



# UN ENVIRONMENT NEWSLETTER

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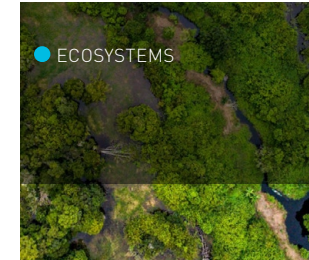
MAR-APR 2018



STRENGTHENING COUNTRY  
COOPERATION: UN ENVIRONMENT  
SIGNS COOPERATION AGREEMENT  
WITH ALGERIA



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### STRENGTHENING COUNTRY COOPERATION: UN ENVIRONMENT SIGNS COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH ALGERIA



Algeria, a long-standing partner of UN Environment, has made great strides in various environmental sectors including renewable energy and waste management.

In April a UN Environment delegation was invited by the Government of Algeria. Led by the Executive Director the delegation held a wide range of discussions with the Prime Minister, H.E. Ahmed Ouyahia, H.E. Fatma Zohra Zerouati, Minister of Environment and Renewable Energy, and H.E. Abdelkader Messahel, Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as with other officials and institutions.

An agreement was signed by the UN Environment Executive Director and the Minister of Environment to strengthen the collaboration with Algeria in a more targeted manner. The agreed areas of collaboration include: waste management, ecosystems protection, green economy, sustainable consumption and production, renewable energy, pollution, climate change, land degradation, and environmental diplomacy.

“The strategic linkage between environment and development is vital”, said H.E. Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia. “Algeria is ready to reduce its dependency on oil and gas and invest more in renewable energy”, he added.

Algeria is already implementing successful waste management initiatives. One of these is the rehabilitation and transformation of a former landfill into a public green space to benefit the population. The Ministry of Environment, through its agency on waste management, succeeded in transforming 35 hectares into a green public park.

Environmental Diplomacy is increasingly becoming a valuable tool for diplomats to enhance their capacity with information and skills to raise their engagement in in regional and global environmental negotiations and agenda. It is also enabling them advance common interests and increase their effectiveness. UN Environment will collaborate with the Algerian 'Institut Diplomatique et des Relations Internationales', on the advancement of Environmental Diplomacy.

On renewable energy, a valuable example is the Centre for Development of Solar Equipment that the UN Environment delegation visited. The research and development projects that are being conducted by the Center are concrete examples of the progress in renewable energy.

UN Environment continuously seeks to support countries in their journey towards sustainable development. It is also keen to increase its presence globally and in sub-regions such as North Africa through strengthening partnerships with governments.

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## ENABLING ACCESS TO ENERGY FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS



The Micro-Grid Training for the Africa Women Energy Entrepreneurs and youths from the East Africa Community took place in Nairobi, Kenya on 10 April 2018. This one-day training was held as part of the programme of the Micro-Grid Academy training.

Over 25 African women energy entrepreneurs and youth participated in this training. Additional participants from Europe including Italy also participated to boost South-South Cooperation and share their experiences.

“UN Environment is looking forward to continue working and collaborating with various partners to facilitate this Micro-Grid training in order to enhance access to energy in communities and local enterprises, and to create and generate incomes,” said Mr. Frank Turyatunga, Deputy Regional Director, Africa Office.

“This training will positively impact women and youth empowerment, health and education, environmental protection and climate change mitigation,” he added.

Conducted at the “Institute of Energy Study and Research” in the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) facilities in Nairobi, the training used the 20 - 40kW micro-grid for hands-on training. It assisted managers and engineers to plan, design, build and operate grid connected as well as hybrid mini-grids for decentralized renewable energy solutions.

An entrepreneur from Rwanda, Ms. Therese Sekamana, said that she learned the importance of load in a mini-grid coupled with strengthening of her business skills.

The informal sector employs 74% of women and these require support to access sustainable energy more than their male counterparts. UN Environment is working to improve access to finance and create green job for women and youth in Africa.



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## ECOSYSTEMS



### PEATLANDS: PROTECTING CARBON RESERVES

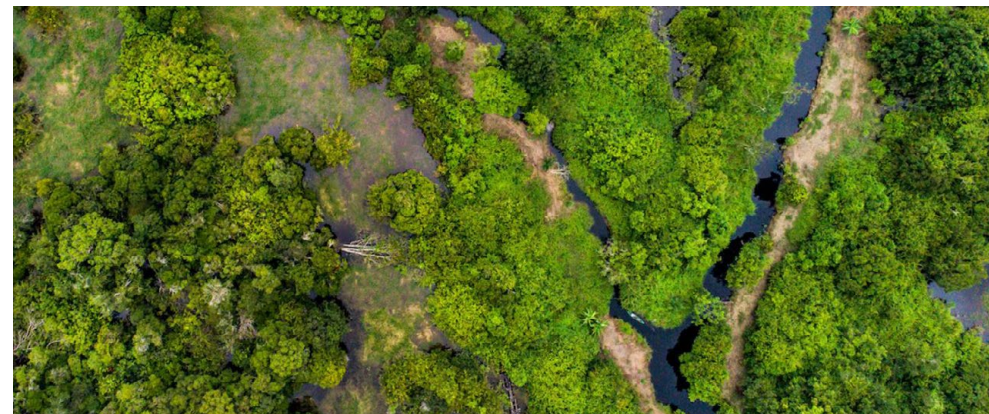
Peatlands are partially decayed plant material that accumulates under water-logged conditions over long time periods. Scientists confirmed that they constitute the largest terrestrial organic carbon sink in the world.

The Third Meeting to preserve the future of valuable natural peatlands was held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo from 21 to 23 March 2018 under the auspices of the Global Peatlands Initiative. The Meeting was jointly organized by the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Global Peatlands Initiative includes the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, the Republic of Indonesia, Peru and 17 International organizations.

On the sidelines of the event - opened by Clément Mouamba, Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo, and Erik Solheim, UN Environment Executive Director - a declaration was signed. The Brazzaville Declaration will establish a transboundary collaboration agreement to manage the peatlands in the region and prevent their unregulated exploitation.

Last year, UN Environment published the "Smoke on Water", a Rapid Response Assessment to raise awareness on peatlands. The report examines peatland location, extent, threats and the policies to manage and protect them.



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## TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT



### AFRICA CLEAN MOBILITY WEEK



UN Environment hosted 'The Africa Clean Mobility Week' from 12 to 16 March 2018. The week was an opportunity for participants to discuss cleaner mobility and its impacts on health, the environment and economic growth in Africa.

Participants focused their discussions on strategies to promote the import of cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles, opportunities to leapfrogging to electric motorcycles, electric vehicles and electric buses and South-South cooperation on sustainable transport management.

Africa, with an unprecedented motorization rate stimulated by high rates of urbanization and economic growth has seen most countries in the region unable to plan and provide adequate transport infrastructure and services. The transport sector has become the region's largest contributor of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions and urban air pollution.

Erik Solheim, the Executive Director of UN Environment, called on Africa to follow the path of sustainable mobility by emulating success stories from all around the world. He added that road accidents and air pollution are the highest contributors to fatalities in the region. He thus called on the region to shift its mindset to these new realities.

Targeting stakeholders in governments, private sector, civil society, and development partners in the fields of environment and transport, the Africa Clean Mobility week provided an opportunity for the continent to develop a set of measures to move to cleaner mobility leveraging on good experiences and case studies from within and outside the region.

Recommendations from the Africa Clean Mobility week called on African countries to:

- Review their policies to attract import of more efficient vehicles, using Global Fuel Economy Initiative tools;
- Explore the two low-hanging entry points into electric mobility, that is public transport (electric/hybrid buses) and electric 2 and 3 wheelers;
- Introduce regulations that support and guide the import of low emissions vehicles; and
- Prioritize walking, cycling, and public transport over other modes. Where other modes are unavoidable, they should be low carbon (electric mobility).

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## YOUNG PEOPLE CHAMPION ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Green Week, a forum aimed at sensitizing young people on the importance of environmental protection and sustainable development, held its 8th annual event in April, at the Kenyatta University, Nairobi.

The event was presided over by the UN Environment Kenya Country Programme Coordinator, Cyrille Lazare-Siewe, who led the participants' parade in walking and cycling, to sensitize the public on the importance of embracing green mobility in their daily life activities. Close to 250 participants drawn from different universities, environmental youth start-ups, and NGO representatives across the country attended the event.

UN Environment continues to sensitize youth on their role as green economy catalysts. Youth employment remains a challenge for Kenya, where approximately one million young people join the work force every year. Only about one in five is likely to find a formal job, with the rest either being unemployed or engaged in some non-wage-earning occupation.

Young people are best positioned to benefit from green jobs and other numerous new opportunities offered by a green economy across a multitude of sectors such as tourism, waste management, energy

generation and agriculture. Through small and medium scale business start-ups and enterprises, young people could tap into the opportunities to create environment-friendly alternatives to plastic.

"Enhancing environmental literacy among young people is key in preparing them to take up, or more importantly, become creators of green jobs", said the US International University Representative Ms. Azenath Ateka.

Other group participants such as The Children with Nature Organization seek to actively engage children in sustainable environmental activities including tree planting, E-Waste management, clean oceans campaign and creation of plastic pollution awareness.

Kenyatta University Environmental Club (KUNEC) hosted the Green Week. KUNEC serves as the university's hub for students, staff and other persons interested in environmental affairs. The objective of the club is to engage its members in activities aimed at increasing awareness, understanding and knowledge of the environment, to enable them make informed decisions concerning the impacts of their actions on the environment.



## RESOURCE EFFICIENCY



### DAIRY SECTOR: BENEFITS GAINED ACROSS SECTORS



East Africa's oldest dairy processor recorded significant savings by adopting Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Measures. The Kenya Co-operative Creameries 'New KCC' is a dairy processing company with a wide range of products including fresh milk, butter, cheese, flavoured and unflavoured long life milk, fermented milk and milk powder.

As the oldest and largest dairy processor in East and Central Africa, the company has had to deal with various challenges regarding Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP), covering waste water, energy and solid waste management. For example, the company did not have individual metering to measure energy consumption and had high-energy light fittings resulting in high energy and water consumption costs. Moreover, it did not have a designated solid waste disposal site and had heavy furnace oil leakages.

With the support of SWITCH Africa Green, the company effected various interventions to mitigate these challenges. Working closely with the Kenya National Cleaner Production Centre (KNCPC), one of the four programme grantees in Kenya, staff members were trained on RECP and Industrial Symbiosis as part of 14 million shillings (\$140,000) investment by the company to implement intervention measures.

Backed by the organization's top management, the implementation of these measures has yielded massive benefits for the company. For instance, the company has introduced water audits and awareness campaigns, purchased new equipment and enhanced data collection.

To address the energy challenge, the company serviced the ammonia compressor and the evaporative condenser and installed a new burner, steam fittings, valves and make up pumps among other installations. This has resulted in energy savings of 1.2 million shillings (\$12,000) for the company.

In addition, the company has reduced its environmental pollution by installing a new burner. These steps have also resulted in an improved relationship with the community around its premises.

New KCC is one of the 3,000 enterprises across six African countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda) that have benefited from phase one of the SWITCH Africa Green programme. SWITCH Africa Green is developed and funded by the European Union and implemented by UN Environment in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).



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## UPCOMING EVENTS



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June

World Environment Day,  
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## FEEDBACK



### PUBLISHED BY:

UN ENVIRONMENT

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