



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署

PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE NEWS

Monday, 21 February 2005

UNEP and the Executive Director in the News

- E.A. Standard - UNEP Governing Council to meet in Nairobi
- Xinhua - UN agency to assist in achieving MDGs via environment protection
- VOA - UNEP to Focus on Sub-Saharan African Development
- Pakistan Daily News - Pak to co-chair UNEP governing council moot
- Bangkok Post - UNEP taken to task for criticism
- PANA - UNEP Ministerial Council to attack pollution
- Associated Press - Environment ministers, world officials to discuss efforts to cut poverty in Kenya conference
- Kerala News, India - Annan calls upon world community to adhere to Kyoto protocol:
- Tribune de Genève - Tsunami, global warming to top world environment ministers' agenda in Kenya
- Der Spiegel online - "Kyoto Won't Do Much"
- IPP Media (Guardian) - Ntagazwa hands over UNEP presidency today
- Daily Times (Pakistan) - Pak to co-chair UNEP governing council moot
- People's Daily - Chinese vice premier arrives in Nairobi for African visit, UNEP forum
- Jakarta Post - Witoelar runs for top UNEP post
- Panafrican News Agency (PANA) - HEADLINE: GLOBAL YOUTH FORUM MEETS IN NAIROBI
- ✂ Mondaq News alerts - United Kingdom: The Carbon Markets - Western Financial Opportunities From Western Pollutions
- Taipei Times - Environmental index puts Taiwan at bottom of the heap
- Klaus Töpfer und Jürgen Stark werden Honorarprofessoren an der Wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen Fakultät

Other Environmental News

- Reuters - Global Warming Could Worsen US Pollution - Report

Environmental News from the UNEP Regions

- ROAP
- ROA

Sally Ramage

United Kingdom: The Carbon Markets - Western Financial Opportunities From Western Pollutions

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Article by Sally Serena Ramage

Abstract

Evidence emerged linking the release of chlorofluorocarbons, halons and other chlorine based substances with the gradual destruction of the planet Earth's ozone layer. This layer located in the stratosphere but still well within the earth's atmosphere, is important because it filters sunlight and protects the earth from ultraviolet radiation. Loss of this atmosphere shield would have serious implications for human health, agriculture and fisheries productivity over a long period, and could leave future generations a legacy of irreversible harm. The major risk is from CO2 emissions linked with patterns of energy consumption in the developed industrial world.

The Paper describes the route of international agreements, regional regulations and country statutes passed since then to stem the degree of pollution, on pain of penalties and describes how the same western industrialised countries which caused the pollution are now set to reap vast financial and economic benefits from their own offences by creating a market for the pollutants and trading their excess pollutants for cash-poor and undeveloped countries levels of under-pollution, thus keeping the levels of pollutants at the same high levels by continuing to pollute whilst restraining under-developed countries from advancing because they have sold their right to industrialisation to the already industrialised countries.

The Paper concludes by envisaging the environmental, legal and economic scenario a decade from now and questions whether this securitization of western pollution is fair on the rest of the world.

Introduction

The twenty six elements of the United Nations environmental programme were established in 1972 at the Stockholm environmental matters Conference on Human Environment, to promote international co-operation and to recommend policies to co-ordinate environmental programmes alongside other UN Agencies such as the International Marine Organisation, International Labour Organisation, International Oceanographic Commission, International atomic Energy Agency and the International Monetary Fund.

The main effect of the environmental programme is to prevent, reduce and control environmental harm through monitoring of countries' activities so that there is sovereignty over natural resources and non-pollution and protection from hazardous waste of international water courses as this affects air pollution, vegetation and habitation.

The European Union

The EU with its twenty five member states has ratified environmental treaties and because it can issue regulations to its member states has passed the 1986 Unified European Act and the 1992 European Union Convention to ensure that its member states have defined environmental objectives to preserve, protect and improve the quality of its environment through tax and development measures.

In 1993 the EU passed the Regulation EEC/93/1836 which was an environmental management and auditing scheme for European industry, compelling member states to use the best technology available in order to cut pollution. The Council Directive 75/436 Euratom, imposed on the steel industry the international system of "polluter pays" and a regulator of the environmental finances called Financial Instrument for Environment, LIFE, which was formed by EEC/92/1973 to control pollution from motor vehicles, lead, industrial plants, waste incinerators, and air quality assessment and management. There are to date over 1000 pieces of domestic legislation in the world and these mention climate change as a motivation to enforce environmental laws internationally and domestically. The Kyoto Protocol to the Climate Convention was adopted in 1997 and made binding obligations to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Under this Protocol, developed countries agreed to reduce emissions to 5.2% below the 1990 levels in the period from 2008 to 2012. United States of America has refused to agree to the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and denies the problem of the ozone layer.

Directive 2000/25/EC in 2000 was to prohibit gas and pollution emissions by motor engines, reporting on sulphur content by 2003. But the 2003 reports were not sent in by France, Belgium, Austria, and Italy in 2003 and the European Commission issued them a written warning. In 2004, Directive 2004/35/EC laid down environmental liabilities for any pollution caused.