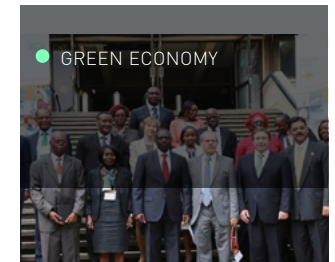




REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA NEWSLETTER

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

JUN 2015



NEWS



PUBLICATIONS



CALENDAR



CONTACT



ARTICLES

THE REGION CELEBRATES THE WED 2015 AMID CALLS FOR WISE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE CONTINENT

The 2015 Regional World Environment Day (WED) celebrations were hosted by the government of Côte d'Ivoire in Boufle under the theme "Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care."

The celebrations jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment of Côte d'Ivoire and UNEP held on the 5, June brought together government representatives, the private sector, and the local community as a way of encouraging awareness and action for the environment. UNEP was represented by the Regional Director for Africa, Mounkaila Goumandakoye, the Head of the UNEP Sub-Regional office for West Africa, Angele Luh, and the Regional Coordinator of the Abidjan Convention, Abou Bamba.

The day was marked with a mobile caravan, focusing on consumption patterns in areas involving local and consumer groups. There were family awareness events/ Journées Portes ouvertes involving different environmental stakeholders, universities, research institutes as well as televised panel discussions; speeches from the government, plays from the local community and school children performances.

During his opening Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, who called for strengthened public and private partnership for the wise management of natural resources for Africa's development and specifically called on Ivoirians to adopt attitudes



and behaviors that reduce the environmental footprint by avoiding waste and overconsumption of natural resources. He also called for concerted efforts in conserving the environment especially forests and for zero tolerance to deforestation.

The day ended with a call for more strengthening of UNEP Sub- regional office for West Africa in order to deliver, as the expectations from the government as well as the region as a whole are very high. The Prime Minister acknowledged UNEPs effective support to Côte d'Ivoire for the technical assistance provided for the Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment and the toxic waste environmental audit, and above all the opportunity to host the Sub-regional office for West Africa and called for synergies from the different ministries to develop a work plan and work closely with UNEP.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: A CALL TO EMBRACE GREEN ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Every year, on the fifth of June, African countries join the world to celebrate the World Environment Day (WED). From Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, to Ghana, Kenya and South Africa, people joined UNEP to celebrate WED under one theme "Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care."

Sustainable production and consumption is critical for economic growth in Africa. The region's economies must continue to grow to eradicate poverty and to allow for sustainable development. But growth should not be associated with the depletion and destruction of natural capital on which more than 70 per cent of the population depends for their livelihood. The continent's natural capital is the backbone of its growth. Therefore a transition to a green economy is vital for sustained and inclusive economic growth.

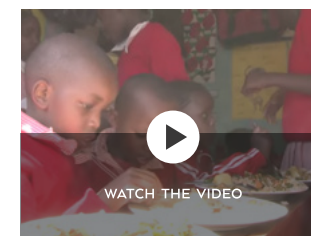
"Transition to Green Economy will ensure that we use sustainably the resources available, so that despite the growing population, we'll be in a position to satisfy the needs of livelihood, continue to maintain the GDP, which is relatively high in terms of the growth for Africa, and ensure in future that resources are not being destroyed," said the United Nations Environment Programme Representative and the Regional Director for Africa, Mounkaila



Goumandakoye. Throughout the continent countries celebrated the day and regional media spread the message widely. The regional flagship event in Côte d'Ivoire was attended by the Prime Minister and Regional Director. UNEP was also represented at the official events in Ghana, Ethiopia and South Africa. In Kenya Goodwill Ambassador Suzanna Owiyo and the Regional Office organised an event to raise awareness on food waste.



Regional Director on WED



WED, Kenya





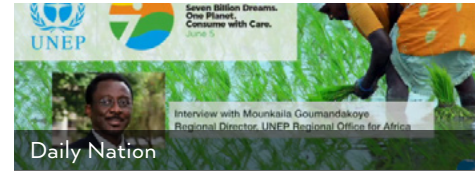
UNEP ASSISTS IN ANTI-RHINO POACHING EFFORTS

The United Nations Environment Programme's Global Environment Facility (UNEP-GEF) has donated four 4x4 forensic trailers to South African National Parks (SANParks) to assist in anti-poaching efforts.



NAIROBI CONVENTION - SEYCHELLES HAS 'EMBRACED SUSTAINABILITY'

The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Achim Steiner, has hailed the 115-island archipelago of Seychelles' commitment towards the sustainable management of its resources.



WHY AFRICAN COUNTRIES NEED TO TRANSITION TO THE GREEN ECONOMY

World Environment Day is commemorated on June 5 every year. In 1972, when it was first marked, the harm that poisonous chemicals were causing to the natural environment were the immediate concern. Forty-three years later, climate change and sustainability also loom large, though the earlier concerns remain.



AFRICA'S FIRST GREEN GROWTH FORUM

The Forum was jointly organized by the Government of Kenya, the Government of Denmark and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), under the umbrella of the Global Green Growth Forum (3GF) which convenes governments, businesses, investors and international organizations to act together for inclusive green growth.





BUREAU OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT MEETS TO TAKE FORWARD THE AMCEN AGENDA

The 27th meeting of the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held from 25 to 26 May 2015 in Cairo, Egypt. The Bureau meeting was preceded by a consultative meeting on the Africa 2020 renewable energy initiative on 23 May 2015 and a meeting of the steering committee of the regional flagship programmes on 24 May 2015. The proposal on Africa 2020 Renewable Energy Initiative which aims at catalyzing a major scale up of renewable energy deployment on the continent was considered during the bureau meeting.

The Africa 2020 Renewable Energy Initiative aims to help African countries to meet their expanding energy needs to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication. A concept note on the initiative had been prepared and work had also been initiated on a full project proposal through consultations with energy and climate experts. A technical group will be established under the coordination of the AMCEN President and includes the African Union Commission, NEPAD, AGN, UNEP, AfDB and IRENA to continue working on the details and elaborating the draft proposal of the initiative taking into consideration the relevance of other energy programmes in the region.

The Bureau endorsed the outcomes of the meeting of the steering committee on the regional flagship programmes (RFPs) and emphasized the need to accelerate the implementation of



the RFPs. A detailed assessment of existing programmes will be undertaken at national and regional levels with a view to ensuring that the RFPs build upon existing programmes. Coherent and clear messaging on the RFPs will be developed to increase awareness and promote the RFPs. The Bureau supported the development of the African Common Strategy on Illegal Trade in Wildlife as a strong foundation that would help to take adequate action on illegal wildlife trade and called on African countries to continue to work together to address this challenge. The Bureau emphasized the importance of having the final product concluded through a process that involves all member states.





AMCEN BUREAU URGES AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO HAVE A COMMON POSITION FOR COP21 IN PARIS

The adverse impacts of climate change are affecting all regions with particularly severe consequences for Africa. Despite contributing only 3 per cent to global emissions, Africa has a role to play in avoiding emissions, particularly as the region has some of the fastest growing economies in the world. The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP21) to be held from 30 November to 11 December 2015 in Paris will be crucial as it seeks to reach a new international agreement on climate change.

The AMCEN Bureau which met from 25 to 26 May 2015 in Cairo called for the new agreement to address all the key issues in a balanced manner by ensuring that mitigation and adaptation are addressed as equal priorities, and that finance, technology and capacity needed by developing countries is forthcoming. The Bureau added that the outcome in Paris must be legally binding and sufficiently ambitious to put the world on track to keep warming to well below 1.5 degrees Celsius as called for by Africa.

With regard to Africa's preparations, the Bureau emphasized the need for Africa to have a working document that summarizes all the critical issues, the status of the negotiations, Africa's position vis a vis positions



of other groups and highlights the sort of contacts the region should have with other groups on the road to Paris. The Bureau re-iterated the need to update the African Common position, which is the basis for the region's negotiating position. The Bureau requested for the updating of the guidelines on Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to help African countries in their preparation of INDCs.

And to prepare adequately for Paris, the Bureau committed to ensuring enhanced dialogue between AMCEN and the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) and putting in place a mechanism which will ensure that information reaches out to all African countries.



POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (PEI)



HOME



CALENDAR



CONTACT



CAPACITY BUILDING TO ADDRESS GENDER ISSUES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

While changes in the environment affect everyone, they affect men and women differently. Women and girls are more likely to be affected by environmental degradation largely because of their traditional responsibilities such as food producers, collecting water and firewood. Identifying and addressing the needs of women and men, as well as promoting the role of women as policy makers, are essential to the success of environmental and economic policy and programming.

It is in this light that the UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI) organized a training workshop in collaboration with the United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning in Dakar from 8 to 12 June 2015. The objective of the workshop was to build capacity of government officials affiliated with PEI and PEI staff in West Africa countries to mainstream gender, environment and climate change into policy development and budgeting processes. The course was inspired by UNDP's Gender and Economic Policy Management Initiative (GEPMI).



The 25 participants at the training workshop represented the ministries of finance, economy and / or planning the environment and women and / or gender and UNDP country offices in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal as well as staff from UNEP.

At the end of the workshop, participants developed individual and country plans of action for the implementation of approaches and tools covered in the workshop. Environmental and economic policies and programmes that take into account the needs of men and women are more likely to be sustainable and contribute to the achievement of poverty reduction and gender equality goals.



UNEP ASSISTS SOUTH AFRICA IN ANTI-RHINO POACHING EFFORTS

As part of the UNEP-GEF Rhino project, the Minister of Environment affairs Edna Molewa has handed over 4X4 forensic trailers to the South African National Parks (SANParks), the North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism - as well as to the Limpopo Department of Environment and Tourism and the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency. The initiative is among the steps that are being taken to stop the killing of the Rhino population in South Africa.

"This mobile unit will make the postmortems after poaching easier for the forensic team. To work on such a scene is very traumatic, and this will just make it easier. This unit has everything they need," said Major-General Johan Jooste of the Kruger National Park's (KNP) anti-poaching unit.

The 4X4 forensic trailers will assist in the investigation of rhino poaching and other wildlife crime. Improved investigative capacity and crime scene management in respect of rhino poaching related cases are among the measures outlined in government's Integrated Strategic Management of Rhinoceros. For example, when urgent forensic sample results are required for bail hearings involving suspected poachers, it is vital the samples are processed to ensure that the evidence in question is not only acceptable,



but delivered within a specified time frame for court purposes. The UNEP-GEF Rhino project also provides advanced crime scene management training. The training assists in developing crime scene filming material to serve as a visual supplementary training material for rhino crime scene investigators.



ENERGY



SCALING UP CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN AFRICA

The Pan African Parliament (PAP) held its Sixth Ordinary Session of the third Parliament from the 18 until the 25 of May. This session provided an excellent opportunity for liaising with parliamentarians on key energy related topics in the African continent. At the request of the Pan African Parliament Committee on Transport, Industry, Communication, Energy, Science and Technology, UNEP engaged with the Pan African Parliament and hosted a workshop on sustainable energy in Africa.

UNEP in partnership with Swiss contact and Embassy of Denmark conducted the workshop on Saturday 23rd May 2015, at the Gallagher Convention Center in Midrand, South Africa on the theme 'scaling up clean and sustainable energy in Africa: what role can parliamentarians play'. During this workshop, several aspects of energy in Africa were discussed, such as the status of sustainable energy in Africa, plans to upscale the wide-spread use of renewable energy, unlocking financing, the involvement of communities and private sector and the role of parliamentarians can play in this area.

The overall objective for this workshop was to provide a platform for parliamentarians and other key stakeholders to discuss Africa's transition towards sustainable energy.



The workshop made use of plenary sessions, presentations and roundtables to assess the current situation and the way forward. The day was facilitated by Jacqueline Nzisabira-Utumuriza, who also provided more insights on renewable energy opportunities in Africa.

Participants recognized that energy is a crucial topic for Africa's future and that the workshop has enabled parliamentarians to learn about the key aspects of energy in order to play an enabling role in their respective countries.



GREEN ECONOMY

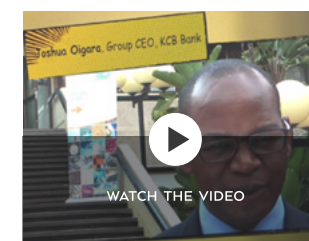
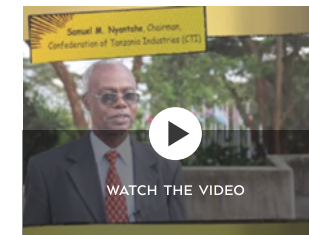


GREEN GROWTH TO UNLOCK AFRICA'S ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

The first African Regional Green Growth Forum was organized in Nairobi, Kenya on 13-14 May. The two-day conference worked to identify the barriers to Africa's sustainable development and the ways to turn them into opportunities for green growth and improved livelihoods. The focus was on three key areas: new financing models for green growth, sustainable urbanization and sustainable lifestyles.

The forum was an opportunity to stimulate discussions on reliable and sustainable supply in energy for Africa, achieving sustainable industrialization through the circular economy and developing a global standard for measuring food loss and waste in a consistent, credible and transparent manner.

"The 3GF provides a timely opportunity for African stakeholders to define their priorities to feed into these important processes," said Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNEP. "We



are seeing the continent take advantage of the many green economy opportunities at its fingertips. Building on a strong endowment of natural resource and skills, Africa is poised to become the frontline of a global transition to more-inclusive green economies." he added.



FOOD WASTE PREVENTION: ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE BASELINE IN SOUTH AFRICA



On 2 June 2015 UNEP, FAO and the South African Department of Trade and industry (DTI) held a food waste workshop on the 'UNEP food waste prevention pilot in South Africa' at the DTI campus in Pretoria.

All the stakeholders (National Clean Production Centre (NCPC), CSIR, City of Johannesburg, City of Tshwane etc.) involved in the programme gathered to discuss the current status of food waste in South Africa and the way forward with the pilot project. The objective of the workshop was to establish a comprehensive baseline for food waste in South Africa.

Clementine O'Connor and David Tozer working on the Think Eat Save programme gave a presentation on food waste prevention and outlined different methods for taking action. Members elaborated on the food waste statistics in Southern Africa and focused more on South Africa and how the food waste projects can be initiated based on that country's context.

A road map on the way forward was discussed focusing on waste policies, national priorities and stakeholders roles. Two pilot projects will be conducted in South Africa; the Johannesburg School Challenge on solutions for food waste and the Tshwane Fresh Produce Market. It was concluded that the DTI will head the steering group and different stakeholders will take the lead in their areas of specialties to ensure that the projects are initiated.





PARTIES DECIDED TO APPLY BLUE ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS

The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal and Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region have concluded the 8th Conference of Parties meeting (COP8) in Mahe, Seychelles on 24 June 2015.

The Parties decided that each party should apply blue/ocean economy approaches as pathways for sustained economic growth, food security, poverty eradication, job creation and environmental sustainability.

The Parties lauded the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and its Partners for launching the first Regional State of Coast report for the Western Indian region (WIO). The report provides insights into the enormous economic potential around the WIO and the consequential demand for marine ecosystem goods and services to match the increasing human population. It also pointed out the pace and scale of environmental changes taking place in the region and the opportunities to avoid serious degradation in one of the world's unique and highly biodiverse oceans.

The Parties called for regional guidelines on environmental management for oil and gas development, and asked countries and partners that

are involved in oil and gas development to conduct and implement a regionally coordinated strategic environmental assessment, of social and environmental sustainability of oil and gas in the Western Indian Ocean Region. They also called for a regional climate change strategy for the Nairobi Convention area with recommendations that can be integrated into national climate change strategies with options for the development of policies, programmes and projects on climatic variability and climate change.

"The way forward is toward a healthy West Indian Ocean that drives sustainable growth along its shores, improving human well-being and social equality along the way. This is what we term the Blue Economy. The Blue Economy advocates for long-term prosperity for coastal peoples through the long-term plenty of their greatest resource," said UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner.

The UNEP Executive Director paid a courtesy visit to H.E. James Michel, President of Seychelles to discuss partnerships and future collaborations between the Seychelles and UNEP. The conference was attended by 120 participants. It was preceded by 3 preparatory workshops on blue economy, science and policy interface, and partnerships. A Strategic Action Programme for Sustainable Management of the WIO was signed by the Contracting Parties.



ENVIRONMENT MINISTER OF SOMALIA VISITED THE REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA

On 19 May 2015, H.E Prof Buri Hamza, Minister of Environment, Somalia and his advisor, Prof. Mohamood Abdi Noor visited the Regional Office seeking for enhanced UNEP support to the country.

According to the Minister, the country longs for more UNEP's engagement due to the level of environmental degradation currently taking place.

Both policy and grassroots levels were discussed during the meeting. Prof Buri requested UNEP's support for a Post Conflict Environment Assessment, Preparation of INDCs, reviving ozone action, ensuring active involvement in the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention as well



as the Nairobi Convention. He also requested UNEP to support Somalia in embracing Green Economy pathways. A need analysis is expected to take place, in collaboration between UNEP and Somalia, to define the priorities and the way forward.

PUBLICATIONS



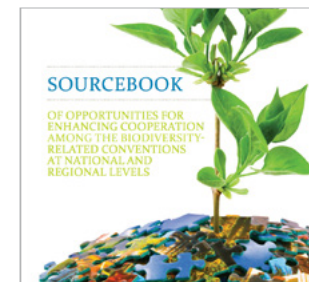
**United Nations
Environment
Programme: Annual
Report 2014**



**United Nations
Environment
Programme:
Programme
Performance
Report 2014**



**Policy Coherence
of the Sustainable
Development Goals**



**Sourcebook of
Opportunities for
Enhancing Cooperation
among the Biodiversity**

UPCOMING EVENTS



11
JUL

World Population Day
Global

13-16
JUL

Third International Conference
on Financing for Development
*(support to the implementation of
the post-2015 development agenda)*
Addis Ababa

30-31
JUL

2nd Africa Ecosystem Based
Adaptation (EbA) for Food Security
Conference
Nairobi, Kenya



FEEDBACK



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