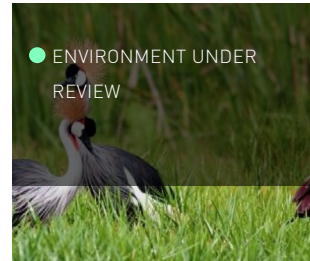




UN ENVIRONMENT NEWSLETTER

AFRICA OFFICE

2016 HIGHLIGHTS



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PAVING THE WAY FOR A STRONGER UN ENVIRONMENT IN AFRICA

UN Environment, through its Africa Office, plays a central role in enhancing collaboration with its stakeholders to garner their support on strategic initiatives in the environment and sustainable development agendas. The Regional Director and Representative for Africa, Ms. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, has strategically been engaging with governments and partners to strengthen UN Environment's partnerships in the region through mobilizing resources and support on a number of initiatives. Key recent developments achieved include:

Country Cooperation Framework with Angola: UN Environment, Africa Office has held a series of consultative meetings with the Government of Angola, aimed at consolidating UN Environment's support to Angola through a Country Cooperation Framework (CCF) with the specific objectives of enhancing effectiveness of UN Environment's ongoing support, to improve coherence and integration within the UN Development Assistance Framework and National Development Framework, as well as to lay a foundation for the development and implementation of joint programmes.

On November 14, UN Environment signed a new agreement with Angola. The agreement identifies priority areas of cooperation on environmental issues to enhance socio-economic development, to be translated into concrete actions by both parties.

The parties will mutually cooperate to strengthen Angola's institutional capacity, as well as in the following thematic areas: Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Environmental and Regional Cooperation Governance, Climate Change, Chemicals and Waste Management, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Natural Resources Management and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Revamping the Mayombe Initiative: The Mayombe Transboundary Protected Area aims to protect the Mayombe Forest in Central Africa. It stretches out from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Congo-Brazzaville to Gabon in the middle of the second largest rainforest in the world. The Mayombe Forest is home to a wide variety of floral and faunal biodiversity, including species of outstanding universal interest, such as the chimpanzee, the lowland gorilla and the forest elephant. In 2008, UN Environment initiated the Mayombe Forest Transboundary Initiative, bringing together these countries to jointly protect and manage the Mayombe ecosystem from degradation. Ministers of Environment from Angola, DRC, Congo Brazzaville and Gabon recently met in Marrakech on November 14 and reached an agreement to revamp the initiative.



West African Economic and Monetary Union Pledges Funding: The West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) reiterated its previous commitment to provide 3 billion CFA (equivalent of USD 4.9M) to support the Lake Faguibine project in Mali. Following recommendations reflected in a revised project document, WAEMU has further promised to consider extending financial support to the project by an additional USD 1.7M, pending change of location for the project's implementation team.





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In addition, WAEMU also committed, through an aide memoire, to provide co-financing for another project to build resilient communities in the Sahel by creating a center of excellence on resilience to climate change in the Sahel. This project was designed and developed with support from the UN Environment Africa Office and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought in the Sahel.

UN Environment and ECOWAS Tighten Partnership: UN Environment and the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) strengthened their partnership in advancing environmental sustainability in the ECOWAS region. Though the two organizations have worked in the past on a number of joint initiatives, the cooperation was not guided by a formal agreement.

Following a consultative working session in Abuja in late October, the Regional Director of UN Environment in Africa, Ms. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo and the Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission, Mr. Edward Singhatay signed an aide memoire, signaling the determination by the two institutions to maintain and take collaboration to a higher level.



The underlying aim is to ensure that synergies, coherence and concerted actions towards a transformative environmental agenda in the sub region are enhanced through this strategic engagement. The aide memoire marks an initial step that will lead to the signing of a formal Memorandum of Understanding that will guide the work of the two institutions in supporting Member States in their efforts to implement the environmental dimension of the ECOWAS Vision 2020, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

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COP 22

AMCEN

DISASTERS &
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ENVIRONMENT
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GEO-6

PEI

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UN ENVIRONMENT
IN WEST AFRICA

CLIMATE
CHANGE



COP 22: TIME FOR ACTION



The opening of the 22nd edition of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22) kicked off on November 7, 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco. It was attended by negotiators from almost 200 countries and was termed the COP of Action. Its key aim was to translate international commitments into action through implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world and it bears the brunt of the adverse effects of climate change. The continent continues facing major challenges such as rising sea levels, increasing temperatures, severe weather conditions coupled with unpredictable and shifting weather patterns. All these translate to increasing costs for adaptation and mitigation to climate change. Financing to address these challenges remains a key concern for the continent in global climate negotiations and agreements, and a central component in national development plans. Through forums such as the African Union and African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), Africa continues to play a key part in regional and global negotiations on climate change to ensure that the continent adopts a common stance in international negotiations.



The UN Environment's Africa Office hosts the Secretariat of AMCEN and has been instrumental in providing support to Africa on environmental issues and global negotiations. In the run up to COP22, the AMCEN Secretariat provided both technical and financial support to a consultative meeting, which availed an opportunity for the African Ministers to be updated by the African Group of Negotiators on the progress made on the negotiations, to enable the Ministers form their common position to the negotiations, and to also prepare them for their interactions with the international community during the high level segment.



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COP 22



COP 22: TIME FOR ACTION

At the COP22 negotiations, Africa had three top priorities namely i) Financing ii) Technology Transfer, and iii) Capacity Building. The region has made some good progress in some of these areas. For example, the Independent Delivery Unit for the African Renewable Energy Initiative is now in place and is housed by the African Development Bank; discussions are still on-going to constitute the Board. Efforts for operationalization of African Adaptation Initiative are also underway. Countries at COP22 also operationalized the Paris Agreement’s Committee on Capacity Building, which will help build capacity for climate action in developing countries.

However, financing still remains the biggest constraint to implementing the Paris Agreement. A report by the United Nations Environment Programme estimates that adaptation costs in 2030 are likely to range between \$140 billion to \$300 billion per annum. In order to meet financing needs and avoid an adaptation gap, the total financing for adaptation in 2030 would have to be approximately 6 to 13 times greater than today’s international public financing.

Thus if Parties are to achieve the agreement’s ambitious goals, a lot remains to be done to secure the much needed funds to address climate change, especially in developing and least developed countries. These finances will need to be pooled from various sources including donors, the private sector, financial institutions as well as from beneficiary governments.

Going forward, Africa should take the lead in moving from talk to action through its own initiatives and in mobilizing domestic resources to implement the Paris Agreement. The region needs to diversify sources beyond



unpredictable international public sources. By focusing policies to incentivize investment in the catalytic renewable energy and agriculture sectors which promise substantial return on investment, Africa can unlock private sector financing for climate action. In addition, optimizing Africa’s agro-value chains can also unlock innovative financing. Considering agriculture’s potential to generate up to \$1trillion by 2030, Africa’s agriculture is already attracting significant private investment to climate proof it. As an example, the Africa Risk Capacity Limited has secured \$55bn in private finance to insure Africa’s agriculture from climate shocks. This is a private sector investment financing implementation of Article 7 of the Paris Agreement on adaptation. Policies such as setting aside special enterprise zones or agro-industrial zones to further optimize potential of Africa’s agriculture can go a long way in creating enabling environments to attract private investment to build resilience in this sector.





COP 22: TIME FOR ACTION

Other significant commitments made by Parties at COP22 that will benefit Africa include:

- Key developed countries set out their decarbonization strategies to 2050. For example, Germany set forth to cut 80-95% emissions relative to 1990 levels and non-state actors also joined the fray, with 200 companies, representing \$4.8 trillion in market value putting forward emissions targets in line with science and surpassing expectations for Corporate Climate Action.
- The 2050 Pathways Platform was launched to support both state and non-state actors develop long-term, deep decarbonization strategies. A total of 22 countries, 15 cities and 196 businesses committed to this mechanism.
- The Marrakech Action Proclamation, re-affirmed global commitment to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and the commitment by developing countries to generate 100% of their energy from renewables. Considering that ambitious mitigation is the best insurance against soaring adaptation costs in Africa, this is a huge boost to the region.
- On Loss and Damage, countries approved a five-year work plan, which will see countries start to formally address "loss and damage" topics dealing with climate impacts beyond adaptation. This is a major boost for Africa considering that loss and damage costs are projected to double the adaptation costs in the 2030-2050 period.



Cumulatively, all these actions constitute a major boost to actualizing the long-term adaptation goal of keeping average temperature rise way below the 2°C threshold and with a pathway to the ideal 1.5°C.

Parties will meet in Germany in 2017 for COP23 to continue the fight on climate change.



AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (AMCEN)



ALIGNING AFRICA'S ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES TO THE GLOBAL AGENDA

In 2016, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), whose Secretariat is hosted by the UN Environment, Africa Office, affirmed its centrality in Africa's deliberations to address the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, discussions at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), as well as its effectiveness in providing guidance to African countries on environment and sustainable development matters.

AMCEN called for the sustainable and optimal management of Africa's natural capital and the integration of natural capital in national development plans and policies, as a gateway to contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals. As a result of AMCEN's efforts, including an agreement on Africa's common approach for engagement in the second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) of UN Environment, a universally applicable resolution on the sustainable management of natural capital was adopted during UNEA -2.

AMCEN recognizes the important role that conservation and sustainable use of wildlife can play in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and in addressing illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife. In this regard, AMCEN convened an African regional joint preparatory meeting for CITES COP 17 and CBD COP 13 to help the region have a common understanding of issues relevant to Africa and help narrow down the differences on matters where countries had divergent views. An agreement was reached on how to consolidate consensus points and develop a framework for post-COP discussions to address outstanding items where there are divergent views.



Through AMCEN, Africa's commitment to implement the Paris Agreement on climate change was emphasized and the African common position on climate change reaffirmed. Key messages were defined highlighting outstanding major areas of concern and priorities for the continent for consideration during the negotiations at UNFCCC COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco. The opportunities the Paris Agreement provides for a transition to low-emissions and climate-resilient development in Africa were recognized and mechanisms for the operationalization and implementation of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), including the establishment of an Independent Delivery Unit (IDU) housed by African Development Bank, were put in place. AREI seeks to accelerate the uptake of the region's huge potential in renewable energy that will catalyze a major scaling up of renewable energy deployment on the African continent. The framework for the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) which aims to deliver concrete, timely and coordinated adaptation action across the continent was also finalized.



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DISASTERS & CONFLICTS



UN ENVIRONMENT IS BACK TO SOMALIA



The UN Environment has marked its return to Somalia through the implementation of the UN Joint Programme

well as countries in the Horn of Africa and the region to produce pertinent

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_15552



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