

Kenya Habitable Planet Workshop

Applied Centre for Climate and Earth System Science (ACCESS)

Room 10, UNEP HQs, Gigiri
10 July 2013



Background

The Applied Centre for Climate and Earth System Science (ACCESS) was established in 2009. The consortium is a platform for an integrated and end-to-end research and education, services and training outputs and outcomes related to the opportunities and challenges emanating from a varying and changing environment, and is supported by the Government of South Africa. Access Kenya 2013 was the first time it was held in East Africa, and it was held in partnership with the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

- **Mahesh Pradhan**, Chief of UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit (UNEP), welcomed participants and highlighted the significance of environmental education for sustainable development, with regards to the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014);
- **Carl Palmer and Neville Sweijd**, (ACCESS), gave an overview of ACCESS program, citing the need to expand research capacity in Africa through partnerships and collaborations;
- **Kaita Leonard**, Technical University of Kenya, gave an summary on the Kenya Habitable Planet Workshop 2013 training and the holistic hands-on approaches involved;
- **David Ombisi**, Regional Office of Africa (UNEP), gave a brief on African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) as an African Environment Policy Linkage. He emphasized AMCEN's decision for an African Environmental Education and Training (EE&T) Action Plan as per Paragraph 17 of the Arusha Declaration. By strengthening EE&T initiatives, the action plan would help address environmental issues through policy review and implementation, awareness creation, coordinated training and advocacy thus promoting green economies, sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation goals;
- **Sunday Leonard**, Office of the Chief Scientist (UNEP), stressed the need for enhanced environmental related exchange information to enrich decision making and ultimately behavioral change and holistic solutions through science-policy interfaces;
- **Charles Sebukeera**, Regional Office of Africa (UNEP), emphasized the Africa's State of the Environment and sustainability challenges. Presently, the African environment sustains about 26% of the overall per capita "wealth" in Africa's low income countries. Increased environmental degradation will lead to increased disease burden and intrastate conflicts. EE is thus fundamental in addressing negative impacts of rapid urbanization, climate change, unsustainable development choices and weak governance on the environmental and the social aspects;
- **Keith Alverson**, Coordinator, Climate Change Adaptation and Terrestrial Ecosystems Branch (UNEP), reiterated the need for a better climate observation system in Africa; promotion of ecosystems based adaptation approaches; and policy and regional experience networking for climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- **Peggy Oti-Boateng**, Senior Program Specialist, Science and Technology (UNESCO) highlighted the UNDESD and the African Network of Science and Technology Institutions (ANSTI). She called for improved EE capacity for research through human resource development in science and technology.

Follow-Up

- i. Explore ACCESS presentation at the academia forum at Global South-South Expo (October 2013);
- ii. Technical Support ACCESS Kenya (East Africa) programs;
- iii. Brainstorm on development of an African Environmental Education MOOC, in collaboration with the University of Cape Town and ACCESS; and
- iv. Coordinate with UNESCO regarding participation in the 5th Conference of Vice Chancellors, Provosts and Deans of Science, Engineering and Technology (COVIDSET) Bi-annual Conference (6-7 November 2013) in Botswana. www.conference.ansti.org

The ACCESS Kenya Habitable Planet Workshop was attended by nearly 30 participants from various HEIs in East and Southern Africa, and was a culmination of the 10 day training session.

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