



# NDYS in Action, Newsletter

Natural Disaster Youth Summit Monthly News

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Vol # 30  
March 31, 2009

## The VOICE of YOUTH is NEEDED!

Editor: Daniel Paz,  
Salta, Argentina



Topics

**Disaster Reduction and Climate Change**

Tree felling caused severe drought to Afghanistan.

## Tree felling caused severe drought to Afghanistan

Illegal deforestation is a problem in Afghanistan, principally in Nangarhar province, east side. This province has lost 90% of its forests since 1989, and aridity increased, so did air pollution and it turned vulnerable to floods. In the 2006 year, the President, Mr Hamid Karzai banned tree-felling but these acts continue, sometimes companies are the responsible, sometimes common people, because they cut trees to warm up their homes or cook.

Flash floods cause several losses and human deaths every year. And the rate of dead people increase time by time. The most affected cities since the 2000 year started are Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar. Due to the longstanding drought in the country, many animals disappeared, such as snow leopard and the Asiatic black bear.



Deforestation took away more than 300,000 hectares since the 90's decade. Now Afghanistan does not have sufficient institutional means to ensure better forest management.

Source: [www.irinews.org](http://www.irinews.org)

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**Disaster Reduction and Climate Change**

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### Disaster Reduction and Climate Change

Regional Disaster Conference took place in Bangkok.



These children experienced hard times with the Nargis cyclone in 2008 which killed more than 140,000 people. These sad memories will stay forever in our and their minds.

The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) held the first session on 25 March in Bangkok in order to discuss a risk-reduction strategy, due to the fact that this region is the most vulnerable to natural disasters in the world, having the 42% of natural disasters occurring in there. More than 25 countries participated.

This kind of reunions will be common in the following years because more and more people and countries will start to feel the impact of global warming. In 2008, almost 250,000 people died by 321 disasters, according to the UN's International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) report. Also they reported that nine of the participating countries are in the top ten of most affected countries by natural disasters.

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### Disaster Reduction and Climate Change

When the Red Cross is broke.

## When the Red Cross is broke

Since a tidal wave displaced almost 3,000 people in the Volta region, eastern Ghana, The GRCS (Ghana Red Cross Society) realized, sadly, that they were broke because of mobilization of stuffs, salaries (u\$s 200,000 per month) and administration costs were too much. National funds decreased from u\$s700,000 per year in 2004 to u\$s100,000 in 2008. Contributions from businesses, NGOs and fundraising appeals make up the rest, but these sources are also drying up.

Secretary General of the GRCS, Andrews Frimpong said "We are down completely...it is very frustrating...As it stands now we can only take care of less than a thousand victims in the case of a disaster." Now the staff possesses only a few Wellington boots, 500 plastic sheets and 300 tents.



A Red Cross that cannot move its volunteers is something very frustrating. They are a vital factor in help operations.

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When the Red Cross is broke.

The Red Cross has 1,000 volunteers that help with projects. The GRCS was established by an act of parliament that mandates the government to support the funding of its operations. But Sepa Yankey, Ghana's Health Minister, which currently supervises the GRCS said that the government cannot do it all. Also he said "There are so many more pressing developmental issues confronting this country that we have little room to accommodate humanitarian issues."

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Topics

**Disaster Reduction and Climate Change**

The Zambezi river is causing troubles again.

## The zambezi river is causing troubles again



Many people are isolated from dry camps. UN agencies commute them to safe camps and deliver food and stuffs to remote communities.

Water from the Zambezi, Chobe and Kwando rivers increased rapidly their levels displacing more than 19,000 people who were evacuated from the Caprivi Strip, northeastern Namibia, to relocated camps. Namibia launched a rescue plan for children marooned by the floodwaters at a boarding school in the Caprivi Strip.

The affected countries are Namibia, Zambia, Botswana and Angola in where crops and buildings were destroyed. There are 90 dead people in Namibia and 350,000 people affected as a result of a total research. The government of this country has designated u\$s 10.9 million for disaster response efforts and the state of emergency is now declared.

In Zambia cholera cases are increasing, it is sad to say that from September 2008 to March 2009, 140 people died because of it. 21 is the death toll in Angola and more than 200,000 people were affected. The government has rapidly designated the amount of u\$s10 million for flood response while UN agencies have allocated u\$s600,000 of their own funding.

Source: [www.irinews.org](http://www.irinews.org)

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#### Topics

### Climate Change and disaster reduction

UN meeting in Germany.

# UN meeting in Germany

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has stepped in to help overwhelmed developing countries calculate the cost of implementing measures not only to mitigate their greenhouse gas emissions but also to adapt to climate change. "This is a reality check - we are trying to assist countries to go about it in a realistic and practical way," said Yolando Velasco, head of UNFCCC's financial cooperation unit. The assistance is being provided by way of the National Economic and Environmental Development Study (NEEDS) in nine pilot countries: Costa Rica, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Lebanon, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan and the Philippines. The study estimates the cost of implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in the country; then national consultants, with the engagement of the ministries of finance and planning, identify policy and finance instruments available to support the identified measures.



In the opening ceremony in the UN meeting in Bonn, Germany, strategies were the main topic to not waste unnecessary money in the future because costs will be really high.

"Countries implementing the NEEDS project may develop their own national financial strategies and frameworks to coordinate resources accessed nationally and from the financial mechanism of the convention [UNFCCC], and other bilateral and multilateral sources," said Velasco. The Fund is expected to raise money from a levy of about two percent on credits generated by the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), set up under the Kyoto Protocol, the global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

UNFCCC hopes to present the NEEDS study findings at the UN climate change summit in Copenhagen in December 2009, which will look at a new global agreement to come into effect after the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol ends in 2012.

Negotiations to draw up a new climate change treaty got under way this week at a UN meeting in Bonn, Germany, the first in a series of three-session meetings aimed at producing a draft document to succeed the Kyoto Protocol. The Earth Negotiations Bulletin of the International Institute for Sustainable Development reported that Bangladesh had called for a mechanism to enable prompt financial support to respond to localized extreme events, and had highlighted the proposal for an international air travel levy to raise additional funding for adaptation.

Source: [www.irinews.org](http://www.irinews.org)



**Comments:** There is a lot to say about the last fifteen days of March. As you can see, many reunions are taking place all around the world in order to determine the new strategies against global warming. Time is always rushing and nations are taking it more seriously, as it seems to be.

It is a sad example what happened in Afghanistan because of tree felling. It is the same problem that happened in Northern of Salta city, my city, where the ground is kind of fragile and illegal deforestation put things into a desperate episode.

■ **For more information please contact** ■

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