

# ECO

6

DECEMBER

ADAPTATION  
ISSUE

*Eco has been published by Non-Governmental Environmental Groups at major international conferences since the Stockholm Environment Conference in 1972. This issue is produced co-operatively by Climate Action Network groups attending COP9 in Milano in December 2003.*

## Redefine the Debate on Adaptation

Adaptation is recognised in Article 2 of the Convention as one of the response strategies to climate change. However, it was kept on the back burner for the first decade of the negotiations as efforts were made to mitigate the emission of greenhouse gases.

Since COP6 and COP7 adaptation has taken a more central role, especially with the creation of the Marrakech Funds, including the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), which add to the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund.

All of these funds deal with adaptation in one way or another. The opportunity now exists to redefine the debate and place emphasis on the vulnerability of the poorest and their livelihoods.

The LDC Fund has already been operationalised for the 49 LDCs to carry out

their respective National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) while rules and guidance for SCCF are to be agreed at COP9.

Adaptation is covered in Articles 4.8 and 4.9 as well as in a number of other articles of the Convention including technology transfer, capacity building and SBSTA discussions on the IPCC Third Assessment Report. Thus, unlike mitigation which has the Kyoto Protocol all to itself, adaptation issues are scattered throughout the text of the UNFCCC and do not appear as a single major agenda item anywhere.

There has been discussion on whether it might be better to coalesce all the adaptation issues into a single major agenda item to highlight its importance. Some even argue for the drafting of a legal instrument. However, it is more important for the issue of adaptation to be dealt with effectively wherever it appears in the text. This will help developing countries in particular to identify and undertake adaptation actions promptly and easily.

COP9 is the opportunity for Parties to show they can rise to the challenge by agreeing to the guidelines for the SCCF which are simple, clear and easily operational. In doing so, communities would have a chance to reduce their vulnerability to climate extremes in sensitive areas such as water and food security.

This December 9, on Adaptation Day, we hope that Article 2 will be rejuvenated with a new spirit.

## Moving forward on non-permanence

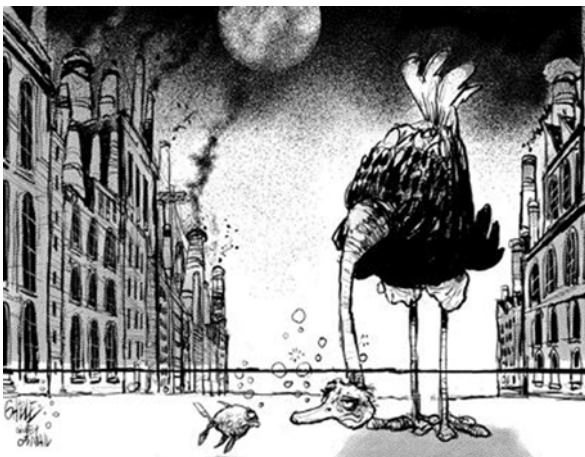
ECO is pleased Canada has progressed from its ridiculous position on non-permanence and finally tabled a non-paper within the realm of reasonable discussion.

Common sense dictates there be regular monitoring to detect loss of carbon; clearly defined liability for any loss or failure to monitor; replacement of lost carbon with valid units; and liability that does not suddenly end at some arbitrary point in time. With these points established we can make headway on non-permanence.

Perhaps this is a lesson to Parties that it is possible to push hard against Canada's (and others') remaining unreasonable negotiating positions. And that if they do, a satisfactory outcome on the rules should be achievable, namely:

- Providing sufficient information to host countries, credit buyers, stakeholders and the public from the project design document to assess a project's social and environment impacts. The weak Appendix E-Option1 is the absolute minimum information necessary;
- Incorporating meaningful additionality tests to exclude projects that would have happened anyway, and baselines which take into account prospective land use and other key factors;
- Ruling out invasive alien species and GMOs and preventing large commercial plantations from swamping the CDM;
- Maintaining the 1990 base year for reforestation;
- Rejecting fast-tracking of sinks – current

–continued back page, column 1



*Ignoring climate change is not going to solve the problem*

## “Slippery demagoguery”

The *New York Times* in its editorial on December 4 said Paula Dobriansky's article in the *Financial Times* on December 1 was “an amazingly slippery piece of demagoguery” and “the most recent example” of the Bush Administration's continued efforts to “bad mouth the (Kyoto) treaty at every opportunity.”

ECO could not agree more. Delegates should realise the public in the US are alarmed by the Administration's attempts to derail COP9 and the Kyoto Protocol.

Dobriansky's statement (on behalf of the Bush Administration) that “the extent to which the human-made portion of greenhouse gases is

causing temperatures to rise is still unknown” is an extreme exaggeration of the uncertainties. IPCC findings state “there is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities.”

ECO does not regard the words “most” and “unknown” as interchangeable.

The *New York Times* editorial also said: “...the Bush Administration's program would allow greenhouse gases to keep building up, even though atmospheric concentrations are already alarmingly high and the name of the game is to stabilise and then reverse them.”

## “Fossil of the Day” Award

Norway and New Zealand were joint winners of yesterday's top fossil award for their stand on genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

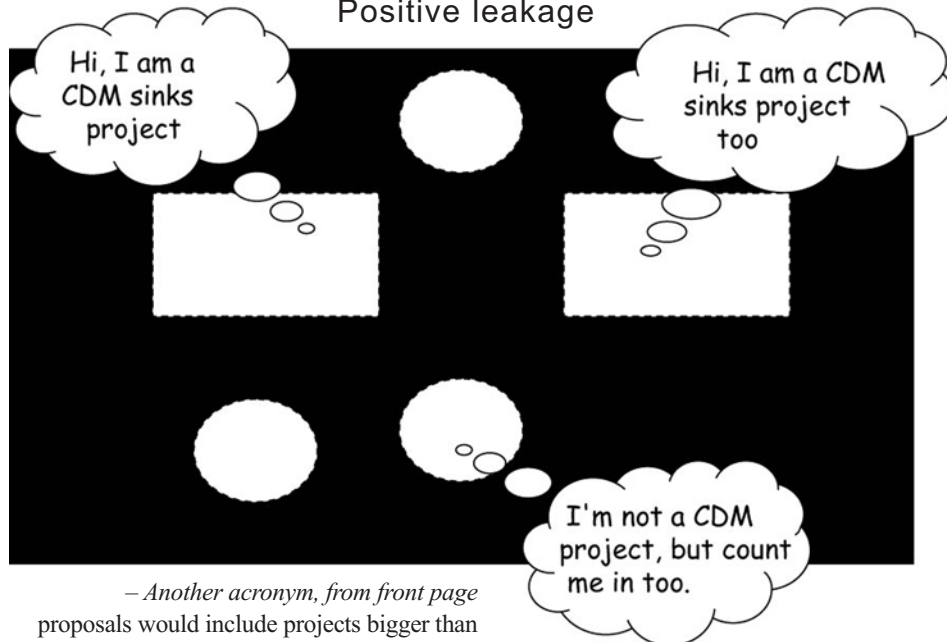
Norway was nominated for not supporting clear language on GMOs and invasive alien species.

Similarly, New Zealand was nominated for supporting the exclusion of GMOs and invasive alien species, and for following Canada and Japan's position.

Columbia received the second highest number of votes for vigorously arguing in support of the flawed concept of positive leakage.

This enables a project developer to claim credits for carbon uptake outside its project boundary.

### Positive leakage



– Another acronym, from front page proposals would include projects bigger than Milan which has a size of 1,100 ha.

- Not accounting for positive leakage or carbon sequestered outside the project boundary. There is no way to adequately measure or verify additional carbon gains in these areas, or to ensure their permanence. It is also inappropriate to claim credits for an activity on someone else's land.

## Public rally on climate and peace

COP9 participants are invited to join a rally today on the theme of Stop Global War-M: Stop climate change. Organised by Italian NGOs, it will start at 15.00 at plaza Giulio Cesare (Fiera) and end at largo Cairoli. Rally participants can choose to walk or cycle the distance.

## NGO party is on tonight

The NGO Party will be held tonight from 21.00 at Garden Gallery (Galleria Meravigli) at Via Gaetano Negri number 6.

It can be reached by taking the Metro – Red Line – and getting down at Cordusio. The venue is a 200-metre walk from the station.

This year's party, open to all delegates and observers who support the Kyoto process, will have a Latin theme in celebration of next year's COP being held in South America. Conference badges must be worn to gain entry.

The entrance fee of €10 is inclusive of three drinks. Additional drinks will cost €4 each. Do take time off to join us for a fun-filled and memorable evening.

## LUIGI

Luigi isn't too big to admit when his ECO masters may have been a bit too harsh, even when it concerns the United States. All the time the US was giving every indication its climate strategy was CRAP, it was really pursuing another mitigation method, modestly declining to take any credit. According to International Energy Agency statistics on the most energy intensive countries in the world, it just may be that the US's war on international bad guys and its war on (sorry, for) the climate are one and the same thing!

- #1: Iraq ... occupied
- #2: North Korea ... axis of evil watch list
- #3,6,7,9,10: Formerly part of Soviet Union ... defeated (big CO<sub>2</sub> reductions)
- #10: Libya ... sanctioned, sued, bombed, etc.
- #11: Trinidad and Tobago ... uh oh, watch out mon!

## THANKS

The Climate Action Network would like to thank The Swedish NGO Secretariat on Acid Rain, RAC France, WWF International, David Suzuki Foundation, SECCP, INWENT/CDG, Greenpeace International, CAN-Europe, NRDC, FoE International, Peruvian Environmental Forum, NET, Pelangi and an individual contributor.

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