



Entrevistas



Humanitarian community continues to struggle with climate change in 2010: An interview with Mr. Bekele Gelete, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

The failure of the Copenhagen Climate Conference to reach a global legally binding agreement on greenhouse gas reductions indicates that this year may prove to be an uncertain one for climate change.

Negotiations are in an impasse, but the devastating consequences of global warming are gathering pace.

Now in its 150th year, the world's biggest humanitarian organisation, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), is at the forefront of this struggle. It is faced with battling the devastating effects of climate change on human populations, and with trying to prevent its escalation. All the while advocating the plight of the world's most vulnerable to the world's most powerful.

Mr. Bekele Geleta, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), met us to discuss what the future holds.

How will climate change impact on the developing world, especially the Middle East?

The impact of climate change can be seen everywhere. It is already hitting the poorest of the poor and it is hitting them the hardest, they are the first line of suffering. In regions like the Middle East we are seeing growing water scarcity and a knock-on effect on crop production.

Is there a lack of awareness among politicians?

We cannot say that Governments are not aware - 110 heads of state gathered at Copenhagen. The world considers climate change a serious issue and it is committing its political will and resources to finding a solution.

On the ground, however, there is a need to educate every part of society including policymakers. There is still a big gap between what the science tells us and what some people believe. It is the role of politicians to close this gap. This is true in the Middle East, in Africa in the developing countries and yes, also in developed countries. What is really encouraging though, is the overall awareness of the younger generations the world over.

What role do the IFRC and its national societies have when it comes to fighting climate change?

The IFRC has a world-class climate change centre in the Netherlands. Its mission is to advocate for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and integrate knowledge of climate risks into our strategies and activities.

We are also working towards 'early action.' This does not mean helping someone run to a top of a hill when they see flood waters rushing in. It means helping people change their way of life

gradually. We inform people how to manage their resources in a sustainable manner.

This has to be a bottom up movement so we have volunteers who live in communities and lead by example. This allows people to emulate their behaviour and adopt it as their own. This approach has changed a lot of lives, including in Syria where we have a very strong base and the capacity to mobilise volunteers very quickly.

What can we expect from the IFRC in the future fight against global warming?

We have a global responsibility to protect, support, and empower people. This means representing their interests at global negotiations, like Copenhagen, but it also means raising funds to help us deal with global warming. New funds are necessary to address this global threat to human security. If funds are moved away from areas of need, such as food security, we are only exacerbating the problem.

As an organisation we are acting to reduce our carbon foot print and change our behaviour. Our international strategy for the next decade is to figure out how to use our resources most effectively and incorporate climate change into our wider humanitarian and developmental role.

Syria is suffering from the devastating effects of the drought in the north-east. How are the IFRC and its Syrian Arab Red Crescent branch helping to alleviate the situation?

Syria is one of the 25 countries in which we are implementing experimental climate change programmes developed by our climate centre. We are involved in activities from health to water management. We are also trying to mobilise the international community, but so far the drought appeal has only achieved 30 per cent of the estimated requirement.

Migration is a big problem. It's a consequence of natural disasters, but in regions where poverty is widespread migration has a devastating effect on people's livelihoods.

We are sure that the number of people affected by disasters will continue to grow over the coming years. I think this is one of the main concerns of conferences like the COP15. Whatever the result, work has to continue and official action has to be taken. (Jesús Marco Gamero. COPENHAGEN)



Noticias

- El IPCC reconoce un "error" en su previsión del deshielo de los glaciares del Himalaya [\[+\]](#) China pone en duda que el hombre cause el cambio climático [\[+\]](#)
- La ONU anuncia una revisión independiente de la labor científica del IPCC [\[+\]](#)
- China afirma que no habrá pacto por el clima en 2010 [\[+\]](#)
- El oso polar, amenazado por el cambio climático, lleva 150.000 años en el Ártico [\[+\]](#)
- La impotencia de la ONU [\[+\]](#)
- Dimite el responsable de la ONU para el cambio climático [\[+\]](#)
- La falta de barreras naturales contribuyó al deshielo máximo del Ártico [\[+\]](#)
- España admite que incumplirá el límite de contaminación del tráfico [\[+\]](#)
- Un dique bajo el Ebro contra la subida del mar [\[+\]](#)
- España reduce sus emisiones un 7,7% y se sitúa un 39,8% por encima de las de 1990 [\[+\]](#)
- Consecuencias letales del negacionismo [\[+\]](#)
- La UE quiere convertir la ciencia en un pilar para escapar de la recesión [\[+\]](#)
- El invierno más extraño: nieve en Europa, calor en Groenlandia [\[+\]](#)
- Cuidar los humedales, nuestra obligación [\[+\]](#)
- El calentamiento del mar amenaza el marisqueo en Galicia [\[+\]](#)
- La revolución verde será local [\[+\]](#)
- EEA's input to post-2010 biodiversity policy [\[+\]](#)
- Water vapour could be behind warming slowdown. Mysterious changes in the stratosphere may have offset greenhouse effect. [\[+\]](#)
- Biodiversity talks get under way [\[+\]](#)
- Most powerful hurricanes on the rise [\[+\]](#)
- The real holes in climate science [\[+\]](#)
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- Una fuga de metano bajo el Ártico amenaza el clima [\[+\]](#)
- El largo invierno del año más cálido [\[+\]](#)
- Estudio geofísico de la influencia de la atmósfera en la Tierra [\[+\]](#)
- El Gobierno aprueba la *Ley de la Ciencia* "sin cambios" [\[+\]](#)
- ¿Fue alguna vez la Tierra una inmensa bola de nieve? [\[+\]](#)
- Nuevos inquilinos en el Mediterráneo [\[+\]](#)
- El gobierno de España aprueba el proyecto de ley de protección del medio marino [\[+\]](#)
- El biogás: un 95% más limpio que el petróleo [\[+\]](#)
- La basura, el nuevo combustible [\[+\]](#)
- El aceite de palma 'quema' los bosques de Indonesia [\[+\]](#)
- El borrador de la *Ley de Ciencia* crea la Agencia de Investigación [\[+\]](#)
- Olas lejanas que rompen el hielo antártico [\[+\]](#)

- Energías renovables: una apuesta rentable [\[+\]](#)
- Técnicas para «descarbonizar» el planeta [\[+\]](#)
- España desaprovecha el 45% del agua de la lluvia que va a los ríos [\[+\]](#)
- Los mares de la UE, bajo la amenaza de las actividades humanas [\[+\]](#)
- Los especuladores copan el 80% del mercado de compraventa de CO2 [\[+\]](#)
- "El cambio climático fomentará los Estados fallidos y los regímenes autoritarios" [\[+\]](#)
- Nace oficialmente el Observatorio de la Salud y el Cambio Climático. [\[+\]](#)



Publicaciones

- Memoria 2009 INSTITUTO DE DIAGNÓSTICO AMBIENTAL Y ESTUDIOS DEL AGUA (IDÆA) [\[+\]](#)
- Boletín IGBP España [\[+\]](#)
- Boletín InfoRed 14 (diciembre 2009) IHDP España [\[+\]](#)
- Boletín electrónico GEOBIO. Nº 6 (enero-febrero 2010) [\[+\]](#)
- ICLEI in Europe eNewsletter March 2010 [\[+\]](#)
- IHDP Update Issue 3, 2009, Governance as a Crosscutting Theme in Human Dimensions Science [\[+\]](#)
- Boletín SCAR Internacional - Última edición: Vol. 173, Septiembre 2009 [\[+\]](#)
- WCRP e-zine No. 17 March 2010 [\[+\]](#)
- GWSP International Project Office (2009): Global Water News No. 8 [\[+\]](#)
- Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) publications for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). [\[+\]](#)
- CEPS report on the EU Budget: Integrating the Climate Change Objectives. [\[+\]](#)
- Reports from International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED): Environmental Mainstreaming. [\[+\]](#)
- Nuñez, Monserrat (2010). El impacto de la actividad humana sobre la desertificación [\[+\]](#)
- UNEP (2010) "Sick water? The central role of wastewater management in sustainable development" [\[+\]](#)
- Santolalla Francisco (2010) Parques y reservas naturales de España [\[+\]](#)
- R. Leemans et al.: Developing a common strategy for integrative global environmental change research and outreach: the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP), 2009, *COSUST*, vol. 1, pp. 4-13. [\[+\]](#)
- DIVERSITAS Annual Report 2008/09 [\[+\]](#)
- Global Change (No. 74; December 2009) [\[+\]](#)



Eventos de Interés

Si tiene un evento que desea publicar en el próximo boletín, envíenos la información a ceicag@uc3m.es

- 6th IMA Conference on Modelling Permeable Rocks del 29 de Marzo al 1 de Abril, Edimburgo, Escocia, Reino Unido. [\[+\]](#)
- ICCCM10 - the International Conference on Coastal Conservation and Management in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. 11 April 2010 - 17 April 2010 - Cascais, Portugal [\[+\]](#)
- International Symposium on Coastal Zones and Climate Change: Assessing the Impact and Developing Adaptation Strategies 12-13 Abril de 2010, Victoria, Australia. [\[+\]](#)
- 6ª Conferencia Internacional sobre Renovación Urbana y Sostenibilidad 14-16 de Abril de 2010, La Coruña, España [\[+\]](#)
- Conferencia: Integrando el Desarrollo y la Ética del Cambio Climático 15-16 de Abril de 2010, Pennsylvania, EUA [\[+\]](#)
- Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2010. 15 - 18 April 2010, Nuuk, Greenland [\[+\]](#)
- Fifth International CLIVAR Climate of the 20th Century workshop (C20C) 19-23 Abril de 2010, Beijing, China. [\[+\]](#)
- XIX AETFAT Congress. 25 April 2010 - 01 May 2010 - Antananarivo, Madagascar [\[+\]](#)
- 42nd International Liege Colloquium on Ocean Dynamics - Multiparametric observation and analysis of the Sea 26-30 Abril 2010. Lieja, Bélgica. [\[+\]](#)
- Conferencia : industria y residuos: entre el PNIR, la Directiva y la nueva Ley. 28 Abril 2010, Madrid. [\[+\]](#)
- Tercera Conferencia Internacional de Economía Ambiental y Evaluación de Inversiones 3-5 de Mayo de 2010, Chipre [\[+\]](#)
- European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2010. 2 - 7 Mayo, 2010 Vienna, Austria [\[+\]](#)
- XII International Symposium on Oceanography of the Bay of Biscay, 3 - 6 Mayo, 2010 Brest (Francia) [\[+\]](#)
- 5ª Conferencia Global sobre Océanos, Costas e Islas Garantizar la supervivencia, preservar la vida y mejorar la gobernanza 3-7 de Mayo de 2010, París, Francia [\[+\]](#)
- ATCM XXXIII - CEP XIII. 3 - 14 May 2010, Punta del Este, Uruguay [\[+\]](#)
- Challenge Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) Launch Conference 04 May 2010 - ICRAF Nairobi, Kenya [\[+\]](#)
- Workshop on Community Conservation in Practice 06 May 2010 - 08 May 2010 - Tofino, British Columbia, Canada [\[+\]](#)
- 12th International Congress of Ethnobiology 09 May 2010 - 14 May 2010 - Tofino, British Columbia, Canada [\[+\]](#)
- Conferencia First AIMES Open Science Conference: Earth System Science: Climate, Global Change and People 10-13 Mayo de 2010, Edimburgo, Escocia, Reino Unido. [\[+\]](#)
- International Symposium on Gas transfer at water surfaces, 17 - 21 Mayo, 2010 Kyoto, JAPAN [\[+\]](#)
- Field Forum: Significance of along-strike variations for the 3-D architecture of orogens, 16 - 22 Mayo, 2010 Samos, Greece [\[+\]](#)

- 6ª Conferencia sobre Ciudades y Comunidades Sostenibles-Dunkerque 2010 Liderazgos Responsables Cambian Nuestras Comunidades 19-21 de Mayo de 2010, Dunkerque, Francia [\[+\]](#)
- 5th International Symposium on Computational Wind Engineering, 23-27 Mayo de 2010 Carolina del Norte, EEUU. [\[+\]](#)
- BALWOIS International conference on water observation and information system for decision support 25 May 2010 - 29 May 2010 - Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia [\[+\]](#)
- 1er. Congreso Mundial sobre Ciudades y Adaptación al Cambio Climático 28 al 30 de Mayo de 2010, Bonn, Alemania [\[+\]](#)
- Influence of meso- and submesoscale ocean dynamics on the global carbon cycle and marine ecosystems. 31 Mayo - 2 Junio, 2010 Centre de la Mer, Aber Wrac'h, Brittany, France [\[+\]](#)
- International Symposium on Sea Ice 31 May - 4 June 2010, Tromsø, Norway [http](#) [\[+\]](#)
- ASLO Summer Meeting: 'Aquatic Sciences: Global Changes from the Center to the Edge' 6-11 JUNIO DE 2010 Santa Fe, EEUU. [\[+\]](#)
- 3rd Ad Hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Interface on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) - 7-11 June 2010. Contact [DIVERSITAS Secretariat](#)
- Conferencia Internacional Polar Year. Oslo Science Conference 8-12 de Junio de 2010, Oslo, Noruega. [\[+\]](#)
- Summer Symposium on Sustainable Systems (4S) on *Harmonizing Policy, Technology, Product Design and Resource Management*. June 14-17, Sannäs, Finland [\[+\]](#)
- Investigación del Cambio Global II Crisis ambiental, Cuestiones Energéticas y Políticas de Regulación Global 11-16 de Junio de 2010, Isla Porquerolles, Hyeres, France [\[+\]](#)
- 2010 Goldschmidt Conference- June 13-18 Knoxville, Tennessee [\[+\]](#)
- Congreso Internacional: Deep-Water Circulation: Processes & Products 16-18 Junio de 2010, Baiona, España. [\[+\]](#)
- 20ª Conferencia Mundial sobre Gestión de Desastres (20th WCDM) 20-23 de Junio de 2010, Toronto, Canadá [\[+\]](#)
- 2010 International Climate Change Adaptation Conference - Climate adaptation futures: preparing for the unavoidable impacts of climate change 29 de Junio al 1 de Julio de 2010, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. [\[+\]](#)
- XV Congreso de la Asociación Ibérica de Limnología. 5 - 9 Julio, 2010 Ponta Delgada, Azores [\[+\]](#)
- 11th IGAC Conference, joint with CACGP. 11 - 16 Julio, 2010 Halifax, Canada [\[+\]](#)
- XXIX Cursos de verano de la UPV/EHU en San Sebastián - XXII Cursos Europeos: VIII Curso de Verano de Investigación Marina de AZTI-Tecnalia. "Sostenibilidad en el Medio Marino: Conservación frente a Desarrollo versus Conservación para el Desarrollo". 14 - 16 Julio, 2010 [\[+\]](#)
- Conference on the Politics of Antarctica 8 - 9 July 2010, School of Political and Social Sciences, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand [\[+\]](#)
- XVII Congreso Mundial de Sociología: La sociología en marcha 11-17 de Julio de 2010, Gotemburgo, Suecia [\[+\]](#)
- Quadrennial SCOSTEP Symposium. 12 - 16 July 2010, Berlin, Germany [\[+\]](#)
- IIFET 2010: Economics of fish resources and aquatic ecosystems: balancing uses, balancing costs 13-16 Julio de 2010, Montpellier, France. [\[+\]](#)
- Second International Sclerochronology Conference (ISC2010) 24-28 Julio de 2010, Mainz, Alemania. [\[+\]](#)

- Conferencia Internacional GMBA-DIVERSITAS conference: Functional significance of mountain biodiversity. 27-30 Julio de 2010, Chandolis, Suiza. [\[+\]](#)
- Next Big SCAR Meeting - XXXI SCAR and Open Science Conference. 30 July - 11 August 2010, Buenos Aires, Argentina [\[+\]](#)
- XXXI Congreso de la SIL (International Society of Limnology) 15 - 20 Agosto, 2010 [\[+\]](#)
- 1ª Conferencia Bienal de la Sociedad Internacional para la Economía Ecológica ISEE 2010: Fomento de la Sostenibilidad en Tiempos de Crisis 22 -25 de Agosto de 2010, Oldenburgo y Bremen, Alemania [\[+\]](#)
- Seminario sobre "Transboundary Aquifers and International Law: The Experience of the Guarani Aquifer System" 31 de Agosto de 2010, Universidad de Surrey, Guildford. [\[+\]](#)
- XVI Simposio Ibérico de Estudios de Biología Marina: bases científicas para la gestión sostenible del medio marino. 6 - 12 Septiembre, 2010 Alicante, España [\[+\]](#)
- 3rd Bi-ANNUAL SyMPOSiUM fUtURe OCeAN 13 - 16 Septiembre, 2010 [\[+\]](#)
- Storm Surges Congress 2010. 13 - 17 Septiembre, 2010 University of Hamburg - Germany [\[+\]](#)
- Estuarine and Coastal Science Association (ECSA 47), Figueira da Foz (Portugal) "Integrative tools and methods in assessing ecological quality in estuarine and coastal systems worldwide". 14 - 19 Septiembre, 2010 [\[+\]](#)
- VIII Sponge World Conference, 20 - 24 Septiembre, 2010 Girona [\[+\]](#)
- ICES Annual Science Conference, Nantes (France). Session on: Benthic indicators: responding to different human pressures and assessing integrative quality status. 20 - 24 Septiembre, 2010 [\[+\]](#)
- Global Change and the World's Mountains. Perth II - Five Years Later. 26-30 September 2010 [\[+\]](#)
- XII International Mediterranean Ecosystems Conference - MEDECO 2-5 Octubre de 2010, La Serena, Chile. [\[+\]](#)
- IMBER IMBIZO II - Integrating biogeochemistry and ecosystems in a changing ocean - 10 - 14 Octubre, 2010 Crete (Greece) [\[+\]](#)
- Urbanization and Global Environmental Change (UGEC). October 17-19. Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona. [\[+\]](#)