

# CLIMOS NOTES



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## Swedes criticize the CBD

August 13th, 2008, by dan

In Nature today, 10 Swedish scientists have criticized the lack of scientific process and the over politicized nature of the CBD, the same group which pushed for restrictions on OIF earlier this year.

<http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080813/full/454809a.html>

Biodiversity body 'lacks science'

Swedish researchers criticize credentials of convention.

Daniel Cressey

Swedish researchers have launched a scathing attack on the scientific credentials of an international advisory body on biodiversity, warning that its effectiveness is being undermined by the increasing dominance of politicians and professional negotiators.

Their concerns about the work of the scientific body that advises the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are widely shared, the convention's own executive secretary, Ahmed Djoghlaif, has told Nature. The convention has been signed by 168 countries who pledge to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. Article 25 of the convention states that government representatives shall be "competent in the relevant field of expertise", but according to the Swedes, this is often not the case.

In a letter published in Conservation Biology, the ten scientists in the Swedish delegation to the CBD say that some parties to the convention are clearly trying to move away from science so that the convention does not interfere with trade and economic growth (L. Laikre et al. Conserv. Biol. 22, 814–815; 2008).

Per Wramner of Södertörn University College in Flemingsberg, who is one of the letter's authors, says that the February CBD meeting in Rome pushed them to act after it became bogged down in political wrangling and semantics. "This last meeting was a disaster from the scientific perspective," says Wramner, who chairs the Swedish government's CBD advisory group.

"Mexico and the European Union also expressed concern that there are too many new issues of

procedure and of a policy nature,” says Djoghlaif.

Conservation scientist Michael Stocking of the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK, says that the nomination system is “the core of the problem, in that these tend to be government nominees ... not scientists who are up to date with the literature”. Countries that fund the CBD will have to insist on change for it to actually happen, says Stocking, who is vice-chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel for the Global Environment Facility, which administers the funding for the CBD.

The concerns come amid attempts led by France to create a new international science policy group on biodiversity. Modelled on the same independent framework as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, this new body could mitigate some of the recently raised concerns. A ‘concept note’ for the new group was circulated last month by France.

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## [UK Guardian: Bob Watson warns of 4C temp rise](#)

August 11th, 2008, by dan

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/aug/06/climatechange.scienceofclimatechange>

The UK should take active steps to prepare for dangerous climate change of perhaps 4C according to one of the government’s chief scientific advisers.

In policy areas such as flood protection, agriculture and coastal erosion Professor Bob Watson said the country should plan for the effects of a 4C global average rise on pre-industrial levels. The EU is committed to limiting emissions globally so that temperatures do not rise more than 2C.

“There is no doubt that we should aim to limit changes in the global mean surface temperature to 2C above pre-industrial,” Watson, the chief scientific adviser to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, told the Guardian. “But given this is an ambitious target, and we don’t know in detail how to limit greenhouse gas emissions to realise a 2 degree target, we should be prepared to adapt to 4C.”

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## [Physics Today on geoengineering](#)

August 4th, 2008, by kevin

In “[Will desperate climates call for desperate geoengineering measures?](#)“, Physics Today surveys the rationale for researching geoengineering, and discusses the prominent areas of research. Noteworthy is the opinion of Dr. Ralph Cicerone, President of the US National Academy of Sciences, who favors research before widespread implementation and highlights “*the need for a qualified agency to oversee the design, implementation, and monitoring of experiments.*”

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## [New articles in Geoengineering Roundtable](#)

July 29th, 2008, by kevin

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has two new entries in the [Geoengineering Roundtable](#). This brings a total of ten articles by preeminent scientists in the geoengineering debate.

*Read:*

[\*Designing a geoengineering research agenda should be a group effort\*](#)  
Dan Whaley and Margaret Leinen of Climos.

[\*We should plan for the worst-case climate scenario\*](#)  
Ken Caldeira of Stanford University.

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## [Dan Whaley interviewed on the BBC World Service](#)

July 25th, 2008, by kevin

Dan Whaley, CEO of Climos, is [interviewed by Peter Day of the BBC](#). This is a follow-up to an interview published in May 2008, and highlights several emerging clean technology solutions to climate change including OIF.

[Download the July 22nd, 2008 interview](#)

[Download the original May 29th, 2008 interview](#)

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## [Ocean alkalinity modification proposal funded by Shell Oil](#)

July 23rd, 2008, by kevin

Shell Oil has funded a proposal by Cquestrate to investigate atmospheric carbon removal by adding lime to sea water. This process is heavily energy intensive, but could still be cost-effective near oil fields that have un-utilized natural gas resources. Instead of flaring the gas, it could be harnessed to create lime from limestone. Notably, the company developing this process plans to use an “Open Source” development process so that anyone can use the technology.

Read a [Wired article](#) on the process.

Read about the [open source methodology](#), and visit the company's website.

Categories: [Geoengineering](#)

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## [Amazon River powers carbon sequestration](#)

July 23rd, 2008, by kevin

A new paper in the Proceedings of the National Academies shows that nutrient-rich discharge greatly enhances the biological pump mechanism of carbon sequestration. The sequestration happens as the discharge plume enters deep water off the continental shelf, where excess iron, phosphorous, and silica stimulate diatoms and nitrogen-fixing diazotrophs. The measured carbon sequestration rates are very high in the area of the discharge plume.

Read the [paper in PNAS](#) (free download).

Read an [article from the National Science Foundation](#).

Categories: [New Science](#), [Ocean Fertilization](#)

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## [Sahara dust essential for iron fertilization of Atlantic](#)

July 23rd, 2008, by kevin

A new paper in Nature Geoscience highlights the importance of iron fertilization from dust storms blowing off the Sahara coast. The dust “sustains life” in the tropical North Atlantic ocean by enhancing the growth of nitrogen-fixing phytoplankton that require iron.

Read the [press release in Science Daily](#).

Read the [abstract in Nature Geoscience](#).

Categories: [New Science](#), [Ocean Fertilization](#)

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## [Christian Science Monitor covers geoengineering](#)

July 17th, 2008, by kevin

The Christian Science Monitor published this article, “[Can we engineer a cooler Earth?](#)“, which discusses the need for geoengineering as a stop-gap approach until the world can implement meaningful CO2 emissions cuts. Also mentioned is the need to begin researching how geoengineering could be conducted responsibly.

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## [Earth2Tech on Planktos](#)

July 7th, 2008, by dan

Katie Fehrenbacher at Earth2Tech covers the relaunch of Planktos under “Planktos-Science.com”.

She notes: “If Planktos Science wants to be a serious company, they should get some serious PR help.”

[Read it here](#)

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