Special Session on Biodiversity

Moderator
Dr Ashok Khosla, President, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Switzerland

Setting the Theme
Mr M F Farooqui, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India

Keynote Address
Ms Jayanthi Natarajan, Hon’ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India

Speakers
Dr P P Bhojvaid, Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Haryana, India
Prof. Timothy Gregoire, J P Weyerhaeuser Jr Professor of Forest Management, School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Yale University, USA
Dr Abdul Rahim Nik, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia
Prof. Paavo Pelkonen, University of Eastern Finland, Finland
Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, Vice-Rector, The United Nations University & Director of Institute for Sustainability and Peace, Japan

Dr R K Pachauri introduced the panel and emphasized that increase in global temperature would endanger biodiversity. The session was chaired and moderated by Dr Ashok Khosla who emphasized that the present level of degradation of natural resources is beyond the regenerative capacity of the earth. Setting the theme for the session, Mr M F Farooqui stated that biodiversity and issues of global commons were closely interlinked. Ms Jayanti Natarajan, in her keynote address, stressed on the fact that interlinking the interest of global commons and economics is required in the day-to-day lives of common persons. She also emphasized that the global regime for protecting biodiversity should be rooted in the principle of the Rio Declaration. Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi focused on the Satoyama Initiative, which focuses on issues, such as resilience of society equipped with traditional knowledge and the need for a new business model for sustainable exploitation of resources.

Dr Abdul Rahim Nik emphasized challenges, such as inventory of biodiversity and proper law enforcement in managing biodiversity in Malaysia. Dr P P Bhojvaid stated that forests are responsible for creation and sustenance of soil, water, and all flora and fauna, and the interaction of all these externalities is important in protecting forest resources. Prof. Timothy Gregoire stated that innovations like standardization in measurement procedures is needed for the conservation of biodiversity. Prof. Paavo Pelkonen stressed that sustainable forest management is the need of the hour along with the promotion of the concept of bio-economy.

As they said it

Nature protects if she is protected.
Ms Jayanti Natarajan
Hon’ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India

Tropical diversity is traded in the international market at the rate, which is less than its replacement cost.
Dr P P Bhojvaid
Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Haryana, India
Corporate Dialogue on Global Commons

Prof. Jeffrey A Sonnenfield started the session by explaining the notion of corporate social responsibility (CSR). Mr Sai Ramakrishna Karuturi talked about his company’s initiatives in developing the land and food production of Ethiopia by investing in rainwater harvesting and supporting organic mode of farming. Mr Mahesh Makhija pointed out that they entered the renewable energy space in 2001 not just because of environmental consciousness, but because it is also a lucrative business opportunity. Mr Stigson emphasized on the partnership between businesses and society for addressing today’s sustainability challenges. Mr Pasi Rousu discussed his company’s initiatives in finding new ways of addressing sustainability by using byproducts of bio-refining in India and China. Ms Hilde Tonne called for exercising CSR as a win-win approach. She underscored the role of (1) developing technology by opening up new business avenues and focusing on energy efficiency; (2) adopting a project-based approach towards CSR; and (3) cleaning up the supply chain by eradicating child labour and exercising zero tolerance to corruption. Mr Venkatesh Valluri delineated the role of converging business, technology, and society as an emerging strategy to stay in business. Dr Bhaskar Chatterjee focused on the Indian government’s two important CSR policies: (1) Reporting all CSR activities should be mandatory and (2) large business corporations are expected to put at least 2% of their profit after tax into CSR activities.

Ministerial Session I

Sustainable Management of Global Commons in South Asia

Starting the session, Dr Kande K Yumkella emphasized that for Asia to account for 50% of the global GDP by 2050, sustainable management of global commons will be crucial. Mr Malik Amin Aslam said that despite being one of the lowest greenhouse gas emitters, Pakistan is highly vulnerable to climate change and that the country’s cost of adaptation could be 3%–5% of the GDP.

HE Dr Pema Gyamtsho mentioned about the importance of common properties of natural resources across territorial boundaries. He said that the region should not wait for global agreements and should take action towards minimizing the impacts of climate change.

HE Mr U Win Tun highlighted the challenges faced by the region in addressing environmental problems and stressed the role of technology and capacity building for resolving these issues.

Mr Hemraj Tater underlined that poor people are the worst affected by climate change and that a green economy can provide an important paradigm for resource management. In this session, the speakers highlighted that although countries in South Asia have to formulate domestic action plans to address climate change, there is a need for regional cooperation in research and development and data sharing. The potential for South–South cooperation needs to be harnessed.

Regional cooperation is not a luxury, but an imperative.

Sustainable development is important for the economic development of Myanmar.

HE U Win Tun
Former Minister, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Myanmar
Global Commons and Challenges in Africa

The session highlighted that Africa must take adaptation measures to address the impacts of human-induced climate change. Adaptation measures will also demand a change in lifestyles of the common middle-income section of the people of Africa. While addressing those challenges, it is important to maintain a balance between present and future use of natural resources. In the current context, Africa does not have a strong voice in the global forum and, hence, requires support from international organizations. The support can come through strong South–South cooperation between India and Africa. In addition to these challenges of adaptation, issues such as food security, role of science and technology, and renewable energy have to be addressed while charting out a growth and development pathway for African nations. In order to grow and develop, Africa has to address the challenges of desertification, land degradation, food security, and biodiversity, including preservation of wildlife, forest cover, and availability of water and energy. Developmental goals of the continent have to be achieved by addressing the challenges facing them due to the exploitation of two resources—petroleum and minerals. The empowerment of women, education, and community-based resource management are the key to achieving developmental goals. Renewable energy resources like solar, hydro, wind, and agri-waste have already been tapped for fostering green growth in Africa.

Water – Our Vital Commons

Mr Ashok Jaitly chaired and moderated the session and put forth a few critical issues concerning water. Dr Dan Blackmore emphasized on the human aspect of water management. Mr Henry Saint Bris emphasized the significance of decentralized alternatives of water management to overcome water stress in urban areas. He expressed concern that the traditional infrastructure arrangements were inadequate leading to about 40% of the loss of water. He stated that large future cities need to invent new solutions through decentralized water management, involving all stakeholders, thus, reflecting a new vision. Mr Serge Lepeltier shared the significance of the expectations from the forthcoming 6th World Water Forum being organized in France in March 2012 and emphasized on the need for collective action in the water and sanitation sector. Dr David Molden spoke about the ambiguity over the quantity of water available in the Himalayan region. Mr Suresh Prabhu stressed the need to customize innovative water-related technologies with traditional knowledge.

Prof. Johan Rockström reiterated the need to customize innovative water-related technologies with traditional knowledge.

AFD book launch – A Planet for Life Series

The latest book in A Planet for Life series, Development, Food and the Environment: towards agricultural change, published by Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDRI), in collaboration with TERI, was unveiled by (left to right) Dr R K Pachauri, Director-General, TERI; Dr Laurence Tubiana, Director, IDRI; and Mr Pierre Jacquet, Chief Economist, AFD, the co-editors of the book. Dr Jacquet commended the role of the associate editors as well as TERI Press in the successful publication of the book.
Dr Ligia Noronha chaired and moderated the session and highlighted the importance of looking at not just issues of over consumption, but also issues of under consumption in the context of the sustainable development discourse. Ms Connie Hedegaard, in her keynote address, emphasized on the importance of redefining growth characterized by efficient use of resources and optimum pricing. Mr Peter Bakker defined the vision of sustainable consumption as better products and services, enlightened consumers, maximized total value, new measures, and a cohesive and responsive market place. Mr Warren Evans urged rich countries to take a lead in making consumption sustainable through an appropriate regulatory framework. Mr Pierre Jacquet mentioned that we need to focus on under-consumption in developing countries the way we focus on over-consumption in developed countries. He also emphasized the need to address problems of food security, energy, and involvement of local people.

Mr Bittu Sahgal communicated the need to care for Nature and to take urgent action to protect it. He emphasized on the role of children in bringing about a change. Prof. Petteri Taalas shared meteorological data, which indicated the significant changes in temperature, hydrosphere, snow cover, glaciers, and so on and highlighted the need to recognize these changes and take appropriate actions.

### Workshop on “Large Scale Deployment of Smart Grids: opportunities and strategies”

TERI, in association with Electricite de France (EDF), organized a one-day workshop on “Large Scale Deployment of Smart Grids: opportunities and strategies” on 31 January 2012. The workshop saw participation of experts from the regulatory commissions, public and private sector utilities, project developers, academia, and R&D institutions. The workshop emphasized the need for disseminating the experience (both national and international) and offered a platform to discuss the emerging opportunities in the field of smart grids. The speakers shared their experiences in implementing the smart grid initiatives worldwide. Panelists discussed the huge potential for smart grid initiatives in the country and the emerging challenges. There was consensus on the need of policy and regulatory interventions to accelerate the execution of the smart grid projects, and the need to focus on transition from product to “service” mode of smart grid development. It emphasized on the large scale renewable energy penetration in various grid models.

### Indo-Norwegian Research Collaboration to Address Climate Change Impacts on Selected Indian Hydrological Systems using Earth System and High Resolution Modelling

A special event titled “Indo-Norwegian Research Collaboration to Address Climate Change Impacts on Selected Indian Hydrological Systems using Earth System and High Resolution Modelling” was held on 1 February 2012. With reference to the current and future, scientists working in the field of climate and hydrological modelling and impact assessment from scientific institutes across Norway and India deliberated on the key issues, gaps, and methods in this field. Discussion were based on the primary objective to study, numerically model, create scenario-based projections, and understand the impacts of climate change and feedback mechanisms on the hydrological processes of the Himalayan-dependent regions in India. This special event brought together stakeholders and scientists to address an integrated climate modelling assessment involving Earth-system, regional-climate, and hydrological models to address climate change and its impact on the hydrological cycle of surface water availability over India. Dr R K Pachauri, Director-General, TERI welcomed Mr Erik Solheim, the Norwegian Minister for Environment and International Development; Dr Shailesh Nayak, Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences; and Dr Hans Borchgrevink, Special Advisor, Research Council of Norway, who presented the keynote address, the inaugural address, and the Ind-Nor collaboration perspective, respectively.