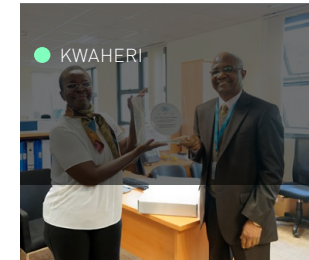




# UN ENVIRONMENT NEWSLETTER

AFRICA OFFICE

MAY-JUN 2018





AFRICA OFFICE  
NEWSLETTER

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2018



### AFRICA IS ON THE RIGHT PATH TO ERADICATE PLASTIC BAGS



Held on 5 June 2018, this year's World Environment Day celebrations were unprecedented, globally and within the Africa continent. The theme for this year was "Beat Plastic Pollution".

India was the host country for the celebrations and capped the day with an announcement to eliminate all single-use plastic in the country by 2022. In a country with a population of 1.3 billion people, this will be a remarkable achievement.

The theme raised awareness on the importance of saving the world's seas and oceans from pollution through man-made activities that pose a danger to marine life which often mistake plastic litter for food.

In Africa, thousands of participants celebrated World Environment Day. Thousands of plastic bottles and tens of thousands of individual plastic bags were collected.

There were numerous activities, announcements and endorsements across the Continent.

Botswana will ban the use of plastic carrier and flat bags effective from November 1st, 2018. The country now joins the growing list of countries in the region to ban plastic carrier and flat bags.

In Zambia, the Mayor of Livingstone, Eugene Mapuwo, requested his City Council to pass a resolution to ban production and sale of plastic bags.

The Ghanaian Parliament observed World environment Day and called for regulation and control of the plastic waste menace. The chairman of the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology, Mr. Kyeremanteng Agyarko, in a statement noted that 1.7 million tonnes of plastic is produced in Ghana each year. He called on authorities to regulate and check the plastic waste menace by regulating and controlling the use of plastic.

Ghana has made notable strides in environmental protection and in 2016 passed a law that provides for the control, management and disposal of hazardous waste, electrical and electronic waste in the country.

The Minister of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development of Cameroon, Helle Pierre, called on Cameroonians to use alternatives to plastic bags.



WORLD  
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## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2018



### AFRICA IS ON THE RIGHT PATH TO ERADICATE PLASTIC BAGS

Nigeria's Vice President Yemi Osinbajo called to ban plastics disposal in the country. "We can beat the plastics pollution, we can [...] certainly will achieve our objectives much faster if all work together," he said. The Ministry of Environment in collaboration with stakeholders has developed a national strategy for the phasing out of non-biodegradable plastics.

The United Nations family in Ethiopia celebrated World Environment Day and made a commitment towards single-use plastic free offices.

Benin, Nigeria and Cote Ivoire joined the Clean Seas campaign.

In Kenya, national World Environment Day celebrations were held in Kwale County. The Deputy President of Kenya announced that the government had launched a tree planting day to increase forest cover from the current 7.2 to 20 per cent by the year 2022.



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## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:



### CELEBRATIONS OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: NORTH AFRICA



In Egypt, UN Environment recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Youth Love Egypt, a youth-led Non-Governmental Organization.

Youth Love Egypt organized celebrations of World Environment Day in six counties - Cairo (Nile River); the Red Sea, (Hurghada city); Mediterranean coasts (Alexandria) and the Gulf of Aqaba (Dahab City), Ismailia City and Fayoum - collecting over four tonnes of plastic.

The Nile River campaign had 30 participants from the Cairo scouts, the Red Sea campaign had 45 youth participants, Alexandria and Fayoum had 30 youth participants each Ismailia had 60 young participants involved and in Dahab City Lagouna beach 60 volunteers participated and the beach clean-up included underwater clean-up by volunteer divers.

Of the total volunteers, women made up 40% of the demographics. World Environment Day was an opportunity to mobilize youth, women and local authorities to raise awareness on the scale of pollution in Egypt and take action against plastic pollution.



## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:



### CELEBRATIONS OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: WEST AFRICA



In Côte d'Ivoire, UN Environment partnered with the Ministry of Environment, African Development Bank (AfDB) the Indian Embassy, among other partners, to celebrate World Environment Day.

Key highlights included panel discussions on "Beating Plastic Pollution in Africa"; recording of individual commitments by AfDB staff; official awareness messages focusing on this year's theme in the context of the fight against climate change and transition to a low carbon economy, and a major clean-up of the beach at the historic city of Bassam.

About 500 people from the public sector (ministries and municipalities), regional and international institutions, private sector, NGO's, United Nation system, traditional chiefs, and the general public actively participated in the event.

During the ceremony, the Minister of Environment, Urban Salubrity and Sustainable Development announced that the country will soon join the CleansSeas campaign to awaken individual and collective consciousness and strengthen people's involvement in the fight against pollution in general and especially from plastics.

The government banned the production, importation, marketing, possession and use of plastic bags in 2013.

In Ghana, the Government came out strongly to celebrate World Environment Day, with participation ranging from Parliamentary to the grassroots level. National celebrations were led by Professor Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, who made the call to action on plastic pollution at the national event held in Accra.

The Ghanaian Parliament observed World Environment Day by calling on authorities to check the plastic waste menace by regulating and controlling the use of plastic products. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggested the implementation of a take-back system, where companies that supply their products in plastic containers can retrieve the packaging from the public after use, thereby ensuring a higher percentage of the country's waste is recycled.

In Nigeria, during celebrations in Abuja, Nigeria's Vice President Yemi Osinbajo called for indiscriminate elimination of plastics disposal in the country. He asked foreign consumer goods companies in the country to maintain global recycling policy to eliminate the problem.

The Central Bank of Nigeria commemorated WED with an event that featured discussions around the WED global theme of the year 'Beat Plastic Pollution' as key stakeholders deliberated on ways to enhance sustainable practices in the Nigerian corporate sector.



## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:



### CELEBRATIONS OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: EAST AFRICA



In the run-up to the World Environment Day, the Africa Office organized activities in the Kibra informal settlement and Kisumu City. In Kibra, clean-up and tree planting activities were undertaken and involved hundreds from the local community, including youth and women.

In Kisumu, a three day advocacy conference was held which included rehabilitation of a dumpsite, clean-up activities and the First Ladies Second Round-Table on the theme of waste management. Additionally, UN

Environment organized an-eco fashion show to demonstrate how designers across Kenya are reconfiguring traditional techniques, repurposing waste fabric to create sustainable objects such as artwork.

For the national celebrations, the Deputy President of Kenya joined hundreds of Kenyans to mark World Environment Day at Baraza Park in Kwale County. "The nation should strive for low carbon emission formulas and this should be more than just banning of plastic bags. This is why the government launched a tree planting day to increase forest cover to 20 per cent by the year 2022," he said. The government also directed the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to introduce a monthly national clean-up day in a bid to eradicate plastic waste.

UN Environment has partnered with Safaricom and National Environment Management Agency to establish an end-to-end plastic waste management programme. The partnership will see the creation of a working group that brings together stakeholders, mainly manufacturers, waste collectors and plastic waste recyclers to formulate an end-to-end solution to hard plastic wastes.

In Nairobi, Kenya, the celebrations saw hundreds of volunteers turn up for a cleanup of Nairobi's City Park. The event was organized by UN Environment, in collaboration with the Friends of City Park as well as the Friends of Karura Forest. More than 100 United Nations staff took part in the cleanup.

The Government of Ethiopia has committed to banning plastic bags and has also made headway in the necessary institutional processes towards the ban. The UN family in Ethiopia supported this initiative and UN Economic commission committed to stop plastic bottle use in conference rooms by December 2018. Representative of UN





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## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:



### CELEBRATIONS OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: EAST AFRICA

Development Programme in Ethiopia committed to no-plastic folders procurement with immediate effect. Other UN agencies in the country are already plastic-free and more institutions have committed to rid their offices of single use plastics.

In Tanzania diverse activities were organized. UN Environment Tanzania, with partners, organized beach clean ups that included underwater cleanups. Nearly 80 volunteers were mobilized for the Dive Against Debris and beach clean-up. 20 divers participated in the dive in Blue Lagoon, Paje.

The Vice-President of Tanzania Ms. Samia Hassan Suluhu hosted an inauguration of a 2-year long Seawall project on Barack Obama Road in Dar es Salaam. UN Environment and UN Office for Project Services coordinated the construction of 2,400 meters of coastal defense structures in combination with widespread mangrove and coral rehabilitation. Approximately 1,000 hectares of mangrove habitat and coral reef across Tanzania's coastline was rehabilitated.

The seawall inauguration ceremony took place on the last day of week-long events in Tanzania, designed to commemorate World Environment Day and raise awareness on environmental issues in the country.



In Dodoma Region, the District Environmental Management Officer led a group of people in collecting about thousands of plastic bags in the Chemba Town, an area of 12square kilometers. 14 mattresses from the plastic bags were collected. Ten mattresses were donated as a gift to vulnerable households and disabled pupils. This is yet another innovative example of environmental sustainability, community responsibility and turning trash into cash. To mark World Environment Day, the Government of South Sudan launched the its first-ever State of Environment and Outlook Report. The report was launched by Mr. Taban Deng Gai, First Vice President of South Sudan.



## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:



### CELEBRATIONS OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: VSOUTHERN AFRICA



The Cabinet of Botswana has taken a decision to ban the use of plastic carrier and flat bags effective from November 1, 2018. The Deputy Director in the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism, Frank Molebatsi revealed this during a consultative workshop on the ban. He said that the ministry will use platforms to raise awareness, the first being the World Environment Day, and also hold talk shows across the country.

In South Africa, a faith-based organization, the 'South African Churches', launched a campaign to reduce the single use plastic bags; 'Bring Your Own Bag'. Every year South Africans use 8 billion plastic bags, and less than 1% are recycled. Churches with the support of A Rocha "Christians in Conservation" have started a campaign to bring this to an end. A Rocha South Africa (ARZA) is part of the global family of organizations in A Rocha worldwide. Since 2002 ARZA has been coordinating community conservation projects and environmental education in KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape. They urged their members to sign a personal pledge to stop using plastic bags, sign a petition to the Minister for the Environment to push for a ban on plastic shopping bags in South Africa and have launched a Facebook page to marshal support for the 'Bring Your Own Bag' campaign.

Many retail outlets and restaurants in South Africa such as Ocean Basket and Woolworths, have taken a stance to stop using single-use plastic. In the Sun City Resort, staff and guests pledged among other things to put a stop from using plastic shopping bags. Retailers in Sun City Resort were provided with a pledge form to reduce or stop using plastic packaging or distribution of other plastic items like straws.

With the Mayor of Tshwane, UN Environment and other partners such as Miss Earth took on to the streets of the Central Business District in Pretoria and picked up litter, while separating recyclables and wet waste.

During the Sustainability Week, 5-7 June 2018, one of the major themes was sustainable development in Africa. UN Environment South Africa alongside Plastics SA hosted a #BeatPlasticPollution campaign and launched the Africa Waste Management Outlook.

Numerous other activities were undertaken in South Africa including beach clean-ups and the engagement of Goodwill Ambassadors in outreach events.







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## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:



### CELEBRATIONS OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: SOUTHERN AFRICA

In Namibia, the country's Minister of Environment and Tourism called for new measures to reduce the use of plastic bags. Minister Pohamba Shifeta said Namibia seeks to emulate over 15 African countries that have already introduced measures to either ban or tax the use of plastic carrier bags.

In Zambia, the 'Make Zambia Clean, Green and Healthy' campaign, organized by the Children's Environmental Health Foundation, brought together over one thousand people in Livingstone to celebrate World Environment Day. Clean-ups and sensitization campaigns of hotel staff, church members and the Air Force were among the activities.

His Worship the Mayor of the City of Livingstone, Eugene Mapuwo, requested the Livingstone City Council to pass a resolution to ban production and sale of plastic.





June saw the Africa Office bid farewell to two outstanding African diplomats.

His Excellency Mr. Kelebert Nkomani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to UN Environment Programme. Ambassador Kelebert Nkomani was the Dean to the Africa Diplomatic Corps and during his time he provided invaluable support and contribution to the work of UN Environment Programme in Africa.

His Excellency Mr. John Moreti, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to UN Environment Programme. High Commissioner Mr. John Moreti has been the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR). He has played a vital role in shaping and steering Africa's message during the United Nations Environment Assembly.





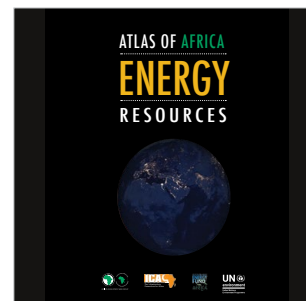
## The state of plastics: World environment day outlook 2018

This publication sets out the latest thinking on how we can achieve this. It looks at what governments, businesses and individuals can do to check the runaway production and consumption of plastic. tiny fraction is recycled.



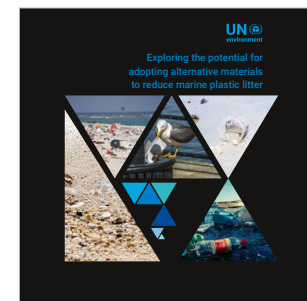
## South Sudan: first state of environment and outlook report 2018

This first ever State of the Environment and Outlook report for South Sudan will form the basis and the benchmark for assessments, inventories, mapping and valuation of our vast natural resources.



## Atlas of Africa Energy resources

This Atlas will stimulate decision makers, planners, investors, energy experts, businesses and citizens to take actions to achieve sustainable, modern and affordable energy for all in Africa.



## Exploring the potential for adopting alternative materials to reduce marine plastic litter

This report provides representative examples of some of the many alternative materials that are either available commercially, or are in development.



## Single-use plastics: A roadmap for sustainability

This report sets out the latest thinking on how we can achieve this. It looks at what governments, businesses and individuals have achieved at national and sub-national levels to curb the consumption of single-use plastics.

## FEEDBACK



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