

Message from Jeff Sachs



Real Video (7:26)

Quicktime (7:26)

What happened at the September 14-16 UN Summit? Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Earth Institute, summarizes some of the critical outcomes from this groundbreaking meeting and describes three projects — the Millennium Villages Project, the malaria "Breaking the Bottleneck" initiative, and the Millennium Cities Project — that are putting Earth Institute expertise in the forefront of helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Says Sachs, "We will show on confidence that the practical measures we are recommending to fight disease, grow more food, have children in school, and connect villages with transport and communications infrastructure can succeed and be a major pathway out of extreme poverty."



Sachs, Jolie Show Poverty First Hand in MTV Special

In this MTV special, actress and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie visits Kenya with a world leading expert on poverty, Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Earth Institute and Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals. On their trip, they witness how the challenges of hunger, disease and isolation in Africa are being overcome in this small village beset by hunger, AIDS, and malaria. [more](#)

In the News

Panel Tracks Climate Changes

From prolonged droughts to hard-hitting hurricanes, the weather sure seems to be acting up. But determining if and when such weather events will occur isn't an easy task. *From the Rockland Journal News, September 29, 2005*

Letter from Africa: Continent-wide Katrina Just Waiting to Happen

Jeffrey D. Sachs argues that spending money wisely now to forestall Africa's problems is both an economic and political no-brainer, even if one believes the continent's problems will never worsen. *From The International Herald Tribune, September 21, 2005*

Fresh Heat for Energy Policy

As the global population races toward 9 billion people, "it won't be possible to raise the standard of living for everyone without intolerable environmental consequences," says Klaus Lackner, a professor of earth and environmental engineering at Columbia University. *From Business Week, September 20, 2005*

BBC In Pictures: Millennium Village of Sauri, Kenya

In the Kenyan village of Sauri, development experts from the Earth Institute, the government, and villagers are working to prove that obstacles can be overcome.



The Very Cold Case of the Glacier

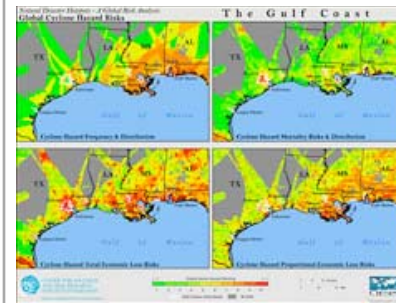
The New York region was once covered by a vast crystalline shield of frozen water. But what killed it, and how long did it take to die? *From The New York Times, September 14, 2005*

Tropical Deforestation Affects Rainfall in the U.S. and Around the Globe

Researchers found that deforestation in the Amazon region of South America (Amazonia) influences rainfall from Mexico to Texas and in the Gulf of Mexico. *From Innovations Report, September 13, 2005*

Millennium Development Goals 'Not Doomed to Fail'

"Of course the data on the world's poorest people are weak, as is just about every other effort regarding the poor," write authors of this article Jeffrey D. Sachs, John McArthur and Guido Schmidt-Traub. *From SciDevNet, September 13, 2005*



Mapping the Risks of Hurricane Disasters

The Natural Disaster Hotspots report released earlier this year showed that the U.S. Gulf Coast is among the world's most at-risk regions in terms of human mortality and economic loss due to storms like Katrina and Rita. [more](#)



Indonesia President Cites Peace as Crucial to Achieving MDGs

Indonesia president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono took the stage at Columbia University's World Leaders Forum and challenged the world to take more decisive action in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At the same time, he held up Indonesia as both a bleak reminder of the need to make immediate progress as well as a model for how the far-reaching development goals could be met by combining peace with development. [more](#)

Watch special introduction by Jeffrey D. Sachs:
[Quicktime \(1:58\)](#)
[Real Video \(1:58\)](#)

[Go to MTV site to watch full episode \(PC only\)](#)



How an Ecologist Moved to the Center of Sustainable Development

Projects like the Millennium Villages Project are putting ecologists, particularly agroforestry specialists, to critical use in combatting hunger and poverty by helping entire villages to have more robust crops and healthier soils. [more](#)

CIESIN, Earth Institute Play Key Roles in Global Change Conference in Germany

A major meeting of social scientists who study the human role in producing and responding to global environmental changes will take place in Bonn, Germany, from October 9 to 13, 2005. The Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) and the Earth Institute are playing key roles. [more](#)

Tufts Awards Economics Prize to Columbia's Richard R. Nelson

Tufts University will present its annual Leontief Prize to economics pioneer and Columbia University professor Richard R. Nelson on October 27, 2005. The 2005 prizes come at a critical juncture in world trade negotiations as the World Trade Organization prepares for its December meetings in Hong Kong. The prize was also awarded to Ha-Joon Chang of Cambridge University. [more](#)

M-A-C AIDS Fund Grants \$200,000 to the Access Project in Kenya

The Center for Global Health and Economic Development, a joint venture between Columbia University's Earth Institute and Mailman School of Public Health, has expanded its flagship Access Project into Kenya thanks to a recent \$200,000 grant from the M-A-C AIDS Fund. [more](#)

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Time for a Tough Question: Why Rebuild?

By Klaus Jacob
Should we rebuild New Orleans, 10 feet below sea level, just so it can be wiped out again? *From The Washington Post, September 6, 2005*

[more recently in the media](#)

Special Events at the Earth Institute

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 4-7pm

[The Earth Institute's Environmental Open House](#)
Learn more about undergraduate and graduate programs, including Climate and Society (M.A.) and Sustainable Development (Ph.D).

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 6-8pm

[The North American Drought, A.D. 800-2004: Richard Seager](#)
Presented by the New York Academy of Sciences, with Richard Seager, Doherty Senior Research Scientist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

Thursday, Oct. 20, from 9am-1pm

[The Earth Institute and Scientific American: Crossroads for Planet Earth](#)
The Earth Institute and Scientific American present a panel discussion hosted by Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute and John Rennie, Editor in Chief of Scientific American. Admission is free. Reservation required.

Thursday, Oct. 27, 6-7:30pm

[Center for the Study of Science and Religion \(CSSR\) Fall Seminar Series: Islam and the Transformation of Greek Science](#)
With George Saliba, Professor of Arabic and Islamic Science, Department of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University. Open to the public.

Thursday, Oct. 27, 8:15-10pm

[The End of Poverty: A Lecture and Book Signing with Jeffrey D. Sachs](#)
At the 92 St. Y. RSVP required. Admission is \$25.



Sanchez, Palm Author Book on Complex Issues Surrounding Slash-and-Burn Agriculture

Every year about 130,000 km² of humid tropical rain forest is destroyed, in part from the slash-and-burn practices of both large- and small-scale farmers. Yet the small-scale farmers who use slash-and-burn agriculture depend on it to produce food and make a living for their families. Balancing the legitimate interests of rural households and global concerns about tropical deforestation is one of the major challenges of the coming decades and the focus of this new book by Cheryl Palm, Stephen A. Vosti, Pedro A. Sanchez, and

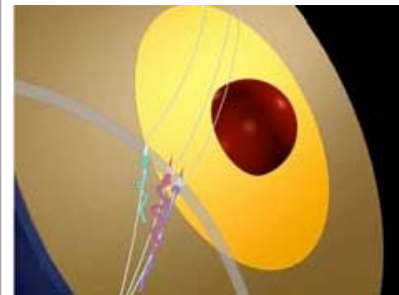


Rwanda President Questions Talk Over Action for Africa

Calling for improved development assistance, fair trade, and debt cancellation to meet the needs of Sub-Saharan Africa where 500 children die every hour of deprivation, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda addressed the Columbia University World Leaders Forum discussing his country's perspective on the Millennium Development Goals. [full coverage](#)

Sachs, Top Science Writers and Experts Examine World Challenges at Special Event October 20

Join Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of The Earth Institute, John Rennie, Editor in Chief of Scientific American, and the authors of a special September issue of Scientific American as they examine how we can tackle the world's toughest challenges and create "a plan for a brighter future beyond 2050." [more](#)



How Scientists Confirmed Earth's Inner Core is Rotating Faster Than Rest of Planet

How did scientists confirm the Earth's inner core is rotating faster than the rest of the planet? This animation explains the research done by the scientists who ended this nine-year debate. [watch animation](#)



Emerging Scientists Set Sights on Fixing World's Problems

In 2002, Christian Webersik spent months on and off in war-torn Somalia, conducting interviews with both the elite and the layperson for his research on the link

Polly J. Ericksen. [more from Columbia University Press](#)

between armed conflict and natural resources. Research areas like this are the realm of a new group of emerging scientists who arrived at Columbia this September as Earth Institute Fellows. [more](#)

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