



# Our planet

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## THE FUTURE IS PRICELESS





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## Lead in enamel decorative paints national paint testing results: a nine country study

This report adds to growing knowledge of the extent of the problem of lead in paint in the developing world. Data have now been collected from more than 35 countries.



## Building inclusive Green Economies: Success stories From South-South Cooperation

This report highlights how the partnerships between countries in the South are contributing to a global paradigm shift. It provides a snapshot of a myriad of projects and activities that are sparking new concepts, financing, technology, standards and momentum for change.

The report shows how countries and other actors are pursuing initiatives to green key sectors of the economy from agriculture and energy to manufacturing and waste while sharing their knowledge and experiences with others, so they can also reap the benefits as well.



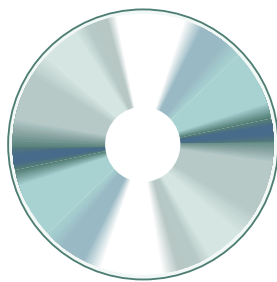
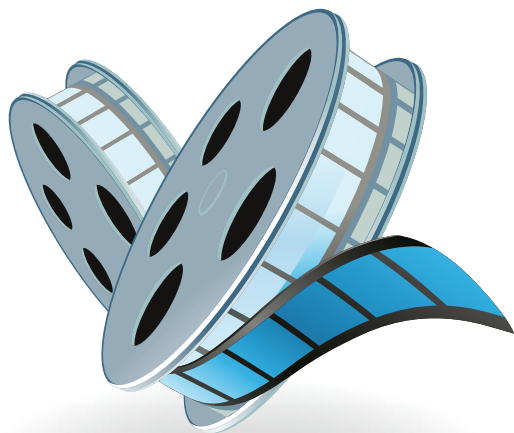
## Research Priorities on Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation Responding to the climate change challenge

To respond to the demand for better coordination of research, PROVIA has led the development of a set of Research Priorities on vulnerability, impacts and adaptation in consultation with both experts and policymakers. The Research Priorities include new and emerging topics, the importance of which is now coming into focus, and topics that have long been recognized as important but for which research is still required. The Priorities reflect the balance between research supply from experts and research demand from policymakers.



## Africa environment outlook 3: Our environment, our health

The Third Africa Environment Outlook (AEO-3), analyses the importance of, and interlinkages between, health and environment and the opportunities and synergies that might be derived from intensified collaboration between the two sectors. It uses the Drivers, Pressures, State, Exposure, Effects and Actions (DPSEEA) analytical framework to undertake an integrated analysis of the state and trends covering the themes of air quality, biodiversity, chemicals and waste, climate change and variability, coastal and marine resources, freshwater and sanitation as well as land. It also illustrates how socio-economic driving forces can generate environmental pressures, leading to altered ecosystem states, personal exposure to risks and adverse health effects.



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## The Antarctic Ozone Hole - From Discovery to Recovery. Trailer

While the ozone hole has been considered by some as a solved problem, in fact its recovery is still many decades away and the effects and interactions of ozone depletion on climate change are just starting to be understood.



©UNEP



## The Antarctic Ozone Hole - Full length Video

While the ozone hole has been considered by some as a solved problem, in fact its recovery is still many decades away and the effects and interactions of ozone depletion on climate change are just starting to be understood.

## Japan Tsunami Cleanup

A year after the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in March 2011, killing just over 19,000 people, a group of international experts in post-disaster waste management were invited to Japan by the government for an information-exchange mission with local authorities.



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**tvebiomovies2013**  
has launched at [tve.org/biomovies](http://tve.org/biomovies)



## Future Failure

TVE biomovies is a film competition - in its second year - open to anyone aged from 9 to 99 around the world with access to a camera. You could receive US\$300 to produce a one-minute film about the environment. Which bit of the environment? Choose a category and decide. Your film can be funny or serious, an animation, a drama or a documentary.

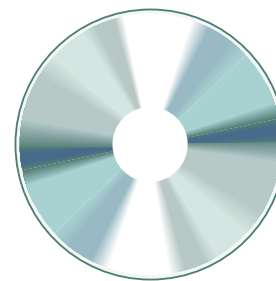
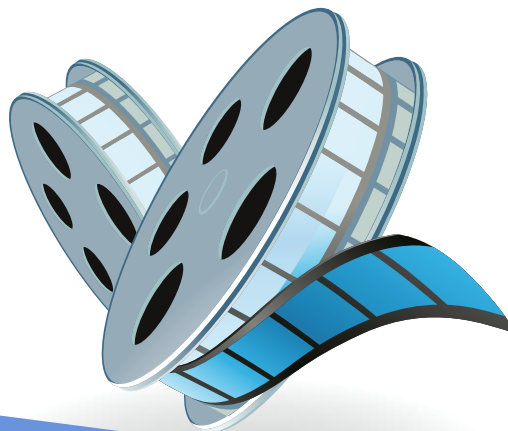
## UNEP Bridging Gaps. Are you? Mind The Gap

This mini-series based on UNEP Bridging the Gap report, shows that solutions to keep average global temperature rise to below 2°C are available and being implemented in many different settings, helping countries to adapt to changing climates, move towards lower emission development pathways and often also boosting economies and alleviating poverty.



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## LEAD PHASE OUT

### UNEP 40th Anniversary - Lead phase out

Why Celebrate UNEP at 40 – it helped phase out lead in petrol in Africa saving babies and infants from brain damage that globally was costing the world \$2.4 trillion a year.



GO GREEN

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### Forests - We all depend on them

Forests provide employment for up to 1 billion people and contribute over US\$ 450 billion to the global economy. Yet in some regions, deforestation continues at an alarming rate. Produced by UNEP to mark the International Day of Forests, this film highlights the critical role of forests in supporting the environment, the economy, and human well-being.



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### Promoting Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles for Better Air Quality

The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles supports developing countries in their efforts to improve fuel and vehicle technologies that reduce air pollution. The partnership builds on current trends and efforts in the development of fuel and vehicle technologies.



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### Biogas

This project has contributed to UNEP's intervention on Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste by ensuring that harmful chemicals and hazardous wastes are managed in a more environmentally sound manner, through better technology and best practices. It has also contributed to the implementation of a resource efficiency project.

# Reflections

**Achim Steiner**  
**UN Under-Secretary-General and**  
**UN Environment Programme (UNEP)**  
**Executive Director.**



2013 has been a crucial year for international aspirations towards keeping a global temperature rise under 2 degrees C this century. For the first time in 800,000 years, concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere reached 400 parts per million. And the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), jointly hosted by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization issued its Working Group 1 report from its Fifth Assessment Report.

The report underlined increasing scientific certainty that humanity is changing the climate while starkly pointing out that collectively we are half way to spending a carbon budget that cannot be exceeded. Seven billion people, rising to over nine billion by 2050 are on track for a 3 degree C, 4 degree C or more world with all the consequences and risks that entails.

But 2013 also spotlighted remarkable action, fuelled in part by the legacy of the existing UN climate agreements. UNEP - and its partners Bloomberg New Energy Finance and the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management—reported that between 2011 and 2012 115GW of new renewable energy was installed world-wide. Many more developing countries are investing: besides China, countries like Kenya, Morocco, Chile and South Africa are greening their energy mix. Close to 140 nations now have renewable energy targets and new ones are coming on board. Mongolia, the host of this year's World Environment Day, has commissioned its first wind farm and has plans to develop an Asian clean energy super grid with such partners as Japan.

Indeed renewable energy has consistently performed well beyond even the most optimistic estimates. In the year 2000, for example, the International Energy Agency estimated that 34 GW of wind would have been installed by 2010, while the World Bank estimated that China would have 9GW of wind and half a GW of solar by 2020.

In reality, 200 GW of wind was operating world-wide in 2020 and China already had 62GW of wind and 3 GW of solar by 2011, according to Clean Energy Voyage, a UNEP publication for the UN climate convention conference in Warsaw, Poland. Close to six million people are now working in this sector and there will be many more of these decent, skilled jobs if clean energy investments are further accelerated and scaled-up.

Meanwhile, the 2013 Emissions Gap report - coordinated by UNEP and aimed at assessing the gap between current emissions and trajectories, and the need to get these down to around 44GT of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent by 2020—spotlights emissions from agriculture. It estimates the potential to reduce them at around 1 to 4 Gt/yr equivalent CO<sub>2</sub>. And the steps to achieve this – such as moving to non-tillage farming, improving nutrient and water management in rice fields -- will in many cases boost yields, reduce the costs of inputs to agriculture like fertilizer and help reduce rural poverty.

Besides, a wide range of countries - including the United States and China - are now pledging to cut emissions of HFCs, replacements for ozone layer damaging chemicals which could, if allowed to widely penetrate the market, produce greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 that equal all those from today's transportation.

All this groundswell of action, much it at national level, could go a long way towards bridging the emissions gap by 2020 while setting the stage for the even deeper cuts needed beyond then. But it is unlikely to be enough: international cooperation will also be essential - one reason why a universal and meaningful new climate agreement among all nations has been promised by governments and is urgently needed by 2015.

Warsaw must make some strong and serious moves that begin to flesh out more clearly how this global agreement will look, how it will be financed and how questions such as loss and damage for vulnerable developing nations will be handled. And it needs to spell out how ambition will be raised over the coming seven years before the new agreement kicks in.

The pathways towards cost effective emission reductions are growing and expanding for all nations. Warsaw needs to open the door to a low carbon, resource efficient future starting now and accelerating with agreement in two years time.



The world urgently needs a new agreement on greenhouse gas emissions reductions. I don't believe that any of the participants in the COP19 climate summit – hosted in Warsaw by Poland – has any doubts about that. Our focus is to set the stage for a full and productive discussion. We must develop a global consensus which propels us towards concluding a new climate agreement in Paris in 2015.

This will be the 19th time that countries meet to discuss one of the most important challenges of the contemporary world: climate

change. This year's meeting is particularly significant because it will open a new chapter in our talks. We will start a discussion about an agreement which, for the first time in history, will see 194 countries from across the world making binding commitments to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. The key word here is 'global': climate change affects us all, and it threatens our social and economic development. The consequences may be felt more quickly or acutely in some countries than others, but no-one is immune. For this reason, we need a shared and global effort, which involves all the countries of the world, to achieve an effective response to climate change.

We committed to reaching a new emissions reduction agreement at COP17 in Durban in 2011. At that

time, Poland presided over the Council of the European Union. Together with Connie Hedegaard, EU Commissioner for Climate Action, we negotiated the basis of this agreement in the so-called 'Durban Platform'. The Durban Platform commits all countries to signing a new climate agreement in 2015, which will come into effect in 2020 when the Kyoto Protocol is due to expire.

In Warsaw we will again confront the two major problems related to climate change that the world must face. The first is how to achieve effective action aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions – often referred to as 'mitigation'. The second issue is how to adapt to the unavoidable changes in climate, like rises in sea levels or desertification, which



**MARCIN KOROLEC**  
Minister of Environment,  
Poland and President of COP 19

# Opening a new chapter



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