

Environment Matters – 20 January 2006

Welcome to the latest edition of Aardvark's fortnightly news briefing

- **Earth is too crowded for Utopia** The global population is higher than the Earth can sustain, argues the Director of the British Antarctic Survey in the first of a series of environmental opinion pieces on the BBC News website. Although reducing human emissions to the atmosphere is undoubtedly of critical importance, as are any and all measures to reduce the human environmental "footprint", the truth is that the contribution of each individual cannot be reduced to zero. Only the lack of the individual can bring it down to nothing. ([BBC News 6/01/06](#))
- **Business called on to tackle climate change** Six of the world's biggest polluting nations, the US, Japan, China, India, Australia and South Korea started climate talks in Sydney. Combined, the six account for half the world's greenhouse gases. The top greenhouse gas producer the US called on industry to fight climate change with cleaner energy. The US and Australia, which have refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas reduction, said the talks would ask global mining and energy chiefs what barriers were hindering the development of more clean energy. ([Reuters 11/01/06](#))
- **The plight of the albatross** It takes a lot to impress Dame Ellen MacArthur, but the sight of a bird landing at her feet has done just that. But of the 21 different species, 19 are under threat. An estimated 100,000 of the birds are killed each year by long-line fishing, a rate of one bird every five minutes. The albatross is particularly at risk because it lives up to 60 years of age and only breeds once it is fully mature, which can take up to 12 years. The birds only produce one chick at a time, and some species only breed every second year. "I think they are the most amazing birds I've ever been lucky enough to see, it's like a bomber flying over, they are so big." ([The Times 10/01/06](#))
- **Woodland managers plan for climate change** A new publication advises woodland owners and managers to start taking steps now, to protect our woods and forests for future generations. It offers practical guidance to help plan ahead for the effects of climate change, both in terms of minimising its adverse impacts and taking advantage of potential biodiversity opportunities created by a warmer climate. Guidance is applicable to both urban and rural areas. ([DEFRA 13/01/06](#))
- **Sensors watch Barrier Reef coral** With the fragile ecology of coral reefs around the globe increasingly under pressure, scientists on Australia's Great Barrier Reef are establishing a network of sensors to better understand this beautiful part of the underwater world. The smart sensors are able to communicate with each other to monitor events such as coral bleaching as they happen. ([BBC News 17/01/06](#))

Latest News from the Aardvark Team

- The Aardvark team have been instructed to undertake another project on the Isles of Scilly following the recently submitted Environmental Impact Assessment for a new serviced campsite on St Mary's. The new project on Tresco involves site ground investigation, waste treatment and advice on the sustainable design strategy working alongside the planning consultants Turner Holden and architects Llewellyn Harker.
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And Finally

- **Bellamy out, Beckham in, for Greens** Football legends and pop stars are to be courted by the environment movement as part of a radical makeover to persuade more people to change their ways. The new green look will be launched by a coalition of many of Britain's leading environmental groups, along with a report into why they have failed to persuade more people to adopt green habits such as recycling and driving less. ([The Guardian 15/01/06](#))