



NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

newsletter

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change and youth

CLIMATE CHANGE is and will continue to have an impact in the coming years, and it is young people who are often the most affected. Nevertheless, their views and opinions are rarely taken into consideration in the climate change debate. In order to ensure the empowerment and active participation of young people in this and other important topics, the Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA) has been created.



YUNGA aims to improve collaboration and coordination between UN agencies and youth organizations, NGOs and other related stakeholders in order to ensure that young people are active participants in new activities and initiatives being developed. Reuben Sessa, YUNGA Coordinator at FAO, is currently working to develop climate change materials targeted to the younger generations. "FAO is working closely with CBD, UNFCCC, UNICEF, UNEP, UNESCO, and other agencies, as well as civil society organizations, to ensure better collaboration and engagement of young people. We are convinced that instilling environmental and social awareness at a young age is the best

way to protect the environment and develop a better society. Our goal is to include climate change issues into the national curricula and to ensure that our climate change educational materials reach the classrooms and youth groups. In addition, we are also partnering with UNFCCC to ensure that youth are included in all aspects of the climate change negotiations."

In October 2009, a Food Security and Climate Change Challenge Badge was launched and in 2010 it is anticipated that similar badges will be developed for oceans and biodiversity. In addition, a UN Youth Award is also under development; it is designed as a self development programme for youth that is closely linked to the Millennium Development Goals and developing global citizenship.

The United Nations has declared August 2010 – August 2011 the International Year of Youth and many activities targeting young people will be launched throughout the year.

To learn more:

[Yunga portal](#)

[Climate change: Children and youth](#)

[Diouf: Youth are part of the solution to climate change](#)

[Youth and the United Nations](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES

The new Natural Resources and Environment Newsletter

WELCOME to the first issue of the Natural Resources and Environment Newsletter. Each month, we will be bringing you information about important issues and events, new publications and projects, and interviews with experts on various issues related to bioenergy, climate change, genetic resources and biodiversity, land resources, land tenure and water resources.

In our first issue, we will be looking at financing mechanisms designed to benefit small-scale farmers or foresters and, in particular, highlighting a new booklet designed to provide extension service advisors with an overview of these mechanisms. August 2010 kicks off the International Year of Youth and this month's issue spotlights innovative programmes designed to involve youth directly in the climate change debate.

Additionally, this issue highlights the launch of the new State of Land and Water web site. This web site will be updated periodically throughout the year, culminating in the launch of FAO's first issue of the FAO State of Land and Water (SOLAW) Flagship publication in June 2011.

We hope that you enjoy this first issue of the newsletter and ask you to return each month for the latest natural resources and environment news.

To learn more:

**Natural Resources Management and Environment Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

www.fao.org/nr

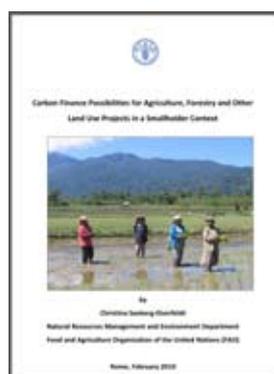
LAND TENURE

Carbon finance possibilities for smallholders



AN IMPORTANT TOPIC for discussion in the climate change debate is the potential for tapping into financing mechanisms in order to benefit small-scale farmers or foresters. This issue has been raised often in FAO projects addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation. Smallholders involved in these projects are increasingly asking whether and how they can benefit from these mechanisms.

To help answer these questions, the simple booklet *Carbon finance possibilities for agriculture, forestry and other land use projects in a smallholder context* has been compiled



and is now available electronically. The study's author, Christina Seeberg-Elverfeldt, designed the guide as a practical tool for extension service advisors and institutions that work with small-scale farmers and foresters with an interest in carbon finance and carbon projects. "Our main objective is to provide helpful information to those working in extension services and to allow them to better respond to the numerous queries they are receiving from smallholder farmers. The guide provides information about how carbon markets work, what possibilities are available and how to go about eventually formulating proposals."

While such projects are still relatively rare and complex, there is a commitment by FAO to ensure that information about carbon finance possibilities is available to participants

in all its climate adaptation and mitigation projects, workshops, and training. Currently, FAO is examining case studies and planning pilot projects in order to determine the types of projects that already exist and to better understand the elements which have contributed to their success. In a second phase, identified best practices will be out into place in five pilot projects, which will be carried out under the Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture Programme."

One of the case studies mentioned in the *Carbon finance* guide is a *Kenya Smallholder Coffee Carbon Project*, being carried out in the Kiambu District in Central Kenya. The project was initiated by the BioCarbon Fund of the World Bank. The project's objective is to restore coffee production in the region and to produce certified specialty coffee. The project aims at adopting sustainable agricultural land management practices, including agroforestry, mulching and soil and water conservation techniques intended to reduce climate change vulnerability. These practices, in addition to providing supplemental income to be received through carbon credits, is expected to boost coffee yields, while simultaneously increasing climate resilience of agricultural production systems.

To learn more:

[Carbon finance possibilities for agriculture, forestry and other land use projects in a smallholder context](#)

[Climate change website](#)

[Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture \(MICCA\) Programme](#)

[Kenya Smallholder Coffee Carbon Project](#)

LAND AND WATER RESOURCES



New State of Land and Water web site

THE FIRST ISSUE of the FAO State of Land and Water (SOLAW) Flagship publication will be released in 2011.

The flagship publication will report on and analyze the global status of land and water resources. It also intends to provide an overview of the related opportunities, risks and policy implications within the context of international debates on regionally to globally important issues, including food security, climate change, and the sustainable management of increasingly scarce resources. Following internal FAO consultations, a master outline of proposed contents for SOLAW was developed, and externally reviewed.

Staff throughout FAO are now working alongside institutional partners and other land and water specialists to prepare this global status report. A new SOLAW website has been launched to highlight news and information related to the ongoing preparation work. It will also showcase the main messages of the final SOLAW report and will be continuously updated as new data become available or as new land and water related issues emerge.

To learn more:

[SOLAW website](#)

[Water website](#)

[Land resources website](#)