

awards and events

heroes of the environment



Every year, Time Magazine produces a double issue celebrating the year's "heroes" — people from all walks of life who have made a difference in the world. This year's theme was "**Heroes of the Environment**", recognizing "the most innovative and influential protectors of the planet". As Time editor Michael Elliott put it: "2007 has been no ordinary year; it has been the time when issues to do with the environment — species depletion, air and water pollution, and of course climate change — have forced their way into our debates, whether we have them around the family dinner table, or in the conferences where the world's leaders meet". The 42 nominees range from the obvious to the obscure, with categories ranging from 'leaders and visionaries' to 'activists' to 'scientists and innovators'. Household names include Wangari Maathai, Al Gore and Prince Charles — but the list includes plenty of newcomers to environmental accolades, such as Karl Ammann (a photographer and campaigner for the great apes), Abul Hussam (a chemist who devised a way to purify arsenic-poisoned water) and Russian environmental activist Olga Tsepilova (a Russian environmental activist). Longtime 'green' figures like Robert Redford sit alongside more unorthodox choices such as British entrepreneur Richard Branson and solar power billionaire Shi Zhengrong. The nominations also reward big business as well as grassroots movements: the Toyota Prius design team qualified, and so did a non-profit lending group created by two Japanese rock musicians to finance environmentally friendly projects.

<http://www.time.com>

Scientists from the Nobel-winning **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** met in Valencia in November to spell out key recommendations for decision makers ahead of the December climate change meeting in Bali. The resulting 23-page report is a synthesis of three IPCC reports issued earlier this year — and it is the IPCC's starkest warning yet on climate change. The paper, which is the fruit of five days of discussions among the scientists, concludes that evidence of the planet's warming is now "unequivocal" and the effects on the climate system could be "abrupt or irreversible." It forecasts that an increase of the earth's temperature by 1.5 to 2.5 degrees C will endanger 20-30 per cent of the planet's plants and animals and that some 75-250 million people in Africa will suffer from water shortages by 2020. The report has prompted a UN demand for politicians to smash the deadlock on addressing the threat of climate change.

www.ipcc.ch

27th session of the IPCC



The **20th Anniversary Ozone Protection Awards** recognize the outstanding work of individuals, organizations and companies to protect the Earth's ozone layer. Given out in September by UNEP and the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, they reward scientific contributions to understanding ozone depletion, as well as policy implementation and awareness raising on ozone. One interesting category is the 'Public Awareness Award', which rewarded "outstanding work in raising awareness about ozone depletion and the global effort to address it". One laureate is the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games, for its "high level of commitment to using the preparations for the Olympic Games to promote ozone layer protection and the use of ozone friendly equipment". Other winners in the category include India's Bank of Maharashtra for its "innovative ozone day promotions", Australia's Cancer Council — for its 'Slip, Slop, Slap' campaign to focus the Australian public on how to reduce exposure to ultraviolet radiation — and Niger's National Ozone Unit.

http://ozone.unep.org/20th_Anniversary/index.shtml

20th anniversary ozone protection awards



green awards

The UK's **Green Awards**, launched in 2006, set out to recognize outstanding creative work that communicates the importance of corporate social responsibility, sustainable development, and ethical best practice in any sector and across any marketing discipline. The awards are open for brands promoting anything from fair trade and renewable energy to resource efficiency and waste awareness. The argument is that as marketing is a key driver of economic growth, it is well placed to become a key driver of responsible growth. At this year's event, the Grand Prix went to Honda for their Formula 1 team's environmental initiative. The campaign featured a striking image of the earth, instead of the usual sponsor logos, on the racing team's cars. The choice caused some controversy — unsurprisingly, given that Formula 1 is not usually seen to deserve plaudits from environmentalists. But the organizers argued that the debate should be seen as a positive function of the awareness raising exercise. Indeed, a Honda spokesperson noted that if 1 per cent of fans who follow Formula 1 were to switch to energy saving light bulbs, the resulting energy savings would mitigate the emissions produced over three seasons by Honda's racing team.

<http://www.greenawards.co.uk>

In 2001, the General Assembly declared 6 November of each year as the **International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict**. This was a strong message that damage to the environment in times of armed conflict impairs ecosystems and natural resources long after the period of conflict, often extending beyond the limits of national territories and the present generation. In his message for this year's event, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon said: "Taking ecological considerations into account is crucial if we are to avoid longer-term environmental problems that can undermine security and development, and lead to further cycles of conflict and displacement". UNEP's Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, based in Geneva, works on areas of the world where the environment is impacted by conflicts and disasters, or where the environment is a factor contributing to conflict. UNEP is currently working with the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and UN partners to mitigate the impact of displacement in the eastern part of the country, where several camps have recently been established on the boundary of the Virunga National Park — a World Heritage Site which is home to half of the total remaining population of mountain gorillas.

http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/environment_war/index.html

international day for preventing the exploitation of the environment in war and armed conflict

