

Tackling global warming pollution, nation by nation

By 2050, the world must cut greenhouse gas pollution in half or face climate chaos. EDF is helping fast-growing economies adopt carbon limits and eventually link their carbon markets, to cut pollution further by driving clean energy investments.



PRESERVING RAINFORESTS AND THEIR BIODIVERSITY

What if rainforests were worth more alive than dead? That would slow rainforest destruction, which accounts for 15% of all carbon emissions. EDF helped create a three-state international working group to reduce deforestation, cut pollution and protect biodiversity.

1 As California's strict new carbon emissions limits kick in, industries may have the opportunity to invest in rainforest protection to meet part of their carbon-reduction obligation.

2 Chiapas, Mexico, is home to cloud forests and the resplendent quetzal, known for its colorful plumage. U.S. investment could give these treasures a chance to survive.

3 With EDF's help, the Brazilian state of Acre is putting in place policies that will protect 33 million acres of undisturbed rainforest.



OUR CHALLENGE TO AIRLINES

4 When American Airlines and United Continental sued to block a European Union law cutting carbon emissions from international flights, EDF joined European nations to defend the law.



A FILM STARTS A DIALOGUE

5 To spark action on climate change in India, EDF produced a popular film that links global warming and rural development. The film and its climate workshop have been seen in 500 villages.



LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT

6 EDF and partners are promoting low-carbon development in India through clean technology, including clean-burning stoves and climate-friendly farming. This year our projects reached 160,000 families.



CARBON FARMING IN ASIA

7 EDF's work with farmers in China, India and Vietnam has reduced greenhouse gas pollution by more than one million tons by promoting farming practices that keep more carbon in the soil.



A VOICE FOR ISLAND NATIONS

8 At UN climate talks, EDF helped island nations draw international attention to the grave risks they face from global warming. We are also supporting efforts by these states to shift to clean energy.

85% growth in energy use in the developing world is projected in the next 25 years

Helping China meet its environmental challenges

As the world's largest greenhouse gas emitter, China is crucial to controlling global warming. EDF has worked in China since 1991, building a strong record of success.

We have helped create environmental markets, including a pilot sulfur dioxide trading program and China's first environmental commodities exchange. Their success helped convince the Chinese government to include low-carbon pilot projects, including trading, and ambitious pollution reduction targets in the 12th Five-Year Plan, announced in 2011.

Dr. Daniel Dudek, head of EDF's China program, has been appointed co-chair of a task force that will advise Premier Wen Jiabao on strategies for meeting the plan's environmental goals. Dudek also will advise the premier on long-term environmental planning.

EDF has been equally active in linking carbon markets to poverty alleviation. Our partner is the State Council's Poverty Alleviation Office, which has representatives in every town, city and province in the nation. We designed a program to pay more than 600,000 poor farmers in Xinjiang, Sichuan

and Shaanxi provinces to reduce carbon emissions through improved farming practices and by turning agricultural waste into energy. Our goal is to enlist 20 million farming families in the program by 2016.

Environmental enforcement remains weak in China, so we are helping to strengthen penalties for violations. EDF helped set tougher national penalties for water pollution, and China is now considering a similar policy for air pollution.

From our offices in Beijing and Shanghai, we are working with Chinese universities to train a new generation of environmental leaders. So far, we've trained 8,400 environmental professionals who will enforce penalties and introduce market incentives to cut pollution.



EDF's Green Commuting campaign helps clear the air in Shanghai and 19 other Chinese cities.

“Under Dr. Dudek’s leadership, the task force ... will propose valuable recommendations for the 12th Five-Year Plan on mechanisms to reduce emissions of major pollutants.”

Li Ganjie

Vice Minister of Environmental Protection, People's Republic of China