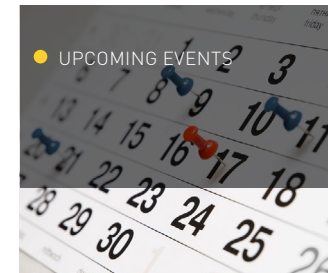
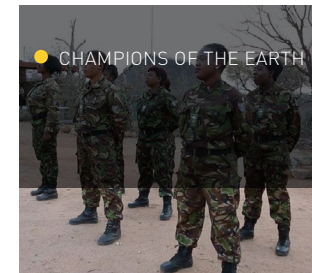
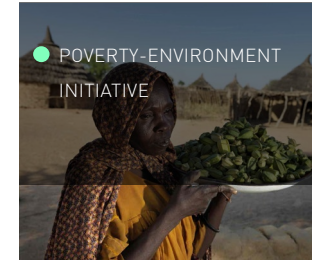




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SEPT-OCT 2016



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HISTORIC AGREEMENT REACHED IN KIGALI TO FURTHER REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES



On 15 October 2016, over 500 participants from governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry gathered in Kigali, Rwanda to adopt the historic Kigali Amendment to further reduce greenhouse gases caused by chemicals such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was designed to phase out the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances in order to reduce their abundance in the atmosphere, and thereby protect the earth's fragile ozone Layer. The protocol was agreed on 16th September 1987 and entered into force on 1st January 1989. It has since undergone a number of amendments including the latest one in Kigali.

HFCs are man-made chemicals that are primarily used in air conditioning, refrigeration and foam insulation, and emit powerful greenhouse gases that can be thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide in contributing to climate change effects.

Environmental experts have noted that the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer could be the single largest real contribution the world has made so far towards keeping the global temperature rise «well below» two degrees Celsius, a target agreed at the Paris climate conference last year.

The legally binding agreement includes specific targets and timetables to replace HFCs with more planet-friendly alternatives, trade sanctions to punish defaulters and an agreement by rich countries to help finance the transition of poor countries to alternative safer products. Notably, African countries opted to phase out the chemicals faster than required, citing the grave threats the region faces due to climate change.

In an interview with The Newtimes, Erik Solheim, Executive Director of the UN Environment said "This is about much more than the ozone layer and HFCs. It is a clear statement by all world leaders that the green transformation that started in Paris is irreversible and unstoppable".

Mr. Vincent Biruta, Rwanda's Minister of Natural Resources, added that "Africa is a continent that is deeply vulnerable to climate change. We are witnessing disastrous droughts – our people are losing lives. We need to address climate change if we are to address poverty."

Top officials from the chemical industry, including producers of the chemicals, manufacturers of equipment that use HFCs were also present in Kigali, a demonstration that companies throughout the HFCs supply chain support strong global action on these harmful substances.

As pressure mounts on governments worldwide for less talk and more action to address climate change, the Kigali Amendment is a commendable move that adds momentum to a series of new global climate change agreements.



RENEWABLE ENERGY



ETHIOPIA TO HOST THE SIXTH AFRICAN GEOTHERMAL CONFERENCE



The Government of Ethiopia will host the Sixth African Geothermal Conference (ARGeo-C6) at the United Nations Conference Center in the capital Addis Ababa from 31st October to 4th November, 2016. ARGeo-C6 is being organized under the auspices of the UN Environment as part of its biennial geothermal conferences. The theme of ARGeo-C6 is Geothermal: Solution to Africa's Energy Needs.

The objective of the conference is to promote regional cooperation, networking, and to create an information exchange platform on the exploration, development, investment and utilization of geothermal resources in the region and beyond. The conference will bring together policy makers, technical experts, developers and financiers. Exhibitors from the geothermal sector worldwide will also get to showcase their projects, products, equipment and services.

This year, the conference will attract about 600 participants drawn from African countries, regional and international experts, policy makers, investors, geothermal institutions and Ministers of Energy and Mining from Africa and worldwide.



A roundtable Ministerial Dialogue will be held to develop a strategy to accelerate development of geothermal resources for power generation and direct use applications in the region. Participation at the conference is through partner sponsorship and self-sponsorship. In addition, delegates can sign-up for pre-conference geothermal related short courses and post-conference field trips.



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REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP



UN ENVIRONMENT STRENGTHENS TIES WITH ECOWAS TO ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN WEST AFRICA

On 30th September 2016, UN Environment and the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) committed to strengthen tighten cooperation and partnership in advancing environmental sustainability in the ECOWAS region.

At the end of a three-day working session with the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja, the Regional Director and Representative of UN Environment in Africa, Mrs. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, and the Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission, Mr. Edward Singhatay signed an Aide Memoire confirming their determination to take their collaboration to a higher level.

The new partnership between UN Environment and ECOWAS aims at supporting Member States in their efforts to implement the environmental dimension of the ECOWAS Vision 2020, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

During the meeting, Mrs. Biao said, "Sub regional, regional and global frameworks are in place. We need innovative ideas to make them come alive and mobilize resources for it. In this perspective, ECOWAS would be a key entry point into the Member States and a partner to reinforce the multiplier effect of UNEP's efforts and initiatives especially by distilling global and regional norms and standards to meet the specific needs at the economic community level."



It is expected that stronger cooperation and a more strategic engagement between UN Environment and ECOWAS will create and enhance synergies, coherence and concerted actions towards a transformative environmental agenda in the sub-region.

The collaboration will focus on four main areas: Enhanced policy dialogue among the Member States as a follow-up to key regional and global decisions relating to the environment; Policy influence and assistance to the Member States in the implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements; Strengthening regional environmental governance through harmonization of legislation and regular environment assessment; Development of joint regional programmes and projects according to their common programmatic areas, as well as mobilization of resources for their implementation.

In conclusion, the two institutions agreed to work on a formal detailed agreement on strategic and technical cooperation that will be signed at a later date.

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POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (PEI)



STUDY HIGHLIGHTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUBSTANTIAL RETURNS ON INVESTMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN MALAWI

Malawi is a land-locked country in Africa with a large rural population that is mainly dependent on agriculture. The well-being of Malawians and Malawi's economy depend mainly on the country's natural resources. Unfortunately, population pressure, poverty and climatic variations are increasing the pressure on cultivable land and accelerating the degradation of natural resources.

Adequate integrated data on the poverty-environment nexus to inform policy making is lacking. To address this gap, the Poverty-Environment Initiative, a joint programme of the UN Environment and UN Development Programme, commissioned a detailed study to quantify poverty-environment linkages in Malawi. The study finds that among rural and peri-urban households, 18% of incomes come from natural resource products, such as charcoal, fuel wood, honey and mushroom. Another 17% of incomes are derived from agricultural produce. The poverty-environment nexus also has bearings at the national or macroeconomic level. For example, the study finds that a one percent increase (US\$ 300,000) in public investments for sustainable environmental and natural resource management would increase the annual gross domestic product (GDP) by US\$ 17 million. That is a significant return on investment that makes both environmental and economic sense and which would contribute to poverty reduction efforts.

On the other hand, a one percent reduction in forest cover alone translates to a loss in income of nearly US\$ 24 million per year. This is crucial as Malawi currently has the highest deforestation rate in Southern Africa. Moreover, solid fuels (fuel wood and charcoal) meet 98.7% of the total energy needs for local populations. Concerted efforts to reduce deforestation rates and promote alternative green sources of energy are needed.



The study confirms that agriculture is central for Malawi's economy and poverty reduction efforts. It emphasizes that sustainable environmental and natural resource use holds the key for agricultural productivity and food security. At the household level, access to land, level of education, gender and age of the head of the household are key determining factors for household food security and agriculture productivity.

The study calls for a more integrated approach to environmental, poverty and economic development in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In light of the findings, it recommends increased investments in environmental and natural resource sustainability to achieve poverty, food security and economic sustainability goals. It also emphasizes the need for a harmonized and integrated approach to environment and poverty-related policy making and budgeting across sectors, and facilitated cooperation with the private sector.

The study will be used to inform the development of the new Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS III) and the drafting of the forthcoming national development plan and national Sustainable Development Goal plans.



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POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (PEI)



MALAWI TAKES AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO FOOD SECURITY, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION



Sustainable agriculture is key for Malawi’s economic development and poverty reduction efforts. The agriculture sector accounts for 30 percent of the Gross Domestic Product and 17% of household incomes come from agricultural produce. However, agricultural productivity is significantly below potential yields due to reduced soil fertility and soil erosion driven by unsustainable and changing land use practices as well as climate change.

In Malawi, the average soil loss rate is 29 tons per hectare per year and has been estimated to reduce agricultural productivity by 6%. If soil erosion was significantly reduced and lost agriculture yields recovered, approximately 1.88 million people would have been lifted out of poverty between 2005 and 2015.

Agricultural productivity is also below potential yield due to gender-based inequalities between women and men as well as between the young and the old in access to and control of productive and financial resources. If the gender gap in agriculture productivity would be closed, 238,000 people could be lifted out of poverty, crop production increased by 7.3 percent and GDP by 100 million USD every year (UN Women, UNDP-UNEP PEI and World Bank, 2015). Young farmers have been found to be up to 3% less productive than their older counterparts.

The findings from studies by the Poverty-Environment Initiative and its partners clearly demonstrate that to achieve food security [SDG 2], increasing agricultural productivity, sustainable ecosystems and natural resource management [SDG 15], as well as gender equality [SDG 5] is essential. It also highlights that inclusive and sustainable agriculture is key to achieve poverty reduction [SDG 1] and economic growth [SDG 8]. A changing climate means that there is a shrinking window of opportunity for action, hence, climate smart approaches (SDG 13) to agriculture helps close the poverty and gender gaps and promotes societal resilience to shocks.

The agriculture policy promotes investments in climate-smart agriculture and sustainable land and water management, including integrated soil fertility management, irrigation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity. The policy has a strong focus on empowering the youth, women and vulnerable groups in agriculture with a view to close gender gaps. This will be achieved by promoting access to, ownership and control of productive and financial resources and enhanced opportunities for entrepreneurship and participation in agriculture value addition. The policy also recognizes the particular role that the Ministry of Natural Resources Energy and Mining can play to promote sustainable management of land and natural resources, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development to ensure that increased agricultural production does not negatively affect the environment and utilization of its natural resources.



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IN THE NEWS



**UN VOWS TO PROVIDE
SUPPORT TO REALIZE
ETHIOPIA'S CARBON FREE
TARGET BY 2015**

Quarzazate, the gateway to the desert has opened its doors to the future. The city, famous for its film history, now houses the Noor solar plant, the largest in the world. A project that aims to provide Morocco with clean, sustainable energy.



COP 22, AFRICAN COP

The COP is a global event, but hosted in Africa, with the key message/agenda of ACTION on the Paris Agreement



**THE FIVE BIGGEST WIND
ENERGY MARKETS IN
AFRICA**

The renewable energy market is steadily growing in an African continent that can pride itself to possess in abundance a good mix of resources – sun, water, biomass and wind. Although far less uniformly distributed than the well documented solar resources, Africa with a large coastline still has one of the best potential for wind power production.



**COP 22: LA BAD
QUALIFIE D' AFRICAINE
LA CONFERENCE DE
MARRAKECH**

Succédant à la COP21 ayant abouti à l'adoption historique de l'Accord de Paris en décembre dernier, la Conférence Mondiale de l'ONU sur le climat se déroulera sur le Continent africain, l'une des régions au monde les plus exposées aux conséquences désastreuses du changement climatique, explique la BAD dans une note publiée sur son portail officiel.



**COP 22: MARRAKECH,
PORTE-VOIX DU
CONTINENT**

Engagé dans la transition énergétique, le royaume entend montrer la voix aux autres pays du continent, souligne la publication, qui consacre au dossier spécial de 18 pages à la conférence des Nations unies sur le climat (COP22) sous le titre «quand le Maroc passe au vert.



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CHEMICALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT



HARMONISED EFFORT TO LIMIT LEAD IN PAINT IN AFRICA



Officials from key agencies and regulatory bodies in the East African region met in Dar es Salaam and agreed to work with other trading blocks in Africa, to establish and harmonise a limit to lead in paint in the region, ahead of the 2020 legal limit deadline. Over the years, lead in paint has cost the continent billions of dollars.

During a workshop organized by UN Environment and The Lead Paint Alliance - a partnership of governments and stakeholders convened by UN Environment and the World Health Organization (WHO) at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards, officials deliberated on how to harmonise standards to regulate the total lead content in paint to 90 parts per million (ppm).

According to a 2015 study, childhood exposure to lead has economic impact on national economies in all low and middle income countries. Africa's economic burden of childhood lead exposure stands at \$134.7 billion economic loss per year.

While facilitating the workshop in Tanzania, UN Environment's Senior Programme Officer Mr. Eisaku Toda, emphasized the need to promote cooperation and harmonisation to develop regulations and standards on lead in paint, to protect human health and the environment in the East African Region.

"The overall objective is to advance understanding, commitment and actions towards the development of national and regional regulations and standards on a total lead content limit of 90ppm for all paints in East Africa," said Mr. Toda.

The East African Community has already developed regional paint standards limiting lead content, applicable to six countries. Among them, Tanzania and Kenya are currently working on national standards while Ethiopia is working on a regulation to limit lead in paint. The workshop commended these initiatives and encouraged governments to move further.

The current East African standard stands at 100 ppm of soluble lead in paint. Similar initiatives exist in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Soluble lead measures only a small part of the lead that can be taken up by human body. Best regulatory practice to ban the use of lead in paint is 90 ppm total lead.

Tanzania and Kenya agreed to lead the regional efforts to achieve this best practice through the East African Standards. The workshop also agreed to extend these regulatory efforts in Africa through the Africa-wide free trade initiative.

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SOUTH AFRICA HOSTS RHINO CONSERVATION LAB IN PRETORIA

Poaching of white and black rhinoceros in South Africa has increased dramatically in recent years. The situation has sent alarm bells ringing throughout the conservation and animal welfare circles. Calls for actions have multiplied.

A Rhino Conservation Lab workshop was organized in Pretoria by the Department of Environmental Affairs.

During the workshop specific actions were developed which fall under five pillars namely: community empowerment, responsive legislation, security (anti-poaching and anti-trafficking), demand management and biological management. These will feed into South Africa's National Integrated Strategy Management Approach to Combat Wildlife Trafficking, and will be undertaken by different role players for continued engagements with the Lab stakeholders.

The GEF-UNEP project - Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacities to Combat Wildlife Crime for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Species in South Africa - has been commended for its continuous impact on strengthening the Department of Environmental Affairs capacity in



forensic capacity, information sharing and implementation of commitments. The project has provided specialised training to 1400 field rangers across South Africa focusing on key areas of enforcement, including the proper execution of body/vehicle searches, arrest, the handling of and processing of seized items and the requirements expected of a first responder to a crime scene.

The UN Environment South Africa office took part in the Rhino Lab Conservation as part of commitment to its GEF-UNEP project as well as its mandate to combat illegal wildlife trade to support the national effort on combating wildlife crimes, specifically on rhinoceros crime.





ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE



CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON ILLEGAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



The Seventeenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 23rd September to 4th October 2016. CoP17 was the largest CITES meeting to date, with more than 3,500 participants representing 152 governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and media.

The conference was officially opened by the President of South Africa H.E. Jacob Zuma. In his speech, President Zuma said that his country was taking actions to address the illegal trade in wildlife, as called for by the UN General Assembly and UN Environment Assembly. He stressed the importance of wildlife conservation to sustaining local communities and economic development through hunting and ecotourism.

The Executive Director, UN Environment, Mr. Erik Solheim also attended the conference. He commended the efforts of those working on the frontlines of wildlife protection, including anti-poaching units, customs officers and rangers. Noting that CITES cannot succeed in isolation, he stressed the importance of working together with local communities to halt illegal wildlife trade. Mr. Solheim highlighted the economic value of wildlife, emphasizing that destroying habitats and killing wildlife species was not good for business, especially tourism.

During the meeting, delegates considered more than 200 documents, including resolutions and decisions on corruption, trophy hunting, cybercrime, rural communities and domestic trade, as well as listing proposals for 62 species. Parties voted decisively to transfer the African grey parrot and all eight species of pangolin from Appendix II to Appendix I, prohibiting all international commercial trade in wild taken specimens. They also listed several previously controversial shark and ray species, as well as the entire genus of Dalbergia (rosewood), on Appendix II.

COP 17 adopted a series of resolutions and decisions related to: actions to combat wildlife trafficking; demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species; provisions on international trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II aimed at enabling better controls of the sustainable and legal origin of those specimens; illegal trade in cheetahs; elephants and trade in ivory, among others.

Prior to the start of COP17, an informal meeting on African Elephants was convened and facilitated by the UN Environment, AMCEN Secretariat from September 20-21 in Johannesburg. The purpose of the meeting was to: share information on the proposals on African elephants that had been put forward for consideration by CITES COP17; and to define areas of common understanding on the conservation of the African elephant. Illegal Wildlife and Poaching has, for a long time, been a threat in Kenya. Wildlife crimes have been on the increase with a rise in the market for elephant and rhino horn ivory.





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SENSITIZATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with specific targets on ending poaching and trafficking in wildlife, was qualified as a major step forward in combating wildlife crime and a powerful expression of political determination to end these highly destructive crimes. However, achieving these targets will require further scaled-up efforts at the national, regional and global levels.

In April 2016, UN Environment partnered with Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association (KMJA) to assist in enhancing the understanding of the principles and theory of environmental law among Kenyan magistrates and judges.

Two workshops were held in Kisumu and Malindi in the month of September. Participants in both workshops exchanged views, knowledge and shared their experience in promoting the development and implementation of environmental law in the various regions across the country. In attendance was the Presiding Judge of Environment and Land Court, Mr. Justice Samson Odhiambo Okong'o, head of the Environment and Land Court.

Key recommendations from the two workshops included a request for UN Environment to consider providing further technical assistance to Kenya to develop a wildlife digest for publication to assist in increasing awareness on environmental crimes as well as supporting the country to develop an online database for collection of environmental cases and analysis on judgments of environmental cases to provide guidance to judges in future cases/judgments.



UN Environment was also requested to continue providing capacity building - through technical workshops - which target all sectoral players including prosecutors, Kenya Forest Service, National Environment Management Authority, and Kenya Wildlife Service officials to enhance enforcement of environmental laws.

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UN ENVIRONMENT HEAD VISITS THE BLACK MAMBAS AT BALULE GAME RESERVE

During a visit to South Africa, Mr. Erik Solheim, the Executive Director of UN Environment lauded the Black Mambas for taking the lead in fighting poachers. The Black Mambas is the first all-female unarmed unit of its kind in the world that is on the frontline in fighting poaching in the Kruger National Park in South Africa.



The Mambas patrol the Kruger Park which borders hundreds of thousands of impoverished people. Speaking to a group at the Park, Mr. Solheim underscored that the example set by these courageous young women as evidence of how dedicated activists from local communities could help in the fight against poaching, and the illegal trafficking of wildlife, while uplifting their communities economically.

Mr. Erik Solheim was accompanied by Sir Iain Douglass-Hamilton of Save the Elephants, Ms. Trine Skymoen, Ambassador of Norway to South Africa, officials from the South Africa Department of Environmental Affairs and UN Environment staff. The Black Mamba team demonstrated their patrol regime and parade and presented their work to the group.

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COP22
Marrakesh, Morocco

4 - 17 DEC
2016

Meeting of the Conference of
the Parties to the Convention on
Biological Diversity
Cancun, Mexico



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