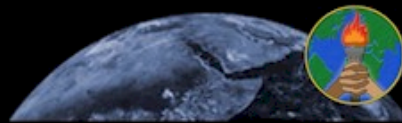


## THREAT: Environmental Degradation

The Environment became a mainstream political issue only ten years after “environmentalist” was a pejorative term for fringe trouble-makers. Political environmentalism can be traced more than ten years, to Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* (1962) which after a long and bitter battle led to the restriction of DDT. Then the 1970s saw new terms such as “agent orange” in every newspaper and pictures on every television of wildlife habitats obliterated by oil spills. Public opinion shifted slightly. With the environment as a new factor – as lip-service or hard policy – environment debates were now not just academic. Profitability or oblivion suddenly depended on a percentage point in government emission/pollution standards. But even though the environment, like crime, is an issue there are no obvious *a priori* rules. At bottom there is always a Faustian test – a few billion in personal wealth today in exchange for the *chance* your grand-children will be homeless or be born limbless. Nothing is black or white. To further confuse things -- DDT remains one of the best weapons against the world’s greater killer – malaria.

Near-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Clarify the Now</b></p> <p>Most developed nations now factor environmental impacts into decision-making. Big-stakes cases hinge on contradictory evidence of each party’s expert witnesses and judgements often depend on an intellectual coin-toss, manipulation of public opinion, or corrupted officials. Only the creation of disinterested expert jurisdictions removes important environmental issues from the dread grasp of short-term political vision. Also, only public education (or opinion-leaders at least) can give a better grasp of <i>cost</i>. Discussion of cost in environmental debates is often deceitful, often on both sides.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Clarify the Future</b></p> <p>Rachel Carson was called a liar and alarmist by opponents but history proved she was a prophet. The same problem remains today – early warnings are always so early that well-financed inertial mass of vested interests are able to discount and ridicule them. If early warnings on <i>tobacco</i> or <i>asbestos</i> had been investigated, no-one smoking today would have started smoking, no-one dying of asbestos would be dying. Because government does not see beyond five years or the next election, only statutory agencies that outlive governments can be trusted to observe the public environmental interest into the conceivable future..</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Globalise the Public Interest</b></p> <p>Initial excitement about globalization lost its innocence when nations realized that everyone really meant “my globalization: not yours”. But the underlying premise of globalization – interconnectedness of all nations is inescapably true. Nations will realize that environmental problems in one sovereign state are also eventually a problem for all. The rapid destruction of the Amazon is not Brazil’s problem but a factor of global climate. My Chernobyl is your Chernobyl. Governments and their electorates will soon realize all nations are in the same boat.</p>

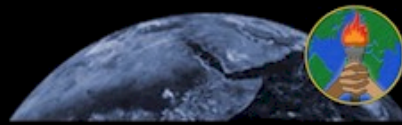
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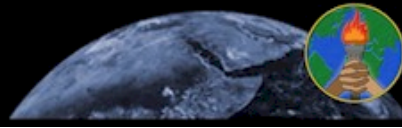
Hazard Level

Change Codes
↓ Deteriorated
• Steady
↑ Improved
↗ Alert

week-ended	See daily <a href="#">list of news items</a>
<b>2007 Jul 01</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A quick look at <b>land degradation</b> -- loss of <b>food-growing</b> resources -- across the world, from <b>Chad</b> to <b>China</b> -- <a href="#">Around The Globe, Farmers Losing Ground</a>.  <a href="#">Just Climate Policy</a> - a well-documented discussion by <i>Foreign Policy in Focus</i> with a emphasis on several "misconceptions".  <b>Canada, Mexico</b> and the <b>United States</b> have introduced an interactive <b>Google Earth</b> mapping tool, which will expand public access to information on <b>air pollutants</b>.  The <b>European CO2 Test Centre</b> in <b>Mongstad Norway</b> will inaugurate a pilot plant to test technologies for <b>separation and storage</b> of <b>CO<sub>2</sub></b> from <b>power plants</b> on a commercial scale.  <b>Rising sea levels</b> could rapidly disintegrate the <b>Antarctic ice sheet</b> -- " 13,000 to 7000 years ago, when sea levels rose by 100 metres, the ice sheet thinned by 200 to 350 metres .... rising waters lifted the buoyant ice sheet's edges off its rocky base".</li> </ul>
<b>2007 Jun 24</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The [US] <b>EPA</b> has proposed a tighter permitted level on <b>ground-level ozone</b>, the main component of <b>smog</b>.  A <b>hazard multiplier</b> -- the "harmful reciprocal relationship" between <b>warming</b> and <b>environmental toxins</b> -- <a href="#">Global Climate Change and Toxic Chemicals: A Potentially Lethal Combination</a>.  <a href="#">Expect more health problems from global warming</a> -- "... we would expect a higher incidence of <b>mortality</b> and <b>morbidity</b> from <b>vector borne diseases</b>, infant and maternal mortality, cardio-respiratory related diseases in the next 50 years".  "Dramatic changes to the environment in the <b>Darfur</b> region of <b>Sudan</b> helped lay the ground for today's conflict ... " -- just a tiny presage of countless <b>environmental conflicts</b> to come -- <a href="#">Climate change and the fight for resources 'will set world aflame'</a>.  <b>Carbon-offset schemes 'inherently flawed'</b> -- "The only long-term solution to <b>climate change</b> is to reduce <b>carbon emissions</b>" -- for instance, rushed "<b>carbon-offset</b>" tree plantings can cause severe problems for local <b>water security</b>.  Another <b>Google Earth</b> project brings the previously impossible into the realm of the do-able; <b>indigenous Brazilians</b> will be able monitor <b>road-making</b> and <b>illegal logging</b> -- <a href="#">Indians, Google Earth to fight illegal logging in Brazil</a>. [Comment: Google Earth is far from <i>real-time</i>, but is "good enough" for processes spanning months or years.]</li> </ul>
<b>2007 Jun 17</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↓ Researchers from the <b>University of Victoria, BC</b> say "We were really surprised at how quickly the <b>ocean</b> responded to <b>temperature change</b>" -- <a href="#">Global Warming Spurring Ocean Waves' Speed</a>.  <b>98% of orangutan habitat gone in next 15 years</b> -- "<b>illegal loggers</b> operate in 37 of <b>Indonesia's 41 national parks</b> and that up to <b>88 percent of all Indonesian timber</b> is <b>illegally harvested</b>."  "<b>Earth Mother</b> is fighting back -- not only from the four winds but also from underneath" -- <a href="#">Native American tribes speak out about climate change</a>.  <b>Al Gore</b> says G8 has nothing to be proud of; <a href="#">G8 agreement on climate change a "disgrace"</a> - <b>Al Gore</b> -- "a disgrace disguised as an achievement".</li> </ul>



	<p>As smarter observers have said for some time, <i>Darfur's</i> genocide is about <b>water</b> and other <b>resources</b> and similar conflicts may become common -- <a href="#">Climate change behind Darfur killing: UN's Ban</a>.</p> <p>"<b>South Asia</b>, and within it the region of <b>Ganga</b>, is among the regions facing greatest security risk resulting from <b>climate change</b> ... " -- '<a href="#">Climate change will result in security threat</a>'.</p>
<p>2007 Jun 10</p>	<p>↓ "The <b>timber business</b> is worth billions of dollars annually, and experts say few industries that size are as murky as the <b>black market</b> in wood"; <b>Indonesia</b> and <b>Brazil</b> are major sources, <b>China</b> is a major user -- <a href="#">Chinese demand drives global deforestation crisis</a>.</p> <p>Most recent studies indicate the rise in <b>CO<sub>2</sub> levels</b> "is <u>much faster</u> than even the <u>most fossil-fuel intensive scenario</u> developed by the <b>IPCC</b> during the 1990s" -- <a href="#">Global Emission of CO<sub>2</sub> Rising Three Fold Than Anticipated</a>. With US blanket rejection of Prime Minister <b>Blair's</b> proposal at <b>G8</b> on <b>CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</b>, President <b>Bush</b> has denied Prime Minister Blair the only chance of a "<i>legacy</i>" that remained.</p> <p><b>Brazil</b> says the <b>West</b> must put its money where its mouth is to stop the poor <b>clearing forests</b> for subsistence; "<u>only a tiny fraction of Europe's original forests remain, while Brazil has preserved more than 60%</u>" -- <a href="#">Brazil: Pay Poor to Preserve Forests</a>.</p> <p>But a healthy pedantry enters the new science of <b>carbon credits/deficits</b>; Brazil has the world's fourth-largest <b>CO<sub>2</sub> deficit</b>, due to the destruction of the <b>rain forest</b>, and the production of <b>methane</b> in the immense <b>marshy</b> regions of the Amazon -- <a href="#">Brazil must improve G8 climate proposal - activists</a> and <a href="#">Brazil/US Study Shows the Amazon Emits 1/4 of Planet's Methane</a>. [Methane is 20 times more harmful than <b>CO<sub>2</sub></b> as a greenhouse gas.]</p> <p><a href="#">U.S. Cuts Back Climate Checks From Space</a> -- "Unfortunately, the recent loss of climate sensors ... places the overall climate program in serious jeopardy" NOAA and NASA scientists told the <b>White House</b>.</p> <p><a href="#">Worse than Chernobyl</a> -- "a decaying <b>Russian nuclear dump</b> inside the <b>Arctic Circle</b> is threatening to catch fire or explode, turning it into a "dirty bomb" that could impact the <u>whole of northern Europe</u> ..." Also: <a href="#">Arctic Nuclear Dump Called Unstable</a> -- "We discover now that we are sitting on a powder keg, with a fuse that is burning, but we don't know how long that fuse is". [<b>Salt water</b> has corroded enormous storage tanks.]</p>
<p>2007 Jun 03</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Japan</b> continues its age-old traditions of <i>cruelty, treachery</i> and <i>isolationism</i> and threatens to quit the <b>Whaling Forum</b>.</li> </ul> <p>Another <b>Brazilian Indian</b> leader has been murdered in disputes over stolen <b>indigenous land</b> -- "Aurino dos Santos was an active participant in the struggle of the Pataxó Hã-Hã-Hãe people for recovering their territory."</p> <p>Hoping to catch the ear of the upcoming <b>G8</b>, <b>Oxfam</b> says the <b>West</b> must be prepared to carry most of the estimated cost of <b>\$50B/year</b> to address <b>greenhouse gases</b>.</p>
<p>2007 May 27</p>	<p>↓ In strenuously opposing what the <b>UK</b>, <b>Germany</b> and others see as modest and do-able on <b>carbon emissions</b> control, the <b>US</b> now stands alone among the <b>G8</b> -- <a href="#">US 'opposes' G8 climate proposals</a></p>
<p>2007 May 20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Megatons of <b>African dust</b> are falling on the <b>Caribbean</b> and <b>Central America</b>. [This natural process is exacerbated by past acts such as <b>Firestone's clear-felling Liberia</b> in the 1920s for rubber.] Separately: <a href="#">Asian dust plume might sway US climate-scientists</a> -- "this is why dust and soot getting into the higher layers is so important. This is what makes a local (problem) into a global problem." [The news item includes a link to <b>imagery</b> of the dust plume.] <a href="#">Large dams behind India's methane emissions</a>; they are responsible for about <u>a fifth</u> of the country's total global warming -- remember <b>METHANE</b> is a <b>greenhouse gas</b> too. <b>DoE</b> has commenced a</li> </ul>



*carbon sequestration* field test -- "*the test is designed to evaluate the potential for geologic sequestration in mature **Illinois oil reservoirs** ...*" [Comment: A profit motive in **CO<sub>2</sub>** sequestration is *increased yield* from oil reserves by pumping the gas into diminishing reservoirs.]

The **Pan African Parliament** says many of *Africa's environmental problems* are a result, directly or indirectly, of *colonial exploitation* -- "*This problem is generated by countries in the West... We are asking the Western nations to help us tackle the impact of this problem.*" [The **Pan African Parliament** was established in 2004 as one of the nine organs of the **African Union**.]

*Deadly fish virus reaches Wisconsin lake* -- "*I'm worried because, inevitably, it'll wipe out fish*". "*Tennessee is serving as a funnel to bring in **nuclear weapons and power waste** from around the country to disperse into the **landfills** and recycling without public knowledge*" -- *U.S. Allows Radioactive Materials in Ordinary Landfills*. The *premature birth rate* in the **US** is rising and growing evidence suggests *pesticides* and other *environmental contaminants* are to blame.

The office of **DNI** has been forced to declare that a *NIE* on *climate change* will not divert *resources* from subjects such as *bin Laden* or *North Korea*. [Comment: There is still a sense from the *Right* that *climate change* is *girlie* stuff; but, conversely, rapt attention to *bin Laden* and *North Korea* seems to have yielded little actionable intelligence.] A panel of **US senior retired military officers** consider that *climate change* is a "*threat multiplier*" and forecast a time when the number of *failed states* will increase rapidly -- *Military Panel Calls Warming a Major Threat*. The mayors of the world's *biggest cities* have met; "*the fight to tackle climate change will be won or lost in cities*" says Lord Mayor of **London**, Ken ("Red Ken") **Livingstone** -- *Big City Mayors Strategize to Beat Global Warming*.

2007 May 13

- **DNI** concurs with the **House** that a *National Intelligence Estimate* on *global climate change* is "appropriate", but insists on input by National Academy of Sciences and others.

*Dirtiest 30 Power Plants Spew 10 Percent of Europe's Carbon* -- some power stations are so bad that the room for *improvement* (by replacement) is a cause for hope. "*It is **India's** first land use and land use change and forestry project to sell **emission reductions** earned through **carbon sequestration** ...*" -- *World Bank to buy carbon credits from Indian farmers*. The **UN** articulates the misgivings of many -- rash action may bring a cure that is worse than the disease -- *U.N. raises possible negative impact of biofuels on environment, food security*. "*It's time to move forward on regulating greenhouse gases and here's a regulatory plan that makes sense*" -- *Global-Warming Myths*.

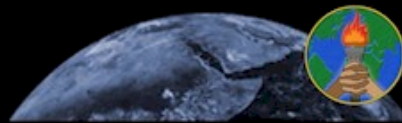
*LEDs Emerge to Fight Fluorescents* -- a good introduction to why no-one should bet everything on the low-energy but nasty *compact fluorescent bulb* -- the *LEDs* are coming.

Whatever is killing *bees* in the **US** is still a mystery and it's getting worse; "*no honeybees equals no fruit and vegetables*" -- possible reasons range from *global warming* to *cell-phone towers* ....

*How surge in plankton may be the saviour of mankind* -- "*Tons of powdered iron will be poured into the **Pacific** to induce the growth of [plankton] blooms big enough to be seen from space*" - the first *planet-scale* attack on *carbon emissions*.

2007 May 06

- 400 experts met at the **IPCC** third session in *Bangkok* to prepare a report on *climate change counter-measures*. **China, India, Brazil** insist "*If the countries with high per capita emissions do not reduce their emissions significantly, it will be difficult to make substantial global progress ...*". The theme of the **IPCC** third session report was *Beating global warming need not cost the earth* -- "*keeping the rise in*



temperatures to within 2 degrees Celsius would cost only 0.12 percent of annual gross domestic product". The **Arctic's ice cover** is retreating more rapidly than estimated by any of the **18 computer models** used by the **IPCC** in preparing its 2007 assessments.

**Prince Charles** says that tackling **climate change** should be mounted like war against **Nazis** -- "*The crisis of climate change is far too urgent and discussion simply isn't enough.*" [More important even than a 'war on terror' perhaps.]

The **House Intelligence Committee** wants the House to request a **National Intelligence Estimate** on **climate change**. It's bad news for **US environmental satellites** -- "*budget cuts will mean that some existing satellites won't be replaced ... and some other planned satellite launches have been canceled.*" [Reign of Bush Fish and Wildlife Official Ends in Disgrace](#) -- [On 30 Oct 2006, **Public Daily Brief** said "*Julie MacDonald is an idiot.*" Say no more.]

**Bacteria** have been identified that can provide relatively quick **bioremediation in situ** to areas contaminated with highly toxic **PCBs**. [This is important, but equally important is the general approach -- bacteria working at a **molecular** level -- for other difficult problems such as the fixing of greenhouse gases.]

2007 Apr 29

↓ A rocket fuel chemical has been found in the **US food and water supply**; "*at sites in more than 25 states, **perchlorate** had leaked into the drinking water and soil. About 65% ... was attributed to the **DoD** and to **NASA**.*"

**Texaco / Chevron** still refuses to pay for the cleanup of billions of gallons of **toxic sludge** it intentionally dumped in **Ecuador** in pristine **rainforest** to cut costs.

The **Democrats** have owned the Environment for decades and all presidential contenders espoused broad agreement on a range of issues during the week, but lack of debate means none of the candidates have needed to display genuine **insight**. [Mercury globes it ain't.]

A new report "*Restoring America's Wildlife Legacy 2007*" details the nationwide impact of **funding shortfalls** and illustrates the deteriorating conditions at **national wildlife refuges**.

A group of **UK** scientists say of "*The Great Global Warming Swindle*" -- an anti-**Gore** film -- "*free speech does not extend to misleading the public by making factually inaccurate statements*".

Director of the **Trudeau Center for Peace and Conflict Studies** notes the **UN Security Council** now recognizes **Climate Change** as a **global security issue** -- [Terror in the Weather Forecast](#).

**Biodiesel** may worsen **global warming** relative to **petroleum diesel** -- "about two-thirds of greenhouse gas emissions from rapeseed biodiesel occur during the **farming**". [Again ... the **total** environmental impacts from cradle to grave must be used in considering and comparing processes.]

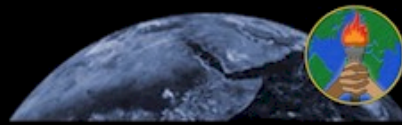
2007 Apr 22

↓ A new **Stanford** study says **ethanol**-based fuels could be damaging to human health - - "*there would likely be an increase in the number of **respiratory-related deaths** and hospitalizations.*"

More details on the **Norwegian "Doomsday Vault"** that will store Earth's **seed diversity**; "*Many countries today are sitting there watching these seed collections die.*"-- [Global Effort to Save Endangered Crops Gets \\$37.5 Million Infusion](#).

An international **cities** conference in **Africa** concludes that **large** can be **smart** -- "*Large cities are the source of their problems and they are the source of the solutions to their problems.*"

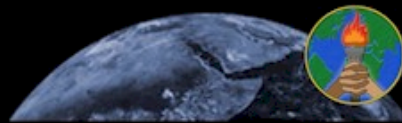
The 'gold rush' for **fine timbers** around the world, particularly **wood flooring**, is destroying endangered habitat at the hands of **illegal (or destructive) logging** -- "*shoppers are unwittingly playing a part in the destruction of one of the world's last*



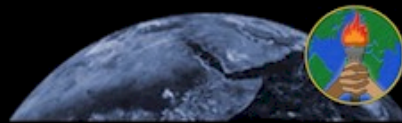
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	<p><i>great wildlife habitats</i>".</p> <p>The number of dead <i>seals</i> on <b>Kazakhstan's Caspian</b> coast has reached 435 - these deaths are not the only indication that the Caspian has been destroyed by human activity.</p>
2007 Apr 15	<p>↓ The <b>EPA</b> has relaxed air pollution rules for <b>US ethanol</b> producers -- the EPA is now an agent of a political <i>oil-substitution</i> policy, not <i>emission reduction</i>. [What is wrong with this picture?] The first <b>US Renewable Fuel Standard</b> has been promulgated -- "<i>the RFS program requires American refiners, blenders, and importers to use a minimum volume of renewable fuel each year between 2007 and 2012.</i>"</p> <p>Drug levels seeping into <b>Lake Michigan</b> are increasing -- "<i>the fish are constantly exposed to hormones.</i>" A study shows retired <i>cell phones</i> are growing into a mountain of a <i>hazardous waste; lead, nickel, antimony, zinc, copper ...</i> and more.</p> <p>A number of retired <b>US generals</b> have urged appreciation of <i>climate change</i> at a strategic level -- "<i>there will be conflicts over water resources, as well as increased instability resulting from rising sea levels and global warming-related refugees.</i>"</p> <p>Symbolically important, and perhaps of practical value, the <b>UN Security Council</b> is about to hold its first discussion of <i>Climate Change</i> as a <i>global security issue</i>.</p> <p>In the outlying jungles of <b>Malaysia</b>, <i>timber-men</i> are <i>poisoning farmers' crops</i> to get them to leave the area -- the big money in tropical forestry attracts <i>criminals</i>.</p> <p><b>Friends of the Earth International</b> calls on the <b>World Bank</b> to halt funding for projects contributing to <i>climate change</i> -- <a href="#">World Bank Still Fuelling Climate Change</a>.</p>
2007 Apr 08	<p>↓ The <b>IPCC regional impact predictions</b> are dire but the <b>US</b> excised "severe economic damage" from the <i>North America</i> forecast -- <a href="#">Bleakest warning issued on climate</a>. On climate change initiatives, <b>California</b> Governor <b>Schwarzenegger</b> says the <b>US</b> response is "embarrassing" and "<i>we don't need Washington</i>". There has been no reversal of the rapid decline in <i>bee</i> populations in the <b>US</b>; the start of a significant <i>food crisis</i> -- "<i>40% of my 2,000 colonies are dead ... the greatest winter colony mortality in 30 years</i>". [Bees pollinate most food crops.] <b>Lake Superior</b> is <i>warming</i> quite quickly -- "<i>The lake's 'summer season' is now beginning about two weeks earlier than it did 27 years ago.</i>" Scientist from <b>NASA</b>, <b>NOAA</b> and elsewhere say the <b>US south-west</b> may return to "<i>dust bowl</i>" conditions.</p> <p>The <b>Australian Treasury</b>, unused to any public comment, says "<i>policy on water and climate change would have been far superior had the department's views been more influential.</i>" [Bureaucrat-speak for "We told you so".]</p> <p>All the attention to <i>carbon-dioxide</i> should not divert attention from <i>sulphur-dioxide</i>, the cause of <i>acid rain</i>, which is killing everything from the pyramids of Giza to the oceans -- <a href="#">Acidic oceans threatening sea life, UN panel says</a>.</p> <p>Former next <b>US</b> president <b>Al Gore</b> has challenged <i>systems designers</i> who deal with the <i>presuppositions</i> coded into devices to get with the program -- "<i>Gore challenged designers to develop system architectures that have at aim for efficiency and conservation from the start.</i>"</p> <p>Further nails in the coffin of <i>palm oil</i> as a "biofuel" -- "<i>As rain forests are burned out to clear large tracts of land to plant palm trees, the burning releases enormous CO<sub>2</sub> emissions ...</i>"</p> <p><b>Poorer nations</b> will bear the brunt of ill effects of <i>global warming</i> -- climate change is now a locomotive, <i>slowable</i> but not <i>stoppable</i> in the short term-- even more urgent efforts must now be made towards <b>ADAPTATION</b>.</p>
2007 Apr 01	<p>↓ <b>Australia</b> has offered to help curb <i>illegal logging</i> in <b>Indonesia</b> -- "<i>satellite imagery would be offered to help partner countries curb illegal logging.</i>"</p> <p>A good brief factual tutorial on <i>greenhouse gas levels</i> -- <a href="#">Carbon Dioxide and the</a></p>

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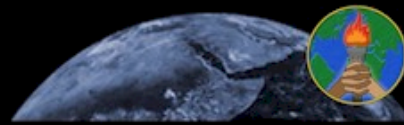
	<p><b>Greenhouse Effect.</b> An example of the rabid attacks on the <b>Gore climate</b> position -- "Everything that is wrong with this world is embodied in his porcine hulk."; <b>Malthus = Hitler = Gore -- The New Environmentalist Eugenics: Al Gore's Green Genocide.</b></p>
<p>2007 Mar 26</p>	<p>↓ <b>Antarctic melting</b> may be speeding up -- "I feel that we're getting uncomfortably close to <b>threshold</b>" says an Australian Marine and Atmospheric Research scientist. Separately, it is feared melting in the <b>Arctic Sea</b> may trigger a <b>climate change cascade</b>. [It's not just <i>inexorable change</i> that is the threat; it's the possibility of suddenly triggering a rapid and <u>catastrophic avalanche of changes</u>.]  A former <b>World Bank</b> chief economist says affluent countries could [should] pay poorer nations to keep <b>forests</b> -- "In the short term, up to \$15 billion extra a year should be set aside by richer nations to preserve forests ..."  Indicating that the same message is now reaching every corner of the world, a <b>Clean Energy</b> exhibition was held in the <b>Uzbek</b> capital.  With impeccable timing, the <b>EPA</b> is now being starved to death by <b>budget cuts</b>.  <b>Congress</b> sees more evidence that the <b>White House</b> "tampered" with <b>climate data</b> -- the administration "made about 300 edits to the reports, <u>downplaying scientific certainty about the effects of climate change and minimizing the role of industry</u>".  Former <b>CIA</b> director, John <b>Deutch</b>, in a report to the <b>Trilateral Commission</b> says the U.S. adopt a <b>carbon emission control</b> policy.</p>
<p>2007 Mar 19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior <b>UK</b> scientists advise <b>accuracy</b> and <b>moderation</b> in <b>climate warning</b> discussion; else the climate skeptics may ultimately win public opinion.  The <b>Kyoto</b> concession that excluded "developing economies" such as <b>China</b> and <b>India</b> from <b>emission reductions</b> now seems short-sighted.  <b>Thailand</b> is considering declaring an emergency over its <b>smoke haze</b> problem -- air quality in three provinces double the hazardous level is caused by farmers <b>clearing land</b>. Research in <b>China</b> shows that <b>air pollution</b> inhibits <b>rainfall</b> -- "on the haziest days, rainfall can be reduced by half."  According to one review, the <b>Prius</b> outdoes the <b>Hummer</b> in <b>environmental damage</b>, when all inputs (such as nickel batteries) are taken into account -- when upstream and downstream impacts are included -- <i>all</i> INPUTS and <i>all</i> OUTPUTS -- "green" ain't always green.  The <b>Canadian</b> government contributes \$100,000 to a <b>microalgae CO<sub>2</sub></b> conversion demonstration project.  Energy is never free -- "An all-out development of <b>biofuel</b> crops in ecologically sensitive <b>southwestern China</b> will almost certainly wreak havoc on the environment.  The <b>UK</b> proposes "bold" <b>climate-change</b> legislation -- "the draft climate change bill would be the first legislation in an industrialized country to set such long-range goals".  Experts warn that <b>global warming</b> brings increased risk of <b>megafires</b> -- "we're looking at least 100% increase in bushfire risk, and regionally substantially more than that." [In <b>Australia</b>, and elsewhere.]</li> </ul>
<p>2007 Mar 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientists in <b>China</b> say <b>air pollution</b> is inhibiting <b>rainfall</b> -- "on the haziest days, rainfall can be reduced by <u>half</u>." Elsewhere, scientists say that <b>aerosols (nanoparticulates)</b> produced by <b>coal-fired</b> processes around the <b>Pacific</b> [China] are, like <b>CO<sub>2</sub></b>, bad for the atmosphere and may be contributing to increasing intensity in Pacific <b>storms</b>. If more examples were necessary ... the effects of <b>global warming</b> have been observed on the ice-cap of <b>Mount Everest</b>.  The <b>EU</b> says it has challenged the world to match its <b>climate change</b> mitigation plan which includes a 20% <b>emission</b> reduction target -- "we can say to the rest of the world, <b>Europe is taking the lead. You should join us fighting climate change.</b>"  Three <b>UN</b> agencies and 16 corporations such as <b>HP, Philips</b> have now teamed to</li> </ul>



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2007 Mar 05	<p><i>"harmonize approaches to electronic waste around the world".</i></p> <p>↓ Another major glacier -- <b>Gangotri Glacier</b> in <b>India</b> -- is shown to be shrinking rapidly (in glacial terms) threatening downstream populations with future lack of melt <b>water</b>.</p> <p>Some steps are being taken but most dead electronic equipment still ends up as <b>eWaste</b> in <b>landfills</b> or is shipped offshore to <b>pollute the environment</b> in <b>poor countries</b>. <i>Technology Review</i> from MIT discusses uses of <b>methane</b> which is second only to CO2 as a problematic greenhouse gas and at present is often allowed to escape-- <a href="#">A Practical Use for Waste Methane</a>. The new field of "<i>computational chemistry</i>" has designed a molecule to crack <b>fluorocarbons</b> and prevent the "<b>ozone hole</b>" effect.</p> <p>The UN Secretary-General says <b>climate change</b> is as dangerous as war -- "<i>the danger posed by war to all of humanity ... is at least matched by the climate crisis and global warming.</i>" Expert scientists tell the UN that <u>tens of billions</u> are needed to combat <b>global warming</b> -- the challenge "to which civilization must rise" involves <b>mitigation</b> and <b>adaptation</b> and is the largest challenge in human history. "<i>Two starkly different futures diverge from this time forward.</i>" says a UN-sponsored <b>expert group</b>.</p> <p><b>Brazilian</b> police arrested 18 people, including <b>environmental protection agents</b>, accused of allowing <b>illegal logging</b> in the <b>Amazon</b> rain forest. <b>Kenyan</b> Nobelist urges <b>environmental conservation</b> be not forgotten for the long-term common good. Former Next US President <b>Al Gore</b> will speak at the <b>Sustainable Operations Summit</b> -- the invitation-only event will bring together leaders from the nation's largest corporations, cities and states, universities, school districts and healthcare organizations. Although there are many life-and-death spending priorities in <b>Africa</b>, a The <b>Inuit</b> of northern <b>Canada</b> tell the 34-nation <b>Inter-American Commission on Human Rights</b> that <b>US carbon emissions</b> have violated their <b>basic human rights</b>.</p> <p>The governors of <b>Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon</b> and <b>Washington</b> state say they will develop regional targets related to <b>climate change</b>.</p>
2007 Feb 26	<p>↓ <b>New Zealand's</b> Prime Minister "implored" <b>Japan</b> to move a damaged <b>whaling vessel</b> from pristine <b>Antarctic</b> water before it causes damage -- Japan, the country they gave <b>Pearl Harbor</b>, unforgivable <b>war-crimes</b>, criminal lies about "scientific" motives in <b>whaling</b>, now shows it is <b>callous environmental vandal</b>.</p> <p>In 30 years <b>Thailand</b> has turned <b>Bangkok</b> from an icon of <b>smog</b> into a model for Asia's pollution-choked capitals, <b>Beijing, Jakarta, New Delhi, Shanghai</b>.</p> <p>Nine <b>US</b> states are suing the <b>EPA</b> over <b>mercury</b> emissions -- "<i>the states contend a rule issued by the EPA in December does not comply with the federal Clean Air Act.</i>" <b>Australia</b> plans to phase out <b>incandescent light bulbs</b> over the next three years to save energy. [<u>But with no regard to up/down-stream impacts.</u>] Converting to <b>low-power light globes</b> will save electricity but will disperse vast quantities of <b>neurotoxic mercury</b> when they are disposed of. [<i>Ecology</i> is a science of <u>inputs</u> and <u>outputs</u>.]</p> <p><b>EU</b> officials agreed to cut <b>carbon dioxide</b> emissions 20% by 2020 -- "<i>But the EU's 27 nations are still to agree what each should do to meet a 20% target for the entire bloc ...</i>"</p> <p>Some observers think the <b>US</b> is nearing the tipping point on <b>global warming</b> -- "<i>The White House has recently been on the defensive ...</i>"</p>
2007 Feb 19	<p>↓ Climate scientists say that only a better understanding of <b>clouds</b> will give better models of <b>climate change</b> -- "... <i>it is becoming increasingly important to include the effects of aerosols on clouds ...</i>" [Aerosols are small, often nano-sized, particulates suspended in the atmosphere.] One of the other major <b>unknowns</b> is the <b>over-turning of vast ocean water masses</b>. China says that <b>rising sea levels</b> induced by global warming present "<b>unimaginable challenges</b>"-- "<i>The speed is astonishing,</i>" said Lu</p>

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Xuedu, the deputy director of the environmental division of the *Ministry of Science and Technology*. The *glacier meltdown* is accelerating -- "the disappearance of glaciers will not only contribute to *rising sea levels*, but will also dramatically affect the millions of people who depend on them for *water*." Concentrations of *carbon dioxide*, the main greenhouse gas, has risen to 390 ppm from 388 a year ago.

Proving *wind energy* has come of age ... a cut-throat business battle between a **French** energy giant and **India's** largest wind power firm for a **German** wind energy company. A very green, perhaps prophetic, view of the future with considerations such as "Our small towns are waiting to be reinhabited" -- [Ten Ways to Prepare for the Post-Oil Society](#)

UNEP says the world needs tougher *toxic* trade rules -- the *Basel Convention* needs broadening and to get some teeth.

A second US court finds the **US Department of Agriculture** acted improperly in advancing certain **Monsanto genetically altered crops**. A *mystery disease* has been reported among *bees*, killing entire hives and putting a range of *crops* at risk. [Perhaps bees are the "canary in the coalmine".]

It's time to begin *adapting to climate change* -- *Christian Science Monitor* says "We spend all this effort trying to understand climate dynamics, but the major variables are the interactions within society and between society and climate."

Will the *Mega-Cities* collapse? -- **Worldwatch Institute** report: 50% of the world's population will be living in urban areas this year - cities like **Lagos, Nairobi, Dhaka** increasingly approach collapse.

2007 Feb 12

- A Texas **Baptist** Group is fighting the fast-tracking 18 new *coal-fired power stations* -- "This is cutting edge stuff for Baptists - even moderate Baptists." [Will the big issues assume more of a *moral values* component?]

The **US** will help **Vietnam** clean up some **Agent Orange** hotspots -- "millions more will be needed to pay for the damage caused by *dioxin* in Vietnam."

Sir Richard **Branson** and former Next President **Al Gore** announced a *prize* for the most innovative way of reducing *greenhouse gases* in the atmosphere -- "the Earth cannot wait 60 years."

The **Kyoto Protocol** is important but is seen as merely an *interim* measure, merely buying the planet 20 years -- "**South Africa, China and India** are sitting on *coal reserves* that could send all the West's efforts to combat climate change up in smoke."

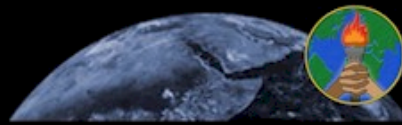
The UN Environment Programme (**UNEP**) will work with **Google-Earth** and others to produce demonstrative before-and-after images of *climate change*.

**UK** Prime Minister **Blair's** main idea for action on *climate change* is cooperative development of *carbon sequestration*, perhaps the only emergency action that is possible. French petro-giant **Total** and partners are starting a major *carbon sequestration* project may be a do-or-die for the technology.

The effects of " *censorship*" on *climate science* by the **Bush** administration are said to linger but some agencies are trying to redress the past -- "This revised policy should resolve most or all of the recent complaints by some **NOAA** scientists." The **US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee** attacks the **EPA** on a range of issues, saying it has gone "too long without meaningful oversight".

Higher than usual *rainfall* has caused an outbreak of *dengue* fever affecting more than 15,000 people in **Brazil** and neighboring areas. [The new weather patterns of climate change will bring new disease patterns.]

**China's** legacy to the world: cheap white-goods and biblical *pollution* -- [China's Filthiest Export](#) . China so far declines to accept *mandatory emissions* caps but says *developed countries* can do more.



2007 Feb 05

The EU is promulgating a range of offences for "**green crimes**" -- "*The heaviest sentence - at least 5 to 10 years of jail - will apply to "green crimes" committed intentionally that kill or seriously injure people.*" The **vehicle** industry in **Europe** is required to produce an 18% cut in **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** -- "*Transport is the only sector in Europe that has shown dramatic increases in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the last 15 years.*" French President Jacques **Chirac** says the Earth needs a **UN environment organization**.

- The **UN IPCC** climate panel issued a much-awaited report saying **global warming** is man-made -- the consensus is that **human activity**, rather than **normal climatic rhythms**, is causing **global warming**. This fourth in a series of international reports reflects better science and more-precise models; it finds "many, many smoking guns". The **UK Environment Minister** says "*The debate over the science of climate change is well and truly over...*"; also all secondary schools in the UK will now see **Al Gore's** film *An Inconvenient Truth*. Former Next President **Al Gore**, a prophet in other lands if not his own, has been nominated for the **Nobel Peace Prize**.

The consensus is that "climate change could be far worse than previously thought". Plausible climate scenarios include famine in China and India. **Indonesia** may lose 2,000 (mostly uninhabited) islands to **climate change** -- "*We are still in a better position. Island countries like **Saint Lucia, Fiji** and the **Bahamas** would likely disappear.*" Climate talk dominated the **Canadian** Parliament -- "*Canada's federal politicians signaled a political climate shift yesterday...*". The 10 main candidates in **France's** upcoming presidential election (except far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen) have signed a "**Green Charter**". Certainly **climate change** will be bad -- the only chance of a Future beyond is to strive now not towards "reduction" but towards **CLIMATE NEUTRAL** activity -- processes that in aggregate have zero greenhouse effect.

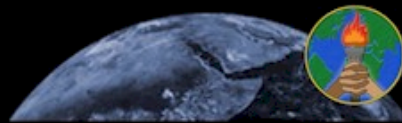
The **American Enterprise Institute** is using some of the \$1.6M it has received from **ExxonMobil** to blunt the certainty of the IPCC report. But some industrialists in the **US** are waking up to **global warming** -- "*If you're not at the table when these negotiations are going on, you're going to be on the menu*". A **US** Congressional committee says it is discovering the **Bush** administration engaged in systematic disinformation on **climate change**. A survey shows 13% of **Americans** have never heard of **global warming** -- people in **Latin America** were most worried while **US** citizens were least concerned with just 42% rating global warming "very serious".

For some the IPCC report is conservative. It is at odds with recent and unexpected **ice-sheet collapses** -- imminent sea level rise may be feet not inches. Also, the cycle of global warming now triggered could last "more than a millennium". And **clouds are still a puzzle** -- "global warming" may lead to a rapid cloud build-up and -- paradoxically -- a global "**nuclear winter**".

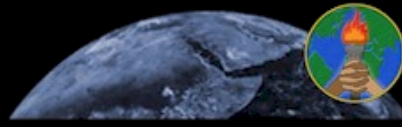
The green credentials of **palm oil** disappear when the **slash-and-burn** of **rain forests** to produce it is considered. [Ecology is a whole-process analysis.] High **DDT** levels have been found off the **California** coast -- the areas "*still contain high levels of banned DDT decades after a manufacturer dumped tons of the pesticide into sewers ...*"

2007 Jan 29

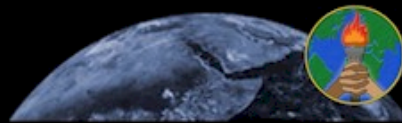
- A Chinese report, prepared by academics and government experts, ranked the country 100th out of 118 countries surveyed for responses to climate change. **Reuters** listed the [World's 10 most polluted places](#). The **Australian** Prime Minister has merged several functions into a new Cabinet level ministry of **Environment and Water Resources**. The fourth report of the **UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, due for release in days, is tipped to forecast "wrenching change" -- the consensus of



2007 Jan 22	<p>2,500 scientists will say <b>greenhouse gases</b> are at highest levels for 650,000 years,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Telegraph</i> [UK] published a tutorial on <b>carbon credits</b> systems. The recriminations for the colonial period strike another uncomfortable truth with <b>Nigerian</b> President <b>Obasanjo</b> attributing many of Africa's environmental problems to activities of other nations, past and present -- "<i>Many African nations ... suffered debilitating implications due to the activities of other nations.</i>"</li> </ul> <p><b>China's</b> century of development in 30 years has cost a <b>century or more of environmental damage</b>.</p> <p>An object lesson in the delicate complexity of the <b>biosphere</b> -- 50 million tons of mineral dust blown each year from <b>Bodélé Depression</b> near Lake Chad in <b>Africa</b> keeps the mineral-starved <b>Amazon</b> alive.</p> <p>The <b>EU</b> has made <b>climate change</b> central to its <b>foreign policy</b> -- "<i>We need to act because we see that more and more natural catastrophes are coming.</i>"</p> <p>"Will Al Gore Melt?" asks the <i>National Center for Policy Analysis</i> - debate is now joined between the side of <b>Action</b> spear-headed by the former Next President <b>Al Gore</b> and the side of <b>Reaction</b> led by business interests. New Speaker <b>Pelosi</b> seeks to form a <b>global warming</b> committee -- "<i>I promise to do everything in my power to achieve energy independence ... and to stop global warming.</i>"</p> <p>The "<b>Doomsday Clock</b>" maintained by decades by the <i>Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists</i> has advanced the clock two minutes to 23:55 -- it's later than some think.</p>
2007 Jan 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2006 was <b>warmest</b> on record for the US -- "<i>That's 2.2 degrees warmer than average and 0.07 degree warmer than 1998, the previous warmest year on record.</i>"</li> </ul> <p>"... the world's population discards 20 to 50 million tons of <b>electrical and electronic waste</b> each year ...</p>
2007 Jan 08	<p>↓ "Hot Spots" of <b>mercury</b> pollution have been identified in US and Canada -- "places where the <b>neurotoxin</b> has accumulated in fish and wildlife to such an extent that it could harm human health and local <b>ecosystems</b>." In <b>China</b>, <b>Fujian</b> villagers have protested industrial <b>pollution</b> of their lands by blocking roads.</p> <p>Joining many similar reports from around the world, the melting of <b>Tibetan glaciers</b> is accelerating -- this will eventually (perhaps soon) cause disastrous <b>water shortages</b> in <b>India</b> and <b>Pakistan</b> whose great rivers are fed by these glaciers. Thus hath the Mighty fallen ... by climate: the twilight of the <b>Tang dynasty</b> [618-907ad] began in 751, when the emperor's army was defeated by <b>Arabs</b> but <b>climate change</b> is thought to have finished the demise. "Energy giant <b>ExxonMobil</b> borrowed tactics from the <b>tobacco</b> industry to raise <b>doubt</b> about <b>climate change</b>..."</p>
2007 Jan 01	<p>↓ A huge <b>ice shelf</b> breaks has broken free in <b>Canada's</b> far north -- "Ice shelves in Canada's far north have decreased in size by as much as 90% since 1906."</p> <p>Reflecting rapid (19<sup>th</sup> century style) industrialization, <b>Asian</b> cities are the now most polluted worldwide -- "The metropolitan centres of this continent have pollution levels that are <b>five times higher</b> than those of <b>Paris, London</b> and <b>New York</b>."</p> <p>The <b>US Army's</b> expanded <b>biodefense</b> laboratory which hosts the world's deadliest organisms is itself not without <b>risk</b> and has alarmed environmentalists.</p>
2006 Dec 25	<p>↓ <b>Bears</b> in Europe have been discovered not sleeping through the Winter ... probably due to <b>global warming</b>. The 'Happy Feet' <b>Rockhopper penguins</b> have little to sing about ... "Their number in the <b>Falkland Islands</b> has tumbled 30 percent in just five years." Thirteen US states are suing the <b>EPA</b> over its neglect of <b>soot emissions</b> -- "... one more example of the federal government ignoring sound science in establishing environmental policy and watering down safeguards...." Separately, a <b>US Appeals Court</b> says the <b>EPA</b> must include a general responsibility for <b>clean air</b> in its functions. The US government has commenced a study of <b>contaminated</b> sites seeking effective methods -- subsurface contamination exists at 7,000 US sites</p>



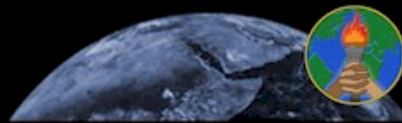
2006 Dec 18	<p>involving 1.7Trillion gallons of contaminated <i>water</i>, 1.4B ft3 of contaminated <i>soil</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Climatologists</i> have concluded that extreme <i>drought</i> on several continents and other <i>extreme weather</i> events can only one unsettling description -- "<i>radical variability</i>". A commentator reminder a new generation that the ultimate "<i>climate change</i>" would be a regional <i>nuclear</i> exchange that would bring years of "<i>nuclear winter</i>". The 20 million year old <i>river dolphin</i>, one of the world's oldest species, has been declared <i>extinct</i> in <b>China</b>. The most complex and far-reaching regulations anywhere, governing the handling of 30,000 <i>chemicals</i>, has been promulgated in the <b>EU</b>. The <i>Dead Sea</i> will disappear in 50 years if current trends persist -- cooperation between enemies will be necessary to save it.</li> </ul>
2006 Dec 11	<p>↓ Researchers have shown <b>India's rice</b> harvest has been curtailed as much as 11% by <i>air pollution</i>; but India says it is even more worried about <i>water</i>. <b>Peru</b> is signing so many contracts with multinational oil companies that half the rainforest of the Peruvian <i>Amazon</i> is now covered with oil leases. <b>Uruguay</b> says will not negotiate a <i>paper mill</i> dispute with <b>Argentina</b> until the border is unblocked -- "Uruguay failed to abide by a treaty calling for prior consultation and mutual agreement between the two countries on any action that could affect the border river."</p>
2006 Dec 04	<p>↓ <b>China</b> is now quite candid: "China is dangerously near a crisis. The country's enormous <i>environmental debt</i> will have to be paid one way or another." A Chinese <i>airline</i> has calculated that it takes a liter of fuel to flush the toilet at 30,000 feet and is urging passengers to go to the bathroom before they board. <i>Air pollution</i> is now a foreign affairs issue in southeast Asia; the <i>First Governmental Meeting on Urban Air Quality Management in Asia</i> will be held on 13 to 15 December 2006.</p> <p>Many cities in the <i>Great Lakes</i> region have antiquated systems for collecting and treating sewage and regularly release <i>untreated sewage</i> into local waterways." <i>Livestock</i> – heavy producers of <i>methane</i>-- are one of the most significant contributors to today's most serious environmental problems – "Urgent action is required to remedy the situation." Australian research finds <i>carbon dioxide</i> emissions have doubled since the 1990s -- "To have four years in a row of above-average carbon dioxide growth is unprecedented."</p> <p>The proponent of "<i>Gaia</i>" says only 80% of us are doomed -- "A hot Earth couldn't support much over 500 million."</p>
2006 Nov 27	<p>↓ Vast quantities of <i>discarded computer equipment</i> is ending up in <i>Africa</i> and developing nations elsewhere creating a dangerous mountain of <i>toxic "e-waste"</i> -- "the reporting we have at the moment is really just the tip of an iceberg."</p> <p>In a qualitative shift, the <b>EPA</b> will now regulate <i>nanotech</i> substances that enter the environment, such as silver-based household germicidal materials.</p> <p>A <i>chemical plant explosion</i> in <i>Massachusetts</i> is a reminder that cause (accident or terrorist) can be irrelevant to the hazard -- "It looks like a war zone ... It's devastating."</p> <p>For yet unclear reasons, the <b>EPA</b> has closed libraries, and <i>trashed unique research documents without notice to either the public or affected scientists</i>. [Opinion: If true, nothing short of criminal prosecution seems indicated.]</p> <p>Reducing <i>Methane</i>, is one of several greenhouse gases but reducing methane will see a quicker response – it has an atmospheric lifetime of about eight years, whereas <i>carbon dioxide</i> can last 100 years.</p> <p>"<i>The Earth is shrinking</i>" -- "although <i>population</i> growth has been curbed in many regions, the area of <i>habitable land</i> is decreasing at an increasing rate."</p>
2006 Nov 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given <i>education</i> construction is the largest building sector in the <b>US</b> (and elsewhere), a few greener rules there could make a big bottom-line difference on <i>energy</i> use. Scientists call for a ban on a destructive practice -- "Scientific evidence has been</li> </ul>



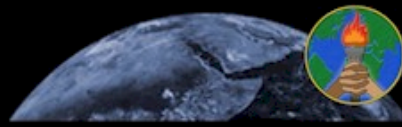
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	<p>mounting that <i>deep-sea bottom trawling</i> ... can do long-lasting damage to the ecosystems."</p> <p>The <b>American National Academy of Sciences</b> finds <i>deforestation</i> stabilized or reversed in <b>Vietnam, Spain, India</b>; <i>worsening</i> in <b>Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria, Philippines</b>.</p> <p>Nature fights back -- elephants in north-east <b>India</b> facing increasing <i>human encroachment</i> have gained a taste for rice beer and are going berserk on drunken rampages, killing villagers.</p>
2006 Nov 13	<p>↓ The West wants spending from the global [Climate Change] <b>Adaptation Fund</b> to be administered by <b>GEF</b> (Global Environment Facility); affected developing nations want more control.</p> <p>"Tilting at windfarms": a critic of the recent Stern Report says "wrong problem, wrong solution" and offers intelligent counter-arguments.</p> <p>Some experts want an urgent comprehensive review of the many real and present dangers from <i>chemicals</i> in the environment that are not yet widely known to be short-term and long-term hazards. A report says all children born in industrialized nations from 1960-80 are likely to have IQ impaired by environmental <i>chemicals</i>. Geochronology suggests the present drought over most of the driest continent, <b>Australia</b>, is a "1,000 year" <i>drought</i> -- whether this is an instance of global warming or not, it's very serious. Models also show that Australia, is set to get drier with <i>rainfall</i> possibly dropping 40% by 2070.</p> <p><b>China</b> will surpass the <b>US</b> in 2009, nearly a decade ahead of previous predictions, as the biggest emitter <i>CO2</i>.</p>
2006 Nov 06	<p>↓ A NZ Air Force Orion crew has reported <i>ice-bergs</i> further north than usual -- "We were surprised by the number of them and by how far north they were."</p> <p>The atmospheric concentration of <i>carbon dioxide</i> rose by another 0.5% in 2005. "we will need more drastic measures than are in the <i>Kyoto Protocol</i> today." UK Prime Minister <b>Blair</b> fully supports the report on <i>Climate Change</i> by Sir Nicholas Stern - We must pay now to avoid climate disaster; "Put it another way, for every £1 spent now, we save £5 in the future." Former V-P, Al Gore, will advise the UK government on Climate Change issues. But a <b>Cato Institute</b> senior fellow says the <i>Stern Report</i> "flies in the face of most studies on the subject."</p> <p>The <b>UK</b> Foreign Secretary visiting <b>India</b> says India must embrace a <b>low-carbon economy</b>: "The very process which is making people's lives better across the world today is, at the same time, destroying their future." The <b>WWF</b> says <b>India</b> ranks third, next only to the <b>US</b> and <b>China</b>, in the rate it is turning its natural <i>resources</i> into <i>wastes</i>.</p> <p>A new study published in <i>Science</i> says common <i>ocean species</i> will be drastically depleted by 2048 at current catch (and waste) rates -- "Our children will see a <i>world without seafood</i> if we don't change things."</p>
2006 Oct 30	<p>↓ The <b>World Wild-life Fund</b> says humans are stripping nature at an unprecedented rate and will need two planets' worth of natural resources every year by 2050 on current trends.</p> <p>In <b>Malaysia</b>, <i>floods</i> wrought by <i>climate change</i> have hurt <i>rice</i> production in the country's rice bowl. <b>Indonesia</b> is getting <b>Russian</b> help to curb annual <i>smoke haze</i> that causes widespread health problems and costing economies as much as \$9B -- it is caused by <i>jungle fires</i> started by <i>illegal loggers</i> and small farmers. This year's <i>Antarctic ozone hole</i> is the largest on record, and several key <i>CFC</i> substitutes are contributing to <i>greenhouse global warming</i>.</p> <p>Some rare good news -- the <b>Brazilian</b> government's efforts are slowing <i>deforestation</i> of the <i>Amazon</i> forests.</p>

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2006 Oct 23	<p>↓ <b>UK</b> Prime Minister Blair warned about climate change -- "<i>We have a window of only 10-15 years to take the steps we need to avoid crossing catastrophic tipping points.</i>" The <b>UN</b> warned that "millions of people in densely populated, low-lying, developing countries" such as <b>Bangladesh</b> and parts of <b>China, Indonesia</b> and <b>Vietnam</b> might be forced to move by rising sea levels as ice caps melt. Scientists have been able to show the link between human-induced <i>global warming</i> and the break-up of the <i>Larsen Ice Shelf</i>.</p> <p>The <b>UN</b> reports that the increasing number of "<i>dead zones</i>" in the world's oceans – large areas devoid of any living thing – is due to <i>algae</i> fed by human <i>pollution</i>; now the fasting growing economies and populations of <b>East Asia</b> are putting the region's marine ecosystem under increasing stress and increase the risk of new <i>dead zones</i>.</p>
2006 Oct 16	<p>↓ Four people each day in <b>Hong Kong</b> are dying of <i>smog</i> caused by industrial pollution from nearby <b>China</b> but the massive action necessary to improve conditions will take "a few more years".</p> <p>Member states of the <b>International Maritime Organisation</b> are flouting their own law in enforcing the ban on <i>tributyltin</i> marine paint that is deadly to marine life. "The <b>Punjab</b> is in the middle of a multidimensional ecological-disaster" – irresponsible use of <i>agro-chemicals</i> in the intensively-cropped Punjab is causing an epidemic of <i>birth defects</i> and other diseases.</p>
2006 Oct 09	<p>↓ A dangerous fire at a <i>hazardous waste</i> plant has sent a cloud of <i>chlorine</i> towards Raleigh NC, causing evacuation of 17,000 [A foretaste perhaps of how easily terrorist acts could cause the same disruption]. The world's top 20 <b>polluter</b> nations meeting in Mexico ended in an unusual level of agreement, but nothing else -- "While it will not cost the Earth to solve <i>climate change</i>, it will cost the Earth - literally and financially - if we don't". New research shows <i>extreme drought</i> could affect 30% of the world's land surface, up from the current 3%. A hint of things certainly to come – using RF chips, the UK starts to weigh and record <b>garbage</b> collected. Parasites from <i>fish farms</i> are killing as many as 95% of young wild salmon that migrate past them.</p>
2006 Oct 02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tsunami did some damage to the coral reefs off Aceh but not as much as done by <i>sediment</i> runoff caused by <i>deforestation</i> for settlement and illegal <i>logging</i>.</li> </ul>
2006 Sep 25	<p>↑ The <b>EPA</b> has cut the existing standard of 65 micrograms per m3 of maximum <i>soot</i> in the air to 35 micrograms per m3. Virgin's <i>Richard Branson</i> has matched the Bush administration's \$3B investment in <i>global warming</i> mitigation. A "revolutionary" project to reverse <b>Aral Sea</b> damage is said to be making progress.</p>
2006 Sep 18	<p>↓ The increased melting of Arctic ice due to <i>global warming</i> between 2004 and 2005 is "enormous".</p>
2006 Sep 11	<p>↓ <i>Methane</i>, a greenhouse gas, released as the <i>permafrost</i> melt may trigger an ever faster chain-reaction of <i>global warming</i>.</p>
2006 Sep 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>California</b> has passed the first US bill to cap man-made greenhouse gas emissions— a leading <b>Australian</b> scientist says that top researchers in climate change (and stem-cells) are leaving because the government is hearing only what it wants to hear.</li> </ul>
2006 Aug 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The halt in deterioration of the southern <i>ozone hole</i> indicates that concerted global efforts can have results — some sources claim breaks in <i>oil pipelines</i> due to corrosion is much more wide-spread than just a problem for BP's <b>Alaska</b> operation.</li> </ul>
2006 Aug 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An international conference identified <i>Mercury</i> as a pollutant of "global magnitude" — there were massive <i>oil spills</i> in the <b>Indian Ocean</b> and off the <b>Philippines</b> — <b>Chinese</b> demand was blamed for most illegal logging in old-growth <i>rainforests</i> in Asia — as the <i>Kyoto protocol</i> excludes <b>India</b> and <b>China</b> a more sensible scheme would be based on absolute emission-reduction — one-third of US National Parks</li> </ul>



	are threatened by pollution.
2006 Aug 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <i>sea floor</i> was suggested as another place to sequester <i>CO2</i> — the EPA reached an arrangement on the safe disposal of 200 tons of <i>mercury</i> from old motor vehicles..</li> </ul>
2006 Aug 07	<p>↓ Just one byproduct of China’s shining progress is a half-million tons of <i>sulphur dioxide</i> sent into the atmosphere each <i>week</i> — studies showed newly-perceived dangers of <i>nano-particle</i> pollutants, so small they pass through most filters — states are asking the EPA to disclose those toxic ingredients in <i>pesticides</i> which due to a legal nonsense are not presently listed on products — the <i>oceans</i> have been found to be teeming with orders of magnitude more unknown types of <i>bacteria</i> than once thought — FEMA’s post-Katrina trailer-homes seem to be an instance of "<i>sick building syndrome</i>" associated with out-gassing from modern building materials..</p>
2006 Jul 31	<p>↓ Some will disagree but a consensus says the only <i>global warming</i> skeptics now are financially motivated to take that position; the pesticide and nutrient rich Mississippi is again killing a wide area of the Gulf of Mexico; on some days, <b>China</b>’s pollution is now reaching California.</p>
2006 Jul 24	<p>↓ The catastrophic ceaseless clearing of the Amazon has been identified as a direct factor in global <i>Climate Change</i>. Worryingly, <b>NASA</b> took planet Earth off its mission statement.</p>
2006 Jul 17	<p>↓ The objective evidence for <i>climate warming</i> – irrespective of the possible cause -- is in: the first half of 2006 was 3°F to 4°F above the 20th century average.</p>
2006 Jul 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As oceans acidify and other effects of climate warming such as wild-fires are identified, the <b>Supreme Court</b> is considering whether the CO2 molecule is within the responsibility of the EPA.</li> </ul>
2006 Jul 03	<p>↓ The scientific consensus grows further that (a) climate change through global warming is real, and (b) to a lesser consensus, that CO2 and other greenhouse gases are directly responsible. Irrespective of the causation arguments, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and notched-up disaster preparedness (fires, storms, floods, droughts) are new burdens for all governments.</p>

Commencement of Service

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