant emission reductions, particularly in buildings, can be achieved with available technology and that, while national regulations are necessary, "true commitment" will come from cities.

Andy Reisinger, IPCC, stressed the need to understand disagreements between climate model predictions when they are used for risk planning. He highlighted the long lifetimes of buildings and urban settlements and cautioned against infrastructural lock-in.

Ambika Chawla, UN HABITAT Youth Representative, encouraged the inclusion and support of youth in addressing climate change in urban areas.

Robert de Jong, UNEP, underlined the importance of addressing resource use in cities and the natural link between UNEP and UN HABITAT in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation in urban areas, particularly in developing countries.

Participants discussed local versus national-level responsibilities and resilience versus adaptation. They agreed on the importance of working with secondary cities and recommended focusing on multi-level governance and multi-hazard approaches.



Marco Keiner, UN HABITAT, indicated that urban dwellers in developing countries will double between 2000-2030 and that 80% of all greenhouse gas emissions originate from cities

More information:

<http://www.unhabitat.org>

http://www.unep.org/dpdl/urban_environment

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Adaptive policymaking in a world of uncertainty

Presented by TERI

Atiq Rahman, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, warned that delaying adaptation to climate change will increase its impacts, which could lead to human misery, greater social injustice, and damaged ecosystems. He said the challenge is to achieve economic growth and wellbeing of society without jeopardizing environmental integrity or social justice.

Suruchi Bhadwal, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), introduced an International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)/TERI project on adaptive policy making for agriculture and water resources in the face of climate change, carried out with support from the International Development Research Center (IDRC). She called for a paradigm shift in policy making in order to design policies that are able to adapt to both anticipated and unanticipated changes.

Jo-Ellen Parry, IISD, presented a case study on Manitoba's conservation district policy, which examines the activities of seven of these districts and shows that they are generally adaptive to climate change. She said the policy demonstrates the effectiveness of devolution.

Sanjay Tomar, TERI, discussed a case study from the state of Maharashtra, India, which addresses the need for an integrated and participatory approach to watershed management. He listed adaptive measures, including: crop diversification; insurance; and income and livelihood diversification.

Jabavu Clifford Nikomo, IDRC, stressed the need for institutions to adapt and for a bottom-up participatory approach.

Participants compared lessons learned from the case studies presented.



Suruchi Bhadwal, The Energy and Resources Institute, noted that the IISD/TERI project has shown that some policies such as self organizations and networks, which encourage interaction and innovation, adapt well to unanticipated conditions

More information:

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Sustainable growth through energy efficiency

Presented by REEEP

Morgan Brazilian, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), underscored the importance of energy efficiency for all aspects of climate change.

Debashish Majumdar, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, provided an overview of energy consumption and the potential for renewables in India. He noted that the Energy Efficiency Act was passed in 2001 and that with energy efficient technologies, many businesses could cut their energy consumption by up to 20%.

Shen Longhai, China Energy Conservation Service Industry Association, indicated that the Chinese government attaches great importance to energy conservation. He outlined present policies aimed at energy saving in the building sector and said the Energy Conservation Law will come to effect in 2008.

Franzjosef Schafhausen, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany, said his country is decoupling economic growth and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by increasing energy efficiency and promoting renewables. He highlighted the Integrated Energy and Climate Programme aimed at achieving a 40% reduction in GHGs by 2020.

Paul Waide, International Energy Agency, stressed that energy efficiency is "the biggest fuel and the cleanest," and noted the release of the *World Energy Outlook 2007-China and India Insights*.

Participants discussed the potential barrier created by intellectual property rights to the transfer of clean technologies and the portfolio of energy efficiency CDM projects in India and China.



Debashish Majumdar, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, identified climate change mitigation and energy security as the main drivers of energy efficient technology

More information:

<http://www.emca.cn>

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REDD preparedness: a sourcebook for high quality and cost effective estimation

Presented by Winrock International

Martin Herold, Friedrich-Schiller-University, introduced the draft "Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamic Sourcebook" on transparent methods to produce carbon emission estimates for REDD. Panelists presented on the Sourcebook's content.

Ruth DeFries, University of Maryland College Park, discussed methods for measuring deforested area, stressing the importance of mid-resolution data and context-specific choice of methods.

Danilo Mollicone, Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, outlined methods for measuring degraded area. He said a direct approach will be best in the future but that an indirect one can be used to establish historical references.

Sandra Brown, Winrock International, described how the report addresses estimating carbon stocks, and elaborated on: choosing the appropriate IPCC tier; stratifying by carbon stock; and estimating carbon stocks of forests undergoing change.

Giacomo Grassi, European Commission, presented on how to provide practical, credible and verifiable REDD estimates when starting from uncertain data, emphasizing that when accuracy and precision cannot be achieved, conservative estimates of emissions reduced should be used.

Carlos Rodríguez, Conservation International, stressed that funding REDD will not reverse deforestation. He argued that policy makers are instigators of deforestation and that appropriate institutions, policies, and decision makers are needed to address this issue.

Kenneth Andrasko, World Bank, emphasized the need to standardize measures for REDD in order for it to be included in the UNFCCC's decisions. He said the sourcebook is a first step towards achieving this goal.



Sandra Brown, Winrock International, explained that the Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamic Sourcebook aims to synthesize and complement information available in the IPCC guidelines in an user-friendly format

More information:

<http://www.gofc-gold.uni-jena.de>

<http://www.conservation.org>

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Making REDD work for the poor

Presented by the Poverty and Environment Partnership

David McCauley, Asian Development Bank, provided an overview of the Poverty and Environment Partnership (PEP) coalition, noting its role in examining the interface between environmental management and poverty reduction. He emphasized that REDD must have the full support of local communities in order to be credible and sustainable.

Joshua Bishop, IUCN-The World Conservation Union, presented on links between poverty and REDD, and discussed direct versus indirect drivers of deforestation. He described a range of activities supportive of REDD, such as payment for ecosystem services, and drew attention to barriers that must be overcome, such as weak land tenure, elite capture and corruption.

Michael Dutschke, Biocarbon.net, discussed the need for principles and criteria for a REDD mechanism, stressing environmental and equity considerations. He proposed that REDD mimic Articles 3.3 and 3.4 of the Kyoto Protocol with regards to consideration of afforestation and reforestation, as well as forest management activities. He called for integrating implementation activities at the national, state, and project levels. Dutschke discussed possible financial mechanisms, noting that the US\$10 billion per year required to reduce deforestation by 50% is equivalent to the global annual expenditure on cell phone ringtones.

Leo Peskett, Overseas Development Institute, discussed what is meant by "pro-poor" REDD, emphasizing the complexity of the forest-poverty relationship. He discussed experiences from regulatory, fund and market-based approaches, noting that tenure reform is inadequate in the face of weak governance. He discussed ways of reducing risks associated with non-permanence and leakage. Peskett said stringent contracts, in addition to well-defined environmental and social standards could help alleviate these risks.

Charles McNeill, UNDP, led a panel discussion on lessons learned from other sectors that could assist in ensuring that REDD is "pro-poor", including: Lera Miles, UNEP-WCMC; Marcus Colchester, Forest Peoples Programme; Eric Bettleheim, Sustainable Forestry Management; Benoît Bosquet, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility-World Bank; Peter Minang, ICRAF; Jan Borner, CIAT; Ian Kosasih, WWF Indonesia; and Maria Beriekom, SwedBio.

Participants underlined the need to: recognize land rights; embed safeguards within REDD to avert elite capture; and learn from the CDM. They also discussed: gender equity; how to define poverty; national sovereignty; and the costs and benefits of forest certification.



Michael Dutschke, Biocarbon.net, discussed possible ways to finance REDD, including a voluntary fund replenished by developed countries, or alternative sources such as an aviation tax



Lera Miles, UNEP-WCMC, said that diligence will be required at all levels to ensure that socioeconomic and biodiversity considerations are upheld during the early implementation of REDD

More information:

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L-R: David McCauley, Asian Development Bank; Joshua Bishop, IUCN; Michael Dutschke, Biocarbon.net; and Leo Peskett, Overseas Development Institute