



International Fund for China's Environment

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Table of Contents

CHINA

Insight: China's Losing Battle against State-backed Polluters4
China Estimated to Dramatically Underreport Its Overseas Fishing Catch.....4
Fatal Landslide Draws Attention to the Toll of Mining on Tibet4
Major Rare Earth Group Formed in China5
2 Major Air Pollutants Increase in Beijing5
Shenzhen Is First in China With June Start for Emissions Trading.....6
Human Infection With Influenza A(H7N9) in China.....6
Beijing Residents Rethink Life in the Gig Smoke.....6
The Kids Aren't Alright7

U.S.

U.S. EPA Raises Standards for Clean Fuels, Vehicles7
U.S.-Russia Vie for Largest Natural Gas Reserves7
European Industry Flocks to U.S. to Take Advantage of Cheaper Gas.....8
Pipeline Ruptured in Arkansas, Major Oil Spill8
Low Great Lakes Water Levels Plague Shipping, Recreation8
U.S. Trains Dogs to Sniff out Wildlife Traffickers9
U.S. CO2 Emissions Falls to Lowest Level Since 19949
Withering Drought still Plaguing Half of America9
Shocker! Half of U.S. Rivers Too Sick for Fish to Live in April 5, 2013..... 10

EUROPE

SSE Fined Record £10.5m by Ofgem10
Energy Bills: When Will They Become Clearer?10
Dundee Biomass Plant 'Would Have Negligible Impact' on Air Quality10
Bernard Matthews Wind Turbine Faces Objections.....11

Torquay Sewer-Collapse Threat Forces Raw Waste into Sea	11
Petrol Pump Sales Decrease over Five Years, Says AA	11
EU Countries to Impose Anti-Dumping Duties on Chinese Ceramics	12
Pesticide Industry and NGO Clash over EFSA Definition of Nnocrine Disruptors	12
OTHER REGIONS	
Eritrea: Popular Campaigns Being Conducted in Molqi Sub-Zone	12
Egypt: Qandil Discusses Maintaining Nature Reserves	13
Indonesia: Sumatran Rhino Found in Kalimantan after Unseen in Region for 20 years	13
Uganda: Uganda Reviews Environmental Laws	13
Kenya: Kenyan Floods Kill Six, Displace Hundreds	14
Japan killed record low number of whales/Japan	14
30% of Brazil's emissions from deforestation are export-driven/Brazil	14

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CHINA

Insight: China's Losing Battle against State-backed Polluters

April 1, 2013

Abstract: A problem in China's environmental protection is exposed by Zijin Mining, one of the biggest state-owned firms in China that threatened the local government via moving its headquarters from Shanghai to Xiamen under the pressure of increasing environmental standards. The local government is unwilling to lose such a big cash-cow since its big contribution to the local revenues and employment market. How to prevent the local governments from protecting state-owned polluters remains a big problem in China's environmental protection.

See the full article at:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/01/us-china-environment-zijin-insight-idUSBRE92U08V20130401?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews>

China Estimated to Dramatically Underreport Its Overseas Fishing Catch

April 2, 2013

Abstract: according to a study conducted by a fisheries scientist Daniel Pauly, China is under-reporting its distant-water fishing catch. The number that China reported to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for 2000-11 was 368,000 tons, which is much lower than the estimated 4.6 million tons. The over fishing catcher causes a serious seafood shortage in West Africa and China is considered as the major contributor to it.

See the full article at:

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=china-estimated-to-dramatically-underreport-its-overseas-fishing-catch>

Fatal Landslide Draws Attention to the Toll of Mining on Tibet

April 2, 2013

Abstract: A mine disaster occurred in the Gyama Valley in Tibet last Friday make people rethink of the crucial flagship mining project, which cause serious environmental degradation on the Tibetan plateau. Chinese government's excessive pursuit of economic development in Tibet has led to some violent conflicts and ethnic discrimination made it

worse in recent years. China is expected to create an independent resource base through conducting environmental impact reviews, doing safety assessment and enforcing environmental laws.

See the full article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/03/world/asia/deadly-tibetan-landslide-draws-attention-to-mining.html?ref=environment>

Major Rare Earth Group Formed in China

April 3, 2013

Abstract: The state-owned Ganzhou Rare Earth Group Co., Ltd. has been formed through the merging of Ganzhou Rare Earth Mineral Industry Co., Ltd and several local rare earth companies. China is the largest rare earth supplier in the world but suffering an overexploitation of rare earth. Corporate merger would be a good way to help China recover from the rare earth overexploitation and boost its sustainable development.

See the full article at:

<http://english.people.com.cn/90778/8194576.html>

2 Major Air Pollutants Increase in Beijing

April 3, 2013

Abstract: According to a report released by a Beijing News, levels of two major air pollutants, nitrogen dioxide and PM 10, increased by almost 47% in Beijing on April 3 mainly due to high levels of emissions, whereas the level of sulfur dioxide decreased slightly compared to the same month last year. It is also partly due to topography and low wind speeds in Beijing. In addition, based on the data from Global Burden of Disease Study, outdoor air pollution has become the fourth-leading risk factor for death in China.

See the full article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/04/world/asia/two-major-air-pollutants-increase-in-china.html?ref=environment& r=0>

Shenzhen Is First in China With June Start for Emissions Trading

April 4, 2013

Abstract: According to an interview to Shenzhen mayor Qin Xu, Shenzhen will be the first city to start its carbon market on June 17, 2013. 635 companies joined this program and emission allowances have been allocated to them. China promises to cut off 45% of its greenhouse gases emission through cap-and-trade program by the end of 2020.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-04-04/shenzhen-is-first-in-china-with-june-start-for-emissions-trading.html>

Human Infection With Influenza A(H7N9) in China

April 4, 2013

Abstract: Chinese authorities confirmed six death caused by bird flu on April 5. This is the first time the N7N9 has been detected in humans. The Chinese government is actively investigating this event and has heightened disease surveillance for early detection, diagnosis and treatment. To date, scientists haven't confirmed whether the virus is resistant to drugs or whether it has mutations.

See the full article at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/04/130404073553.htm>

Beijing Residents Rethink Life in the Gig Smoke

April 5, 2013

Abstract: China's heavy air pollution forced lots of foreign residents escape Beijing. Expensive housing, goods and health care, as well as terrible pollution make other immigrants rethink about their life in big cities. Many of them decided to leave big cities to medium-size cities. China is starting to experience the long-term health damage caused by pollution. China's new premier, Li Keqiang, promised to do more to clean up pollution.

See the full article at:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/beijing-residents-rethink-life-in-big-smoke/2013/04/05/516f9ba6-9e02-11e2-a2db-efc5298a95e1_story.html

The Kids Aren't Alright

April 5, 2013

Abstract: Based on a new analysis by Health Effects Institute (HEI), 1.2 million people died of air pollution in China, which takes 40% of the world's premature deaths, and urban air pollution is projected to be the No.1 killer in the world by 2050. A research conducted by Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health showed that prenatal or after-born exposure to coal-burning emissions is associated with children's mental health.

See the full article at:

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/bfinamore/the_kids_arent_alright.html

U.S.

U.S. EPA Raises Standards for Clean Fuels, Vehicles

April 1, 2013

Abstract: New rules to reduce air pollution from passenger cars and trucks proposed Friday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will soon be open for public comment. When finalized, the so-called Tier 3 standards would set new vehicle emissions standards and lower the sulfur content of gasoline starting in 2017.

See the full article at:

<http://ens-newswire.com/2013/04/01/u-s-epa-raises-standards-for-cleaner-fuels-vehicles/>

U.S.-Russia Vie for Largest Natural Gas Reserves

April 7, 2013

Abstract: Global interest in the fossil fuel is on the rise as countries like Russia and Qatar move aggressively to tap their natural gas resources, with others like Israel following suit. The global interest poses a challenge to the U.S.'s growing clout in the sector.

See the full article at:

<http://www.nbcnews.com/business/us-russia-vie-largest-natural-gas-reserves-1B9253378>

European Industry Flocks to U.S. to Take Advantage of Cheaper Gas

April 1, 2013

Abstract: German chemicals giant BASF, which operates the plant here, has announced plans for wide-ranging expansion in the United States, where natural gas prices have fallen to a quarter of those in Europe, largely because of [American innovations](#) in unlocking shale gas.

See the full article at:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/european-industry-flocks-to-cheap-us-gas/2013/04/01/454d06ea-8a2c-11e2-98d9-3012c1cd8d1e_story.html

Pipeline Ruptured in Arkansas, Major Oil Spill

April 1, 2013

Abstract: A leak from the Pegasus pipeline was discovered near Mayflower, Arkansas on Friday, leading to an estimated spill of over 10,000 barrels of Canadian Dilbit.

See the full article at:

<http://www.enn.com/wildlife/article/45797>

Low Great Lakes Water Levels Plague Shipping, Recreation

April 3, 2013

Abstract: Lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior have been below average for 14 consecutive years, the longest stretch in their history. All the Great Lakes are below their long-term average, according to the Corps of Engineers, and are expected to remain so over the next six months. Only Lake Superior is above its 2012 level.

See the full article at:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/04/03/great-lakes-low-water-levels/2050811/>

U.S. Trains Dogs to Sniff out Wildlife Traffickers

April 5, 2013

Abstract: The first class of "wildlife inspector dogs" graduated this week from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Detector Dog Training Center (NDDTC) in Newnan, Ga., where they spent 13 weeks learning to identify the scent of endangered species —

whether it's South American rosewood or African elephant ivory.

See the full article at:

<http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/blogs/us-trains-dogs-to-sniff-out-wildlife-traffickers>

U.S. CO2 Emissions Falls to Lowest Level Since 1994

April 5, 2013

Abstract: Carbon dioxide emissions from energy consumption in the United States during 2012 fell to the lowest level since 1994, finds a new report from the U.S.

See the full article at:

<http://www.enn.com/pollution/article/45824>

Withering Drought still Plaguing Half of America

April 5, 2013

Abstract: Weekly drought figures released Thursday by the U.S. Drought Monitor, a joint project of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the USDA, and several other government and academic partners, show the situation has worsened slightly from last week, with nearly 52 percent of the continental U.S. now suffering from a moderate drought or worse.

See the full article at:

<http://grist.org/climate-energy/withering-drought-still-plaguing-half-of-america/>

Shocker! Half of U.S. Rivers Too Sick for Fish to Live in April 5, 2013

Abstract: The EPA's 2008-2009 National Rivers and Stream Assessment says 55 percent of U.S. river provide "poor conditions for aquatic life."

See the full article at:

<http://www.takepart.com/article/2013/04/04/how-sick-are-american-rivers>

EUROPE

SSE Fined Record £10.5m by Ofgem

April 3 2013

Abstract: Energy supplier SSE has been fined £10.5m by the regulator Ofgem for mis-selling gas and electricity. The fine is the largest ever imposed on an energy supplier by Ofgem. In [its statement](#), Ofgem said SSE, formerly known as Scottish and Southern Energy, was guilty of management failures that led to "prolonged and extensive" mis-selling.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-22011717>

Energy Bills: When Will They Become Clearer?

April 3 2013

Abstract: Two years ago the energy regulator, Ofgem, said energy firms must offer a simpler tariff structure. At that time it found 300 different tariffs were being advertised by energy companies. But instead of things getting simpler, they have become considerably more complex. In the meantime Ofgem has produced a number of [factsheets](#) to try to explain bills to customers.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-22013630>

Dundee Biomass Plant 'Would Have Negligible Impact' on Air Quality

April 4 2013

Abstract: Plans for a biomass plant in Dundee have taken a step forward after a study suggested its impact on local air pollution would be negligible. Forth Energy said the plant could generate 100MW of electricity. Concerns had been raised about the levels of nitrogen dioxide the facility would release into the atmosphere. Air quality monitoring and computer modeling have now suggested the increase in NO2 levels would be less than 1%.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-22019908>

Bernard Matthews Wind Turbine Faces Objections

April 4 2013

Abstract: Plans for turkey producer Bernard Matthews to build a wind turbine face objections from the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the National Trust. The firm wants to build a 252ft (77m) high turbine at Oulton Airfield in Norfolk under plans submitted to Broadland District Council. The firm said the turbine would contribute to the energy efficiency of its farms and generate enough electricity to power the equivalent of 364 homes.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-22023716>

Torquay Sewer-Collapse Threat Forces Raw Waste into Sea

April 4 2013

Abstract: Raw sewage is having to be pumped into the sea at a Devon holiday resort in a bid to stop a main sewer collapsing. A breach in the sea wall at Livermead in Torquay caused part of the road to collapse, undermining the sewer. South West Water (SWW) has had to divert flows away from the sewer as a result, forcing it to pump the raw waste into the sea at Hope's Nose. A section of Torbay Road has been closed to allow repair work to be carried out.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-22021993>

Petrol Pump Sales Decrease over Five Years, Says AA

April 4 2013

Abstract: Forecourt sales of petrol have plunged by more than 20% in five years, the AA has said. The motoring organization said official government figures showed 17 billion liters were sold last year compared to 22 billion in 2007. The AA said rising prices and greater use of smaller and diesel vehicles had contributed to the fall in consumption.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-22035949>

EU Countries to Impose Anti-Dumping Duties on Chinese Ceramics

April 5 2013

Abstract: EU states agreed to impose duties on imports of Chinese plates and other table and kitchenware on Thursday (4 April) after the bloc's executive body said the cheap Asian products were crowding out local goods, according to officials. The European Commission has accused a series of Chinese companies of dumping, or selling products at unfairly low prices.

See the full article at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/trade/eu-countries-impose-anti-dumping-news-518909>

Pesticide Industry and NGO Clash over EFSA Definition of Endocrine Disruptors

April 5 2013

Abstract: The Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe) has sent an open letter to the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy Tonio Borg yesterday (4 April), complaining about an Opinion by the European Food Safety Authority on endocrine disruptors. The industry, however, backs EFSA's views. Endocrine-active substances can interact directly or indirectly with the endocrine system, and subsequently result in an effect on the endocrine system, but are otherwise not creating an adverse effect.

See the full article at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/health/borg-urged-react-efsas-endocrine-news-518890>

OTHER REGIONS

Eritrea: Popular Campaigns Being Conducted in Molqi Sub-Zone

April 1, 2013

Abstract: The residents in Molqi are conducting soil and water conservation campaigns. The purpose of the campaigns is to promote soil and water conservation, control erosion and create calm to the environment. The campaigns will help residents raise agricultural produce.

See the full article at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201304011352.html>

Egypt: Qandil Discusses Maintaining Nature Reserves

April 2, 2013

Abstract: Prime Minister of Egypt held a conference to review the nature reserves status throughout Egypt and discuss future plans, including local involvement in developing and maintaining national resources, removing any violations of the state-owned property and reactivating environment tourism.

See the full article at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201304021034.html>

Indonesia: Sumatran Rhino Found in Kalimantan after Unseen in Region for 20 years

April 2, 2013

Abstract: WWF-Indonesia announced that they have found evidence that at least one Sumatran rhino persisting in the Indonesian. No information yet showed on whether this is just one rhino or a group of survivors. WWF-Indonesia is working on the number of persistence Sumatran rhino and working with local communities to protect this area.

See the full article at:

<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0402-hance-sumatran-rhino-kalimantan.html>

Uganda: Uganda Reviews Environmental Laws

April 2, 2013

Abstract: Observers say that Uganda's existing laws on environment are too gentle to protect environment from massive degradation. State Minister for Environment said she will draft stronger laws to ensure the environmental protection.

See the full article at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201304020200.html>

Kenya: Kenyan Floods Kill Six, Displace Hundreds

April 3, 2013

Abstract: More than six people were killed and 200 homes were damaged because of the flood at the weekend. Special Programmes Minister warned residents to warm to the higher place, however, nowhere can accommodate those who need to re-locate.

See the full article at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201304030224.html>

Japan killed record low number of whales/Japan

Apr. 5, 2013

According to the agency's web site, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said the recent hunt yielded only 103 Antarctic minke whales and no fin whales. Japan blamed environmental activists for a "record low" take during this year's whaling season in the Southern Ocean.

<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0405-japan-whaling-2013.html#CHidmBuxp1fX45he.99>

30% of Brazil's emissions from deforestation are export-driven/Brazil

Apr 5, 2013

2.7 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions or 30 percent of the carbon associated with deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon between 2000 and 2010 was effectively exported in the form of beef products and soy. The research found that Brazilian consumption is responsible for the vast majority of emissions from its own deforestation

<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0405-amazon-deforestation-emissions-exports.html#VjV1rup83tiqDP5y.99>