



News

Regreening the planet could cut as much carbon as halting oil use

Planting forests and other activities that harness the power of nature could play a major role in limiting global warming under the 2015 Paris agreement, an international study showed on Monday. Natural climate solutions, also including protection of carbon-storing peatlands and better management of soils and grasslands, could account for 37% of all actions needed by 2030 under the 195-nation Paris plan, it said. Combined, the suggested "regreening of the planet" would be equivalent to halting all burning of oil worldwide, it said. "Better stewardship of the land could have a bigger role in fighting climate change than previously thought," the international team of scientists said of findings published in the US journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The estimates for.... [Read more...](#)

Date: 17 October 2017**Source:** <https://www.theguardian.com/>**Delhi covered in toxic haze after night of Diwali fireworks**

Air pollution in Delhi has hit 18 times the healthy limit and left the city under a thick, toxic haze after Diwali was celebrated with a night of fireworks – despite a court-ordered ban on their sales. Residents of the Indian capital, which already ranks among the world's most polluted cities, complained of watering eyes and aggravated coughs as levels of PM2.5, ultra-fine particles of less than 2.5 microns, rose alarmingly on Friday. Air quality usually worsens in Delhi before Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, and the supreme court temporarily banned the sale of firecrackers, with the aim of reducing the health risks. However many still lit fireworks across the city late into the night, either using old stock or buying them from neighbouring states. Some environmental activists said the court... [Read more...](#)

Date: 20 October 2017**Source:** <https://www.theguardian.com/>**Kashmir: High organic load in Jhelum causes fish to come ashore**

On Monday evening, people on the banks of River Jhelum in Srinagar were seen carrying bags full of fish. The fish en masse came ashore offering very little resistance while being caught. A video, which went viral, showed people in Nawakadal area of the old city stuffing their bags with fishes. Reacting to this unexpected development, the administration sent a team of officials, who collected samples from the spot for investigation. "Initial reports suggest that it is a case of dissolved oxygen depletion and high pH levels in the water that have caused the fish to come ashore," Syed Abid Rashid, Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar, tells Down To Earth. "We have sent the samples for testing and are expecting a complete report soon," he adds. However, the samples that were sent to the Sher e Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology have not been scientifically procured. "The samples should have been taken around 5:30 pm on Sunday (October 22), when the event actually happened,"..... [Read more...](#)

Date: 23 October 2017**Source:** <http://www.downtoearth.org.in/>**Deforestation linked to palm oil production is making Indonesia warmer, study finds**

In the past decades, large areas of forest in Sumatra, Indonesia have been replaced by cash crops like oil palm and rubber plantations. New research, published in the European Geosciences Union journal Biogeosciences, shows that these changes in land use increase temperatures in the region. The added warming could affect plants and animals and make parts of the country more vulnerable to wildfires. Palm oil is the most widely used vegetable oil in the world, appearing in the ingredients' list of many consumer goods, from chocolate to soap. Indonesia, the world's largest producer of palm oil, has seen large swathes of rainforest cleared away and replaced by oil palm plantations at rates that exceed those of Brazil. On the island of Sumatra, which has had the highest loss of native rainforest in all of Indonesia, the changes in land use have meant a substantial loss of animal and plant diversity. However, the impact of these changes on the region's temperatures had not been studied until now..... [Read more...](#)

Date: 25 October 2017**Source:** <https://www.sciencedaily.com/>**Tropical forest reserves slow down global warming**

National parks and nature reserves in South America, Africa and Asia, created to protect wildlife, heritage sites and the territory of indigenous people, are reducing carbon emissions from tropical deforestation by a third, and so are slowing the rate of global warming, a new study shows. An audit of the role protected areas of tropical forest play in preventing global warming shows they are preventing the release of three times as much carbon into the atmosphere as the UK emits each year. Protected areas account for 20 per cent of the world's tropical forest and play a crucial role in providing habitats for species including tigers, Asiatic lions, jaguars and forest elephants. They are also designated to conserve world heritage sites such as the historic Incan ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru, and to preserve..... [Read more...](#)

Date: 27 October 2017**Source:** <https://www.sciencedaily.com/>

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