

# ECO



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## Close the Gap

ECO welcomes you, Ministers, to Nairobi and to the COP and COP/MOP – you have arrived just in time.

We need you to close the gap between the urgent calls for action on climate change from around the world, and the low level of ambition demonstrated so far here in Nairobi.

Indeed, there is work to be done. As you know from the avalanche of press reports on the changing climate and the rising tide of public concern, pressure for real action is growing by the day. Since Montreal a lot has happened, yet even more remains to be done. There is much on your agenda here, but ECO would like to direct your attention to one key issue which we think is critical to the success of this COP and COP/MOP, and to the future of our collective efforts to prevent dangerous interference with the climate system.

**MIND THE GAP – WE NEED A MANDATE AT COP/MOP 3!**

ECO particularly needs you to ensure that this process responds to the increasing alarm raised by scientists around the world. The gorilla sitting in the middle of your table that many do not want to publicly acknowledge is the need to establish a time bound process to negotiate the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. You need to lay the political ground work amongst your colleagues here for a COP/MOP3 decision in 2007 on a broad negotiating mandate, to be concluded by 2008. We know this is not formally on the agenda here in Nairobi, but this is certainly *the last COP/MOP where it is possible to NOT adopt a comprehensive mandate* for these negotiations, and still have a chance of finishing in time so that there is no gap between the first and second commitment periods. At COP/MOP3,

many processes conclude, and should logically be brought together to create such a mandate. These include the tropical deforestation issue, discussions under the UNFCCC Dialogue and the workplan under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Annex I commitments.

PLEASE. Make it clear in your speeches and meetings that you understand and share this sense of urgency. Call for a negotiating mandate to be agreed at COP/MOP3.

The main outstanding issue here is a decision on the first review under Article 9 of the Kyoto Protocol, which needs to be done at this COP/MOP. Part of the text we have seen is, let us be frank, a shame on this process. A perfunctory first review, with virtually no preparation, does no credit to anyone and belittles the seriousness of this issue. Leaving this aside, the current chairman's text, which calls for the second review to be done at COP/MOP4 in 2008, with no real preparatory work bodes ill for the adoption of a Mandate in 2007 at COP/MOP3. Will not the 2008 time line be used as an excuse not to adopt a Mandate at COP/MOP3? Or is this the real purpose of such a timetable?

Such a timeframe in our view would foreclose any chance of completing the Kyoto Second Commitment period negotiations in time for commitment periods to be contiguous. If that does not happen you can kiss the carbon markets goodbye. Ministers, you need to fix this.

At the first climate change COP in sub-Saharan Africa, the epicenter of vulnerability to human induced climate change, there is a special need to send a signal that the world is getting serious about dealing with the

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## Harper and Howard Act to Save Climate

ECO is pleased to share leaked minutes from a secret meeting detailing Prime Ministers' Harper and Howard's Nairobi strategy.

Prime Ministers Stephen Harper and John Howard are joined in their mutual dismay at the direction of the climate change negotiations. These two philosopher-statesmen have dug deep into their infinite intellectual resources and brought forth ideas so profound that to the common mind they may appear to be simply nonsense.

Harper and Howard have generously agreed to bestow their collective wisdom upon the negotiations. And so Harper and Howard instructed their faithful disciples, Ministers Ambrose and Campbell, to travel to distant Nairobi to bring their blessed wisdom to the masses huddled in the confines of Gigiri, where they will certainly be greeted as liberators from the intellectual oppression that has hitherto reigned.

Their inspirational solutions are:

- The world must awake to the worldly and unworldly benefits that flow from the coal seams of Australia and the oil sands of Canada;
- The wise leaders of the companies engaged in producing and distributing these bountiful blessings, can be entrusted to dispose of all waste with absolute wisdom, and the public purse should reimburse them at the rate they deem necessary;
- In order to maintain a proper balance of the energies of the universe, any numerical limitations on the emissions issuing from

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## A Human Urgency

In addition to the climatic urgency of these negotiations, there is also human urgency. Poor people are on the frontline and face the direct impact of climate change. While they need strong mitigation to stand any hope of survival, they also need development in order to enjoy a better quality of life.

Such development – economic, social, and political – needs to be decarbonised and aimed directly at these poor people to maximise its efficiency.

A timely reminder of the human urgency was highlighted in a report published earlier this week by UK-based development agency Christian Aid. Based on research among livestock herders in north-eastern Kenya earlier this year, it found that drought had increased four-fold in the past 25 years.

– Harper and Howard, *from front page* –  
the good works of these countries shall be first imposed tenfold on all other countries;  
• Any impacts of such emissions affecting the southernmost of these two lands shall be the focus of all attentions and resources of the world, to the exclusion of all others.

The honourable emissaries have sent in advance some words to hearten and inspire the delegates.

Minister Campbell has sent the joyful news: “There is great enthusiasm for Australia’s position on new Kyoto.” And in

The most recent drought, which put 11 million people across east Africa at risk and in need of food aid, is known in the area as “the sweeper” because it swept everything away. It forced many of these semi-nomadic people to settle permanently and abandon their traditional way of life. This impact is putting a huge strain on social services in the region and on natural resources.

This is a clear indication climate and development are intimately bound together in the heart of COP/MOP2. Poor people are already struggling with a less than one degree Celsius increase in mean global temperature. At plus 2°C, they will need considerable extra help to adapt and survive. Anything higher than this and the Millennium Development Goals will be swept away.

case there was doubt in the realm about the utility of applying Howard’s infinite wisdom to such a mundane issue as climate, he added: “Australians can be proud of the work we’re undertaking on their behalf in this important climate change battle.”

Minister Ambrose also brings glad tidings: “We’re on track to meet all of our obligations under the Kyoto Protocol but not the target.” And to reassure anyone concerned about that all but insignificant failing, she adds “but we have the support of the international community.”

## “Fossil of the Day” Award

Canada, USA and Australia were jointly awarded the only Fossil of the Day yesterday for blocking progress on the new mechanism of Technology Transfer proposed by the G77 and China. It has been 14 years of workshops, reports, seminars, discussions, etc. without any substance or real form of action! Are these countries going to do anything productive, ever? On Monday, Canada and Australia tied for first place for making ridiculous claims to the press of their countries and for misleading the public. On Saturday, the EU and Canada won joint first place for strongly pushing for the inclusion of carbon capture and storage (CCS) in the Clean Development Mechanism. Second place was awarded to Saudi Arabia for advocating to limit the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group to amendments of Articles 3.1, 3.9 and Annex B. Kuwait earned third place for claiming all problems with CCS had been resolved and should be made eligible at this COP/MOP.

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escalating costs of adaptation. Damages from climate change are going to be large, particularly in Africa, even if we are successful in limiting warming below 2°C increase in comparison to pre-industrial levels. While there have been some small steps forward here in addressing this issue, the gap between what is currently on the table and what is needed is enormous. You need to start to close the gap.

## Thousands March on Climate Change

Kenyan voices calling for action on climate change were heard loud and clear on Saturday, as around 2500 people took to the streets of Nairobi, including women, school children and Maasai pastoralists. They passed through the city centre to Uhuru Park, where participants

enjoyed performances of drama, dance and poetry. Various speakers highlighted how climate change was impacting first and worst on the world’s poorest people and called for urgent action by leaders at this conference.

Sharon Looremata, Practical Action Project Officer, said: “Maasai farmers that took part are already suffering from more severe drought. Their animals are dying; women and children have to walk hours every day to collect water so they can’t work or go to school. To see so many people coming out to support the rally sends a clear message to governments across the world – action is needed to stop my people suffering the effects of climate change.”



## TUSKER

### Overheard in Nairobi

After a long day of negotiations, Tusker strolled into a restaurant for a quiet dinner away from the bustle at the conference centre. While enjoying his meal, he overheard snippets of conversation from diners at the next table, one of whom happened to be Canadian Minister Rona Ambrose. Unaware of Tusker’s presence, she asked her fellow diner: “So what’s this Russian proposal all about?”

As a veteran COP attendee, Tusker has prepared a few helpful phrases for the former COP President, responsible for managing the Russian file, should she be asked any questions about the proposal:

- 1) I believe it is time for another coffee break;
- 2) Harlan, can you help me out?;
- 3) Hmm, interesting, but what do you think?;
- 4) Is that Wangari Muthai over there?;
- 5) By the way, which is the best safari outing here?