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<http://www.unepfi.org/ebulletin>

"It's like subprime mortgages ... one of longest-kept secrets of uncalculated risk. By not acting on climate change ... we face the same kind of [risks] with what we're seeing in subprime."

- **Mindy Lubber, President of Ceres** -

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*** UNEP FI – Safeguarding Natural Value and Building Responsible Markets**

Academy award-winning cinematographer, Dr Jim Frazier, has warned that time is running out to save the world's natural wealth and protect our precious biodiversity and life-supporting ecosystems.

Speaking to an audience drawn from across Geneva's financial, diplomatic and international organization communities at the historic UN Palais des Nations in Geneva on 31 March 2008, the Australian wildlife specialist, who amongst many international credits was instrumental in the filming of Sir David Attenborough's iconic "Life on Earth" television series, said he has been driven to action by nearly 40 years of filming in every imaginable ecosystem worldwide and witnessing first-hand the ecological devastation that is unfolding. "We really are running out of time. But I am an optimist and believe we can still safeguard our biodiversity and wonderful ecosystems if we act urgently and act together," he explained.

Launch of UNEP FI's Bloom or Bust

Dr Frazier, the inventor of the Frazier Lens that took Hollywood by storm in the mid-1990s, joined a group of distinguished speakers to help UNEP Finance Initiative hold the European launch of its "Bloom or Bust" publication. Banker Richard Burrett, of ABN AMRO and Chair of UNEP FI's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Work Stream (BESWS), launched "Bloom or Bust" at the start of UNEP FI's half-day event focused on "Film, Conservation and Investment".

The report examines where the financial services sector should stand on biodiversity and ecosystem services (BES) issues and reinforces the need for responsible and sustainable development of new markets based on natural value.

Mr Burrett commented: "Bloom or Bust is timely in coming just ahead of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meeting taking place in Bonn in May. The report takes an in-depth look at the financial services and capital markets business case for involvement in BES from both risk and opportunity perspectives." Also speaking at the UNEP FI event were Simon Rietbergen (UK) of The Prince's Rainforest Project and Neil Philcox (Canada) of Rainforest Solutions Project.

Following the event, Paul Clements-Hunt, Head of UNEP FI, commented: "In biodiversity and ecosystems services we are starting to see the type of thinking and early action that over the past ten years in the climate change arena has resulted in a USD 30 billion carbon market now, in 2008, and one which is set to grow exponentially in coming years. The race to create real, liquid and growing BES markets is underway and interest amongst the global financial services sector and capital market actors is growing".

To view the report, please visit:

http://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/bloom_or_bust_report.pdf.

For further information on UNEP FI's BES Work Stream, please visit:

http://www.unepfi.org/work_streams/biodiversity/index.html

*** Changing Landscapes: Towards a sustainable economy in Asia**

17-18 June 2008, Seoul, Republic of Korea

UNEP Finance Initiative, in association with Eco-Frontier, Korea, is delighted to announce the UNEP Finance Initiative Conference on Sustainable Finance taking place in Seoul on 17 and 18 June 2008. The event will include Special Joint Sessions and a Gala Dinner with the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and the UN Global Compact.

This conference promises to be a particularly special event, as for the first time, UNEP FI will team up with the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and the UN Global Compact to offer a unique platform for dialogue between the finance/investor community and businesses with respect to corporate citizenship and sustainability at a high-level afternoon session and a gala dinner on 17 June.

The conference, which will cover the latest issues on sustainable finance, is expected to attract 200 participants including representatives from the finance sector, policy makers, academia and civil society.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.unepfi.org/events/2008/seoul/>

UNEP FI SUSTAINABILITY BEAT

1. UNEP FI Welcomes 3 New Signatories

* Fidelity Bank plc, Nigeria

Fidelity Bank Plc is one of Nigeria's 25 consolidated banks. Fidelity Bank has been in operation for twenty years; with shareholders funds in excess of \$1billion, Fidelity Bank is rated as one of the top 6 banks in the corporate banking segment of the Nigerian banking industry. Fidelity provides personal and commercial banking, corporate and investment banking, diaspora banking and transaction services.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.fidelitybankplc.com>

* Merrill Lynch, USA

Merrill Lynch is one of the world's leading wealth management, capital markets and advisory companies, with offices in 40 countries and territories and total client assets of almost \$2 trillion. Merrill Lynch offers a broad range of services to private clients, small businesses, and institutions and corporations, organizing its activities into two interrelated business segments - Global Markets & Investment Banking and Global Wealth Management, which is comprised of Global Private Client and Global Investment Management.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.ml.com>

* United Bank for Africa Foundation, Nigeria

United Bank for Africa (UBA) Foundation is the first Nigerian financial institution to become a UNEP FI Signatory since the consolidation of Nigerian banking sector. It is the largest bank and financial services institution in Nigeria and West Africa with a balance sheet size in excess of one trillion Naira (under 10bn USD). UBA Foundation is a grant-making and operational institution that receives one percent of UBA's profit-before-tax for funding. Operations are anchored on four focus areas: environment, education, economic empowerment, and special projects.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.ubagroup.com>

2. What UNEP FI Signatories are Doing...

* ASSET4 Sustainability Breakfast Seminars

April 2008, Zurich, Geneva and Frankfurt

ASSET4 and INRate AG open the floor on how to efficiently integrate environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into your investment analysis.

For further information and registrations, please visit: <http://www.asset4.com/seminars/>

* Merrill Lynch and Société Générale Launch Emissions Indexes

The MLCX Global CO2 Emissions Index and SGI-orbeo Carbon Credit Index will offer access to the major carbon dioxide markets set up by the European Union and the Kyoto protocol.

For further information, please visit:

http://www.ml.com/index.asp?id=7695_7696_8149_88278_92707_94590

<http://www.sgindex.com/services/quotes/details.php?family=43>

TOOLS & TRAINING FOR SUSTAINABLE FINANCE IMPLEMENTATION

3. E-Learning Programme on Environmental & Social Risk Analysis (ESRA) 2008

*In English
7-25 April (Africa)

*In Spanish (Latin America)

12–30 May (CAF clients and partners) 11-29 August

A product of the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), Capacity Building International (InWent), and the INCAE Business School, with the support of the Ecobanking Project. Initially developed in Spanish in 2006 by the UNEP FI Latin American Regional Task Force, with the support of Bank of America, the English-language edition of the course was produced in 2007 thanks to the support of FMO, the Dutch Development Bank.

For further information & applications, please visit: <http://www.unepfi.org/training/index.html>

4. E-learning Course on Climate Change

2-27 June 2008

UNEP FI has received an overwhelming response to the course offering: more than 100 institutions worldwide have registered to push their environmental skills ahead of the curve with UNEP FI's E-Learning Course on "Climate Change: Risks and Opportunities for the Finance Sector". The next edition of the course is scheduled for Q4 2008.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.unitar.org/unepfi/>

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE ACROSS THE GLOBE

5. Africa

*** UNEP FI West Africa Roundtable**

21-22 May 2008, Lagos, Nigeria

Organised by UNEP FI's African Task Force (ATF), this West African Roundtable on "Sustainable Finance: Opportunities and Challenges" is kindly supported by Citigroup and will welcome over 50 financial sector, government and NGO delegates from the region. Roundtable discussions will focus on concepts of sustainable finance and enable delegates to deepen their understanding of actions the finance sector can take.

The results of a UNEP FI study on the barriers and drivers to commercial microfinance in Africa will be released, along with reports and case studies on innovative financing and risk mitigation mechanisms for sustainable small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Workshop topics will also address environmental and social governance (ESG) in credit risk policies as well as investment in climate change issues.

It is hoped discussions will provide a fruitful platform for financial institutions in West Africa so they can embrace their role in sustainable development.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.unepfi.org/events/2008/lagos/index.html>

6. Asia Pacific

*** Australasia UNEP FI Newsletter**

The 14th edition of the Australasian UNEP FI Newsletter has been released with a comprehensive round-up of the UNEP FI Global Roundtable that took place in Melbourne at the end of 2007.

To view the Newsletter, please visit:

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/bus/unep/docs/UNEP-FI-Newsletter-Feb08.pdf>

7. Central & Eastern Europe

*** Partners for Financial Stability (PFS) Release 14th Survey of Online Investor Relations**

This survey looks at the ten largest listed companies (by market capitalization) in 11 Central and Eastern European (CEE) Countries and shows that disclosure in almost all categories remains at or reaches its highest level since the first survey was conducted in August 2001.

This edition also contains comparisons with BRIC and Ukraine: the largest listed companies in BRIC are shown to equal or outperform their CEE peers in every category. However Ukrainian companies surveyed appear to disclose less information than their peers in both BRIC and CEE.

To view the survey, please visit: http://www.pfsprogram.org/capitalmarkets_research.php

8. Latin America

*** UNEP FI Latin American Task Force (LATF) Plans to Launch Online Eco-efficiency Course**

Together with the Ecobanking Project, UNEP FI's LATF is currently working on the production of a new online training course on corporate eco-efficiency for financial institutions. The aim of this project is to provide relevant FI staff with the knowledge and skills to implement policies and mechanisms that will allow their institutions to reduce their environmental footprint while promoting a sustainability corporate culture and also reducing costs internally.

*** Summit of the Americas 2008 - Financing Natural Resources & Sustainable Development**

1-3 April 2008, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Hosted by Global Investment Conferences, the Summit was an all-professional, by-invitation-only mining investment conference. Financial Institutions including Banco Real/ABN AMRO, Citi, HSBC, WestLB and Standard Chartered, presented on how they integrate environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into decision making. Featured Guest Speakers included Ruben Chavez, Director, Credit Portfolio Management, HSBC/Mexico and Co-Chair, Latin American Task Force, UNEP Finance Initiative.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.gicevents.com>

*** Carbon Markets Americas**

April 15-16 2008, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Carbon Markets Americas is the third edition of the Global Carbon Markets Series organized by Green Power Conferences, comprising a two day business networking event with a Commercial Project Stream and Finance & Trading Stream. Carbon Markets Americas will bring together the world's leading carbon consultants, brokers and financiers with businesses in the region. Carbon Markets Americas aims to stimulate and bring new project developers and hosts to the forefront with the overall aim of increasing the size of the market.

For further information, please visit:

http://greenpowerconferences.com/carbonmarkets/carbonmarkets_americas_2008.html

9. North America

*** Leading Wall Street Banks Establish The Carbon Principles**

Three of the world's leading financial institutions have launched The Carbon Principles, a set of climate change guidelines for advisors and lenders to power companies in the United States. These Principles are the result of a nine-month intensive effort to create an approach to evaluating and addressing carbon risks in the financing of electric power projects.

The Principles were developed in partnership by Citi, JPMorgan Chase and Morgan Stanley, and in consultation with leading power companies American Electric Power, CMS Energy, DTE Energy, NRG Energy, PSEG, Sempra and Southern Company. Environmental Defense and the

Natural Resources Defense Council, environmental non-governmental organizations, also advised on the creation of the Principles.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.carbonprinciples.org>

*** Carbon Finance North America 2008**

4-6 June 2008, New York

<http://www.environmental-finance.com/conferences/2008/CFNA08/intro.htm>

10. Western Europe

Annual Sustainable Finance Summit 2008

23-24 June 2008, Brussels, Belgium

The third of its kind, this Summit is designed to help participants identify physical, financial and reputational risks and also to show how to take advantage of emerging opportunities in sustainable and ethical finance.

Further details of these events and others can be found at:

<http://www.ethicalperformance.com/pages/eventsList.php?region=europe>

INVESTMENT

11. UN Workshop on PRI Implementation

4 June 2008, Frankfurt, Germany

UNEP FI, KfW (German Development Bank), the German SRI Forum and the German Association for Environmental Management in Banks, Savings Banks and Insurance companies (VfU) will be offering a workshop on the implementation of the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). Kindly hosted by KfW, the event follows on from an earlier seminar held in February 2007, which triggered significant interest in further discussing questions related to the PRI in Germany.

For further information and registrations, please visit: <http://www.vfu.de/>

12. UN PRI Personnel Recruitment

*Communications Manager, London

*PRI Fellowship, London

For further information, please visit: <http://www.unpri.org/jobs/>

13. How much is Corporate Sustainability Performance Worth?

12 March 2008, Montreux, Switzerland

UNEP FI and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development have jointly started to address the ESG inefficiency of capital markets.

Despite the recent surge of CSR reporting, SRI activities and more holistic investment analysis, the corporate valuation mechanisms of capital markets appear to stubbornly remain indifferent when it comes to the sustainability-related success or failure of traded companies. Are capital market makers still not convinced of the financial relevance of these issues or do they simply lack the company information and instruments needed to act truly ESG inclusively?

Following a pilot gathering in London on 21-22 January, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and UNEP FI re-convened a scale-up workshop series in Montreux on 12 March. The aim was both to confirm the outcomes of the London workshop attended by a critical mass of WBCSD 'investee' companies, to define the next steps in the process, as well as to bring the discussion around the reporting of sustainability-related and financially material company information to a level of sectors.

Participants from the investor side were: Eurizon Capital, HSBC Investments, Conser Invest, ASSET4, Centre Info, Innovest, Zuercher Kantonalbank, Pictet, Sustainable Asset Management.

Participants from the investee side were: Accenture, AIG, Akzo Nobel, Allianz, Anglo-American, Arcelor Mittal, Boarealis, CAT, CEMEX, CLP, Conoco Phillips, ENI, ERM, Ford, GM, Henkel, IBM, Infosys, IAG, ITT, KCC, KPMG, Nokia, Novonordisk, Novozymes, Petro-Canada, Petrobras, PWC, Procter & Gamble, Philips, Sanyo, Sony, Statoil Hydro, Storebrand, Suez, Umicore, Vodafone, Volkswagen, Votoran.

Stay tuned for the next project phase which will aim to involve 'investor relations' and 'conventional fund' managers in expanding the project scope, out of the SRI and CSR niches, into the mainstream of capital markets.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unepfi.org/events/2008/london/index.html>

CLIMATE CHANGE

14. Waste Less, Save the Planet and Make Money. Sounds easy?

In 2008 the UNEP FI Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) is addressing a major carbon market failure and finding out how to overcome the barriers to energy efficiency finance.

According to research undertaken by the Rocky Mountain Institute, energy efficiency (EE) activities could achieve, just in the US, nearly 60% of all cost-effective emissions reductions from all sources, including renewable energies. From the perspective of the financial community, the low-hanging fruit of EE are abundant: China for instance has been experiencing consistent energy intensity decreases of 5% p.a. Its overall energy intensity, however, remains at 4 times that of the US, and 8 times that of the UK.

It will come as no surprise, then, that energy efficiency finance/investment has been increasing satisfactorily in recent years (from around USD 700 million in 2006 to USD 1.1 billion in 2007). Compared to renewable energy finance/investment efforts (which have increased from USD 70 billion in 2006 to over USD 100 billion in 2007), however, energy efficiency activities and finance appear to be lagging behind.

These are the reasons why UNEP FI's CCWG has decided to focus on how to overcome this obvious Carbon market failure and will seek to identify possible solutions to embrace what appears to be a tremendous business opportunity, an opportunity perhaps even bigger than that previously offered by the boom of renewable energy.

For further information, please visit:

http://www.unepfi.org/work_streams/climate_change/working_group/index.html

BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

15. UNEP FI and the Evolution of Natural Markets

Aware of the transformation in the financial sector with regard to biodiversity & ecosystem services (BES), UNEP FI started up its BES Work Stream in early 2007.

The balance between market forces and the intrinsic value of our natural wealth that underpins all development is a delicate one, with polarizing opinions. UNEP FI is seeking to understand where the financial services sector should stand on BES issues and reinforce the need for responsible and sustainable development of new markets based on natural value. In late March and early April 2008, UNEP FI's BES Work Stream, led by Susan Steinhagen, were involved in three events in New York, Geneva, and Bonn, that put the complex interaction between BES, finance and capital markets under the spotlight.

UNEP FI's burst of activity around BES issues comes as part of the Initiative's preparation for the pivotal UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meeting in Bonn, Germany, from 14 to 31 May. UNEP FI, joining with other UNEP colleagues, will be present in Bonn to present its work with the financial services sector and in its efforts to integrate BES thinking into capital market dynamics.

Several Events, One Message

UNEP FI BES Work Stream leader Susan Steinhagen, participated in the "Biodiversity & Ecosystem Finance" conference held on 27-28 March, in New York. Organised by Green Power Conferences and endorsed by UNEP FI, the conference was the first-of-its-kind, bringing together 100 participants from financial institutions, environmental NGOs and experts on biodiversity & ecosystem conservation.

UNEP FI also participated in an International Conference on Business & Biodiversity held on 2-3 April in Bonn, Germany. Organised by Global Nature Fund (GNF) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and supported by the Federal Ministry for Environment in Germany, this conference was organised in the run-up to 9th Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the UN CBD, which will be held in May 2008 in Bonn.

At both events, UNEP FI's work on biodiversity & ecosystem services, including its latest report, Bloom or Bust, as well as one of UNEP FI's current projects – The Natural Value Initiative, an agricultural benchmarking tool for asset managers, was presented.

Watch out for the May edition of the e-bulletin, which will highlight more information on UNEP FI's preparation for the UN CBD conference, the Prince's Rainforest Project, and the Rainforest Solutions Project.

For further information on UNEP FI's BES Work Stream, please visit:

http://www.unepfi.org/work_streams/biodiversity/index.html

For further information on the NVI, please visit: <http://www.naturalvalueinitiative.org/>

SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT & REPORTING

16. Final Meeting of UNEP FI GRI Working Group on the Financial Sector Supplement

6-7 March, New York

The GRI Financial Sector Supplement, a culmination of four years of piloting and revising by the joint UNEP FI-GRI Working Group is currently being finalised. The Working Group met at the Christian Brothers Investment Services in New York in March to discuss and incorporate public feedback into the revised version of the Supplement. The Group had submitted its revised draft to the public for a 3 month comment period from October 07 to January 08, thereby receiving 35 submissions of feedback from a wide range of financial institutions and stakeholders. The Supplement will be submitted to the GRI for approval and launch in the second quarter of 2008.

For further information, please visit: http://www.unepfi.org/work_streams/reporting/gri/index.html

17. One New UNEP FI Signatory Sustainability Report

Fortis 4th CSR Report

http://www.fortis.com/sustainability/media/pdf/Fortis-CSR_2007_UK.pdf

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