



Drumbeat: December 11, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on December 11, 2009 - 9:21am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Security fears limit Iraq oil bids](#)

Iraq's bid to auction off oil exploration rights Friday showed companies are still reluctant to enter the country.

Only two of the eight fields on offer resulted in deals in the first day of the country's second oil auction this year. Five in regions still plagued by unrest were withdrawn and a sixth field drew only one bid.

[U.S. natural gas rig climbs 9 to 757 for week](#)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The number of rigs drilling for natural gas in the United States climbed nine this week to 757, according to a report on Friday by oil services firm Baker Hughes in Houston.

The U.S. natural gas drilling rig count has moved up sharply after bottoming at 665 on July 17, its lowest level since May 3, 2002, when there were 640 gas rigs operating.

[Russia says close to deal with Norway over Arctic](#)

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia said on Friday it would welcome joint oil and gas works with Norway on the Barents Sea and a deal was possible next year to close a decades-long dispute between the two major energy producers.

Russia's resources ministry said in a statement Norway had proposed to sign a memorandum in the first half of next year after Russia proposed to jointly explore and produce energy in the disputed areas of the Barents Sea and the Arctic.

[Gazprom, Uzbekistan coordinate gas transit, delivery terms of 2010](#)

MOSCOW (Itar-Tass) -- Gazprom and Uztransgaz have signed a gas transit contract addition and specified terms of Uzbek gas deliveries in 2010, Prime Tass quoted a

Gazprom report.

Gazprom and UzbekNefteGaz signed a strategic cooperation agreement in 2002. The deal stipulates long-term acquisition of Uzbek gas in 2003-2012, Gazprom's participation in natural gas mining in Uzbekistan on production sharing terms, and cooperation in the development of Uzbek pipelines and transportation of Central Asian gas via Uzbekistan

[Valero Bets on Biodiesel from Jatropha](#)

Valero Energy, the largest American refiner, is taking another step towards building up its renewable fuel supplies. The San Antonio-based company on Friday agreed to a five-year deal with an Australian biofuel refiner to obtain biodiesel made from jatropha.

[Gore's carbon tax gets converts](#)

Against this backdrop, another idea is gaining momentum, one that seems even more improbable: a carbon tax. Its proponents call it "Plan B," and it is predicated on the anticipated failure of cap-and-trade, along with a determination to press ahead and not let the naysayers win. Pushing a tax in the middle of an economic downturn seems counterintuitive, but Sarah Palin and the tea-party activists are already calling cap-and-trade "cap-and-tax." Elaine Kamarck, a former Gore adviser and co-chair of the Climate Task Force, which is promoting the tax, says her side decided it might as well tackle the issue head-on.

[Regreening Africa](#)

Though he cannot read or write, Sawadogo is a pioneer of a tree-based approach to farming that has transformed the western Sahel in recent years, while providing one of the most hopeful examples on earth of how even very poor people can adapt to the ravages of climate change.

...The tree-based farming that Sawadogo and hundreds of thousands of other poor farmers in the Sahel have adopted could help millions of their counterparts around the world cope with climate change. Already these practices have spread across vast portions of Burkina Faso and neighboring Niger and Mali, turning millions of acres of what had become semi-desert in the 1980s into more productive land. The transformation is so pervasive that the new greenery is visible from outer space via satellite pictures. With climate change, much more of the planet's land will be hot and arid like the Sahel. It only makes sense, then, to learn from the quiet green miracle unfolding there.

"This is probably the largest positive environmental transformation in the Sahel and perhaps in all of Africa," says Chris Reij, a Dutch geographer who has worked in the region for thirty years. Technically, these methods are known as "agro-forestry" or

"farmer managed natural regeneration" (FMNR). Scientific studies confirm what Sawadogo already knows: mixing trees and food crops brings a range of significant benefits. The trees shade crops from overwhelming heat, act as windbreaks that protect young crops and help the soil retain moisture. When their leaves fall to the ground, they act as mulch, boosting soil fertility and providing fodder for livestock. In emergencies, people can even eat the leaves to avoid starvation. "In the past, farmers sometimes had to sow their fields four or five times because winds would blow the seeds away," says Reij, who advocates for FMNR with the zeal of a missionary. "With trees to buffer the wind and anchor the soil, farmers need sow only once."

Equally important, the zai and other water-harvesting techniques have helped recharge underground water tables. "In the 1980s water tables were falling by an average of one meter a year," Reij says. "Since FMNR and the water-harvesting techniques began to take hold, water tables have risen by five meters, despite a growing population." In some areas, the water table has risen by as much as seventeen meters.

[Good Food: Who Can Afford It?](#)

Although students took justifiable pride in their efforts, their blogs are by no means fawning paeans to the easy virtues of sustainability. To the contrary, what they did was taxing--often frustratingly so. Not only were the pitfalls of eating an environmentally responsible diet numerous but, somewhat ominously, one problem stood head and shoulders above the others: it was expensive.

I say "ominously" because this bodes poorly for the future of sustainable eating. It suggests that a movement now associated with elite foodies will always be associated with elite foodies.

[Grow \\$700 of Food in 100 Square Feet!](#)

If more Americans grew a little food — instead of so much grass — our savings on grocery bills would be astounding.

[Walk and ignore the food miles, British told](#)

COPENHAGEN - A guidebook unveiled in Copenhagen overnight makes mincemeat of the concept of "food miles", telling British shoppers that if they are really worried about their carbon footprints they could do more good by cycling or walking to the supermarket.

[Alberta's Environment Minister Discusses Copenhagen, Oil Sands](#)

With Canada racking up successive "fossil-of-the-day" awards at the climate change

summit in Copenhagen, the country's climate record will likely come under even more intense scrutiny next week with the arrival of Alberta's delegation, led by Environment Minister Rob Renner. Canada's tar-sands mines, controversial because they are a particularly dirty form of oil extraction, are located in boreal forest lands in northern Alberta. Green Inc. spoke with Mr. Renner yesterday.

[Analysis: 2009 Jackup Market Review](#)

As 2009 draws to a close and 2010 approaches, we are taking a look at the year behind us in the rig market and providing thoughts and forecasts for the offshore and onshore rig market in the year ahead. This is the first installment in a series of articles which will review 2009 and preview 2010 for the jackup, floater and land rig markets.

[Chinese daring wins another chunk of Iraq oil](#)

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Chinese state oil firm CNPC won the right to develop yet another lucrative Iraqi oilfield on Friday, as the Asian powerhouse's need to secure future energy supplies drove it to make aggressive bids for contracts.

Cheap labour costs and a willingness to take more risks than their Western counterparts have given Chinese state energy firms the edge in their hunt for fuel to feed China's booming economy.

[MMS Collects \\$111MM in High Bids for Western GOM Sale 210](#)

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has accepted high bids valued at \$111,385,124 and awarded 155 leases to the successful high bidders who participated in Western Gulf of Mexico Oil and Gas Lease Sale 210 held August 19, 2009. Funds from the total high bids will be distributed to the general fund of the U.S. Treasury, shared with the affected States, and set aside for land and water conservation efforts that benefit all fifty states.

[Executives Say Good Times Ahead for Natural Gas](#)

The North American natural gas business has its best days ahead, according to a survey of the industry taken by consulting and accounting giant Deloitte, but many expect more layoffs in the coming year and more cost-cutting.

[Quake Threat Leads Swiss to Close Geothermal Project](#)

A \$60 million project to extract renewable energy from the hot bedrock deep beneath Basel, Switzerland, was shut down permanently on Thursday after a government study

determined that earthquakes generated by the project were likely to do millions of dollars in damage each year.

The project, led by Markus O. Häring, a former oilman, was suspended in late 2006 after it generated earthquakes that did no bodily harm but caused about \$9 million in mostly minor damage to homes and other structures. Mr. Häring is to go to trial next week on criminal charges stemming from the project. On Thursday, he did not respond to messages asking for comment.

The findings are a serious blow to the hopes of environmentalists, entrepreneurs and investors who believe that advanced geothermal energy could substantially cut the world's use of emissions-causing fossil fuels. The report comes as the United States Energy Department is preparing its own review of the safety of a closely related project, by a start-up company called AltaRock Energy, in the hills north of San Francisco.

[A few glitches for electric cars](#)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- If you're looking forward to parking a brand-new electric car in your garage soon, be prepared to spend some money getting that garage in shape.

Electric cars like the Nissan Leaf and Chevrolet Volt ideally use special "quick chargers" that have to be hardwired directly into high-power lines.

Installing the chargers is not like putting in a ceiling fan. The equipment has to be fully approved, installed by a competent professional, and in most cases, a city or state inspector will have to approve it all.

You could plug your car into an ordinary wall socket, but not if you're in a hurry. Charging a Nissan Leaf would take about 24 hours, and charging a Volt would take eight. With a quick charger, the job for either would be done in just a few hours. The Volt can also run on gasoline, but what's the point then of having an electric car?

[West Virginia: Wind Project Halted](#)

Work on a West Virginia wind power project was halted by a federal judge who sided with environmentalists' claim that the project would harm the endangered Indiana bat.

[Will 'Smart' Electric Meters Lead to Smarter Consumers?](#)

SAN FRANCISCO -- In conjunction with utilities, tech companies and state and federal agencies, Stanford University is doing a number of experiments to see how psychology affects people's energy consumption.

Researchers say that when it comes to demand-side management, the field of

psychology has been lying fallow for far too long, particularly in the residential sector.

"California has huge amounts of money to put toward marketing campaigns, and they spend it all on media marketing campaigns that we know don't work," said Carrie Armel, a research associate at Stanford University's Precourt Institute for Energy Efficiency. "Tens, hundreds of billions of dollars are going to be spent on installing smart meter technology. How much is being spent on behavioral research? Nothing. That's mind-blowing."

[Platts: IPAA Chief Says Obama Hinders Oil and Gas Industry](#)

President Barack Obama's policies on taxes, financial reform and the environment threaten to derail the oil and natural gas industry's potential to help create jobs and turn around the economy, the chairman of the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) said on Thursday.

Speaking at the Platts Energy Podium in Washington, Bruce Vincent said the industry is dealing with a number of attacks, including concerns over the environmental effects of hydraulic fracturing in natural gas shale production, proposals in Congress to end a number of tax breaks for the sector and legislation that could increase regulation of financial hedging.

[ANALYSIS - Uranium miners face slog to meet future demand](#)

TORONTO/SYDNEY (Reuters) - Uranium miners rushing to meet future nuclear fuel demand face a tough slog against government red tape, project-specific problems, and the hangover of years of underinvestment.

Uranium currently may be in an oversupply situation, but this includes secondary sources such as government and military stockpiles, which are expected to gradually decline in coming years. Mined uranium last year met only about two-thirds of nuclear fuel demand from reactors.

With analysts predicting construction of up to 100 new reactors over the next decade -- versus 436 currently operating -- mined production will have to help meet increased demand from utilities for nuclear fuel in the future.

[Talking Energy blog 7: going nuclear](#)

The focus this week is on nuclear power. One's first reaction is to say: "Please – anything but nuclear power!"

...But then the practical scientist inside me takes over. Let's face it, there are remarkably – and depressingly – few options where energy is concerned.

[Richard Heinberg: Is "Clean Coal" a Dead End?](#)

The "clean coal" argument runs like this: America is brimming with cheap coal, which provides almost half our electricity and is the most carbon-intensive of the conventional fossil fuels. The nation will need an enormous amount of energy over the next few decades, but renewable sources just aren't ready to provide all—or even the bulk—of that energy. Meanwhile, preventing catastrophic climate change requires that we stop venting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. It is possible to capture and store the CO₂ that would otherwise be emitted from burning coal, and elements of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology are already in use on a small scale. Put all of these factors together and the case for government funding of research and development of "clean coal" seems strong.

However, several recent studies of US coal supplies suggest that much that we think we know about coal is wrong. If these studies are correct, the argument for investing in "clean coal" becomes tenuous on economic grounds alone. These studies call into question the one "fact" that both pro-coal and anti-coal lobbies have taken for granted: that the US has a virtually limitless supply of cheap coal.

[South Dakota: Cold weather prompts shortage of No. 1 diesel fuel](#)

The rapid onslaught of frigid weather and a late harvest have created a demand wave for No. 1 diesel fuel throughout the region.

It's been tough to find for consumers and suppliers alike.

"It got cold so fast we didn't have enough on hand," said Tammy Lorang, owner of Mount Vernon Gas & Oil.

[The sad decline of David Attenborough](#)

David Attenborough's film for BBC2's Horizon strand, 'How Many People Can Live on Planet Earth?', was an essay on why there are too many of us for the Earth to support – at least, if we want anything approaching a decent standard of living. Attenborough, who has been making wildlife films for half a century, argues that humans now have far too big an impact on the planet. The result, he argues, could be an ecological and humanitarian disaster.

But far from opening our eyes to a major new problem, Attenborough merely parrots the anti-human spirit of our times. It is Attenborough's view of humanity, not humanity itself, which is toxic. Moreover, the logical upshot of his belief that humanity is wrecking the planet is for people to be stopped from having children, not merely by gentle persuasion, but by force if necessary, as people in China have discovered to their cost.

[IEA Cuts 2010 Non-OPEC Supply View on North America](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The International Energy Agency cut its forecast for oil supplies from outside the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries next year because of delays to North American projects.

Non-OPEC producers, accounting for about 60 percent of the global total, will provide 51.6 million barrels a day in 2010, or 265,000 barrels a day less than previously anticipated, the adviser to 28 nations said in its monthly report today. Projections for non-OPEC supply through to 2014 were boosted as higher investment restores delayed projects.

"Some changes were made to crude project start-up dates, especially in the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in downward revisions there," the agency said. Supplies of natural gas liquids, or NGLs, from North America will be lower than the IEA had predicted.

The IEA raised its forecast for 2010 global oil demand and boosted its medium-term consumption outlook through to 2014, on expectations of economic recovery.

[Oil fundamentals are back as market driver - IEA](#)

LONDON (Reuters) - Oil supply and demand fundamentals have returned to take the reins from external financial factors in driving the market, the International Energy Agency said on Friday.

"The oil price correlation with macroeconomic factors and financial market activity that has marked most of 2009 may be weakening as supply and demand fundamentals reasserted more control over price direction," the Paris-based agency said in its monthly oil market report.

['Crude prices likely to be at \\$75.50 for WTI in 2010'](#)

An analogy I read last year in The Economist is quite useful in this context. There is only one buyer for a barrel of oil and that's a refinery. You and I can't use a barrel of oil for anything other than to sell it to a refinery, which can turn it into useful products. There are lots of refineries, of course, but only one market. If you look at futures, they're uncovered, whether it's the NYMEX (New York Mercantile Exchange) WTI (West Texas Intermediary), or the futures for Brent or whatever else. The act of buying or selling a future on crude does not add or remove any supply. In that sense, trading a future is a little bit like betting on a football game. Absent game-fixing, the betting shouldn't affect the outcome. You're betting on what the price is going to do.

That analogy breaks down a little bit in that the refineries themselves can buy or sell futures to hedge their cost. So there is a bit of game-fixing, so to speak. There's also the

signaling effect that the futures markets have, because people look to those future curves in terms of setting their budgets and plans for exploration, drilling and development. So, at the end of the day you do have financial influence in the markets. We saw that snap back quite brutally at the end of 2008 and early 2009 in favor of who's actually using oil and who's not. Now we're starting to see the financials play a larger role again.

[Refinery Closures Drive Profit Margins Higher](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The closure of refineries on the U.S. East Coast representing nearly 20 percent of the region's capacity is driving profit margins higher.

[IEA sees weak Q1 oil refining margins in West](#)

LONDON (Reuters) - Poor margins will keep oil refineries in developed countries running at low volumes in the first quarter of next year although plants in China and India will be busier, the International Energy Agency said on Friday.

Global refinery crude throughput will average 72.7 million barrels per day in the January-March quarter, the agency, the energy adviser of 28 industrialised nations, said in its monthly oil market report.

[Shell Caps Run Rates at Singapore Petrochemical Plant](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Royal Dutch Shell Plc will operate its new mono-ethylene glycol plant in Singapore at reduced rates until the first quarter as demand for petrochemicals remains weak, a company official said.

"The downturn clearly has affected the timing of investments," Iain Lo, vice president for new business development and ventures at Shell Chemicals, said today. "We're not new to the market and that helped us prepare for the arrival of this plant. We'll ramp it up when the cracker gets going."

[Oil Rises After Report Shows Record Runs at Chinese Refineries](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Oil rose for the first time in eight days after China said the country's refineries processed a record amount of crude last month.

Refining volume in China, the world's second-largest energy consumer, climbed 21 percent from a year earlier to 33.4 million metric tons, or 8.1 million barrels a day, according to government statistics. China's industrial production grew more than estimated in November.

“This is the fastest growth in Chinese oil demand since 2004,” Amrita Sen, a London-based oil analyst at Barclays Capital, said by phone. “China has really surprised to the upside this year.”

[Shell and Petronas win Iraq oilfield contract](#)

Royal Dutch Shell, the Anglo-Dutch energy group, on Friday won the right to develop Iraq's giant Majnoon oil field, beating French major Total, which has long coveted the field.

Shell accepted a fee of \$1.39 a barrel and promised to boost the field's production to 1.8m barrels a day from just 46,000 b/d currently. Shell will operate the project and hold a 45 per cent share, with Petronas, Malaysia's state oil company, having a 30 per cent share and the rest being held by Iraq.

[North Sea sector must blow its trumpet](#)

THE North Sea oil and gas industry needs to highlight its successes at every opportunity to help to attract top talent, a business gathering was told last night.

John Forrest, UK vice-president at Talisman Energy (UK), added that the potential for scholarship support should form a key part of the sales pitch to students who are contemplating a career in oil and gas.

[BG, Eni Venture May Sell Oil Stake to Kazakhstan to End Dispute](#)

(Bloomberg) -- A BG Group Plc and Eni SpA-led venture is in talks to sell a stake in Kazakhstan's second- biggest oilfield in production to the state to resolve a dispute over export duties, two people familiar with the matter said.

The Kazakh government may buy a 10 percent stake in Karachaganak Petroleum Operating BV for about \$1 billion, one of the people said. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions are private.

[The Oil Sands: Canada's Path to Clean Energy - Hydrogen](#)

In Gordon Kelly's book *The Oil Sands: Canada's Path to Clean Energy?*, he argues that the oil sands are not the environmental disaster many suggest, and that the oil industry is dealing with the issues. He suggests that we face the fact that we need to focus our attention on developing alternative energy - hydrogen for one. Kelly would urge Albertans to spend Heritage money for Alberta to become the world leader in the

development of hydrogen as an alternative to oil.

[Ontario promotes green credentials to lure investors](#)

Skyrocketing energy demand over the next few decades, the push to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and energy security issues such as "peak oil" are combining to create massive opportunities for companies developing green energy and clean technologies.

In China alone, policies designed to mitigate climate change and other forms of pollution are expected to result in a \$1 trillion annual market for clean technologies by 2013.

[Economic doomsday doc thought-provoking](#)

The sky is falling!

That's the general idea expressed in a new documentary called Collapse.

Collapse is centred around Michael Ruppert, a guy who predicted the current economic crisis some years ago.

Whether you consider Ruppert prophetic or paranoid, hearing his sobering thoughts on the collapse of industrialized civilization is a thought-provoking experience. Thought-provoking and scary.

[A chicken in every pot \(or backyard\)](#)

"There was no end of trouble," Bronco Moncrief said, referring to the days of yore when Cumberland and chickens went hand in hand. Farmyard animals....What was the trouble? Noise? Smell? Was there something, ahem, unsightly?

I wonder, does Moncrief live in the same world I do? Peak oil and all that. How about the Transition Town Movement? Sustainability. Micro Economics. A connection to our food. Moving away from shipping it to growing it in our backyards.... The food you and I eat travels something akin to 2400 km to get to our kitchen tables! Now compare that to the small local/ rural farmers whose food travels approximately 70 km. We, as a society, clearly spend far more energy getting food to our tables than we get energy from eating it.

[A green, sustainable future that doesn't work](#)

In the high desert of central Arizona, more than five thousand miles from the global-

warming summit in Copenhagen, sits an aging and unfinished vision of the environmentally friendly, sustainable life that some climate change activists foresee for us all. It's called Arcosanti, created in 1970 by the Italian architect Paolo Soleri, and it is the prototype of a green community of the future.

The only problem is, it doesn't work. And it never did.

[Climate change fears may worsen depression](#)

Deadly heat waves, home-wrecking hurricanes, neighborhood-scorching wildfires: When you stop to think about it, global warming can be downright depressing. Now, scientists are starting to validate that feeling.

According to accumulating evidence, climate change won't just trigger new cases of stress, anxiety and depression. People who already have schizophrenia and other serious psychological problems will probably suffer most in the aftermath of natural disasters and extreme weather events.

[EU CO2 Rallies on Speculation of New Global Caps](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Speculation that climate talks in Copenhagen will produce a global commitment to cut emissions has sparked a rally for European Union carbon dioxide allowances at a time when power and gas prices indicate falling demand.

[Dec. 11, 1997: World Signs Onto Kyoto Protocol](#)

What happens at Copenhagen in 2009 is an outgrowth of the first try, at Kyoto. We'll never know if U.S. ratification might have made it work.

[New proposal would pay Americans a percent of carbon permits](#)

WASHINGTON — Against the backdrop of global climate change talks in Copenhagen, Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., will introduce legislation Friday that would take some of the sting out of higher energy bills U.S. consumers may face because of efforts to control greenhouse gases.

Rather than the voluminous "cap and trade" bills approved earlier by the House and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Cantwell's bill runs less than 40 pages and has a significantly different approach. Groups and companies ranging from ExxonMobil to Friends of the Earth have shown an interest in her bill.

[Salazar Says Climate Skeptics Wrong; U.S. Will Cap Emissions](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Climate-change skeptics are wrong and the U.S. will pass a new law capping greenhouse gases as it seeks to compete in the global market for low-emission technologies, U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said today.

[U.S. Climate Envoy's Good Cop, Bad Cop Roles](#)

WASHINGTON — As the United States' chief climate change negotiator, Todd Stern sometimes plays the bad cop, and seems to rather enjoy it.

[EU nations commit \\$3.6 billion a year to global climate fund, seek to rescue 'green' image](#)

BRUSSELS (AP) — EU leaders agreed Friday to commit euro2.4 billion (\$3.6 billion) a year until 2012 to help poorer countries combat global warming, as they sought to rescue their image as climate change innovators and bolster talks in Copenhagen.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy says the offer "puts Europe in a leadership role in Copenhagen," where international negotiators are seeking a long-term way to slow the warming of the planet.

[After climate talks, scientists worry about enforcement](#)

COPENHAGEN — Ray Weiss looks at the chanting protesters, harried delegates and the 20,000 other people gathered here for a global warming summit and wonders: What's the fuss all about?

Weiss, a geochemist who studies atmospheric pollution at San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, says the numbers at the core of the debate in Copenhagen are flawed.

Specifically, he says the cuts that countries including the USA are proposing in greenhouse gas emissions are difficult to measure and highly susceptible to manipulation by government officials and companies.

[China pours cold water on deal as tempers flare](#)

COPENHAGEN: China has raised the possibility that the faltering United Nations climate conference will fail to reach even a political deal to cut greenhouse gas emissions, reflecting huge divisions about the design of a new treaty that has forced the suspension of formal talks in Copenhagen.

The suspension occurred as about half the world's nations banded together to call for a Copenhagen pact to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees - an ambitious goal at odds with

larger countries, including Australia, which want the temperature rise limited to two degrees.

[Amazon Indians Pin Forest Survival on UN Plan Negotiated Today](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Sergio Tembe said his “blood boils” every time he sees a truck laden with logs stolen from his Indian tribe’s land in the jungle of northern Brazil.

“We need to do something, otherwise there will be nothing left,” said the tribal leader, 43, as he drove his black pickup along a dirt track. About 30 percent of the rainforest in the reservation has been destroyed, he said.

Deep in the Amazon, the Tembe Tenetehara Indians are figuring out how to get paid for protecting their native lands. They may use an arrangement known as REDD, or Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, which is being negotiated today at the global climate talks in Copenhagen.

[World to Cut CO2 at Least 50% by 2050, UN Draft Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Nations around the world must reduce greenhouse-gas emissions at least 50 percent by mid-century under a draft proposal being debated by 192 countries in Copenhagen.

The plan obtained by Bloomberg News says nations should collectively reduce the heat-trapping pollution that many scientists say could lead to catastrophic climate change between 50 percent and 95 percent from 1990 levels. The draft leaves long-term financing, or how much rich nations should pay poor ones to deal with global warming, to be dealt with later.



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