



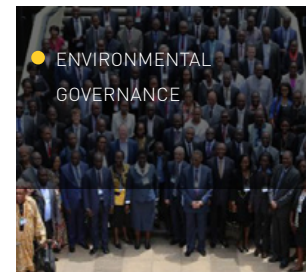
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA NEWSLETTER

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LAUNCH OF MAJOR WETLANDS RESTORATION INITIATIVE IN UGANDA





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NEWSLETTER

CLIMATE CHANGE



LAUNCH OF MAJOR WETLANDS RESTORATION INITIATIVE IN UGANDA

As part of the process to launch a major wetlands restoration initiative in Uganda, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director Achim Steiner, met with H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda on 27 August to present to him Volume One of the Uganda Wetlands Atlas.

The Uganda Wetlands Atlas is an essential tool for policy makers, planners and legislators that resolves some longstanding questions on accurate facts, figures and statistics on the status of wetlands in the country.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed, among others, enhanced UNEP-Uganda cooperation on key environmental issues affecting the country, including sustainable development and green economy solutions, renewable energy options and the consequences of climate change on Uganda's people and natural resources.

«Uganda is a country blessed with natural resources. While true across the world, it is even more apparent here that the environment is the foundation of all of our livelihoods. UNEP is keen to continue to cooperate with Uganda to address vital environmental issues and help chart a sustainable development path for the country that will benefit Ugandans long into the future,» said Achim Steiner.



During his visit, Mr. Steiner also met with Ephraim Kamuntu, the Minister of Water and Environment, with whom he signed a Country Cooperation Framework agreement. The Framework is designed to deepen collaboration between UNEP and Uganda by ensuring that environmental sustainability becomes a key pillar in the country's development agenda at all levels. It is intended to consolidate UNEP's support to Uganda and enhance effectiveness, improve coherence and integration within the Uganda UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2010-2015 and UNDAF 2016-20, as well as to lay the foundation for development and implementation of Joint Programmes and other activities.

Together they launched Volume One of the Uganda Wetlands Atlas and the Uganda-wide initiative, «Greening of the Economy through Massive Tree Planting and Sustainable Forest Management». They also participated in a ceremonial tree planting at the headquarters of the National Forestry Authority.



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EBAFOSA: TOWARDS ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

The unanimous adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 25-27 September 2015 by world leaders signaled a common global transition to fight hunger, malnutrition, poverty, unemployment, disease, climate change and social inequity among other challenges facing Africa.

Achieving the SDGs requires innovative action from all stakeholders. According to the World Bank reports, a 10% increase in crop yields in Africa translates to approximately a 7% reduction in poverty. Growth in agriculture is more effective in reducing poverty than in other sectors considering agriculture employs 60% of the labor force on the continent. However climate change threatens the sector's productivity with projected 11-40% yield reductions of major staples and undernourishment of Africa's population by 25 – 90% and put 50% of its population under risk according to UNEP Africa Adaptation Gap Report.

The need for optimization of Africa's agriculture is envisaged in SDGs, Maputo, Malabo, AMCEN Cairo Declaration and the AU Agenda 2063. However, only 13 countries have met the Maputo declaration target of spending 10% of GDP in agriculture. The situation is similar with the other MDGs.

"The Nairobi Action Agenda" and the Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly (EBAFOSA) unanimously adopted on 30-31 July 2015 by delegates from across Africa as the continental policy platform to foster and

nurture partnerships. It was formed following the 2nd Africa EBA for food security conference convened by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), African Union Commission (AUC), and African Centre for Technology Studies and among others

EBAFOSA provides a platform for scaling EBA driven agriculture and its value chains into policy and implementation through exchange activities. Optimizing food production through embracing ecosystems based approaches can result in yield increases of 116 – 128% enough to make 48 million people food secure. This will also create about 17 million jobs for the youth who form 60% of the unemployed in Africa. It will reduce harvest losses that top 6.6 million tonnes of grains hence cutting postharvest losses costing Africa up to \$4 billion annually. Therefore delivering on SDGs aimed to end hunger and promote sustainable agriculture, combat climate change, achieving sustainable management of ecosystems, inclusive sustainable growth, and job creation and strengthening strategic partnership.

So far, less than 50% of Africa's producers have access to roads making transport costs to be 30 – 50% of total value of produce. Strategic partnerships on infrastructure development can be easily replicated to a wider scale under EBAFOSA. Infrastructure can be developed through partnership and producers then use a share of their profits to maintain it.

Significant progress has been made since the launch of EBAFOSA. Branches at country level have been established in many countries in the region.



CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE REGION TOWARDS REDUCTION OF SHORT- LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANTS

Africa loses about 4 million crops per year due to tropospheric ozone. Black carbon and tropospheric ozone remain major air pollutants contributing to more than seven million deaths annually including 175000 in Africa as registered by WHO in 2012. Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) are dangerous air pollutants, with various detrimental impacts on human health, agriculture and ecosystems.

It is against this backdrop that UNEP organized a two day meeting to support Togo and Cote d'Ivoire to develop their national planning for action on short-lived climate pollutants.

The meeting held in October 1-6 brought together representatives from government institutions, NGO's, academia, and private sector to raise awareness on Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) initiative. They also discussed modalities of information and knowledge sharing on SLCPs among participants.



The participants expressed their commitment to take action to reduce short lived climate pollutants especially in the areas of municipal solid waste, transport, agriculture and cook stoves.

Seven African countries currently benefit from this initiative namely: Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Morocco, Nigeria and Togo. The initiative also serves as a concrete step towards collecting data and information to develop a regional assessment on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants emission in the Region.



UNEP AND ANGOLA BOOST BILATERAL COOPERATION

UNEP and Angola have agreed to take their cooperation to new heights. This will materialize in a cooperation framework to be signed in December 2015. This important development is the result of UNEP Regional Director's visit to Angola from 18-22 October in response to an invitation from Dr. Maria Fátima Jardim, Minister of Environment of Angola.

The main objective of the visit was to take stock of the current status of the bilateral cooperation and boost the implementation of the regional programme on the Mayombe forest that involves Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo and Gabon.

During her visit UNEP Regional Director met with a number of ministers from the Angola government among them Minister for Family and Women protection, Minister for Fisheries, Minister for Agriculture and Secretary of State for Cooperation; the UN Resident coordinator and the UN Country team. The Director took a field trip to witness the impressive investments that the Angolan government is making towards strengthening the conservation of biodiversity of protected areas.

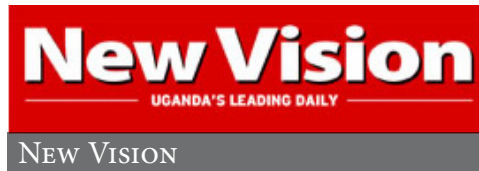
Angola took the opportunity to request for technical support from UNEP in terms of providing support for assessment of the impact of their extractives industry on health; support on promotion of green cities as well as waste management.

To further strengthen this cooperation, UNEP agreed to facilitate dialogue on Mayombe project with all other countries that are involved.



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IN THE NEWS



GOVERNMENT HAS RELEASED AN ATLAS SHOWING 29 WETLANDS IN THE DISTRICTS OF KAMPALA, WAKISO, AND MUKONO

The Wetland Atlas was launched at the Serena Hotel, Kampala. The function was presided over by Water and Environment minister Ephraim Kamuntu, United Nations Under-Secretary General Achim Steiner, and the Food and Agricultural Organisation country representative Alhaji Momodou Jallow.



ANGOLA: UN ENVIRONMENT AFRICA DIRECTOR ARRIVES IN ANGOLA

The regional director for Africa of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, is since Sunday in Angola for a four-day working visit, where she is checking the actions aimed at improving management and conservation of the environment.



FOR A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT, LET'S TAP THE SPIRIT OF HARAMBEE

Addressing the crowd gathered to watch the inauguration of the UN Environment Programme headquarters in 1973, President Jomo Kenyatta remarked, "Nature has blessed us with her many gifts of forests, grasslands and rivers. It is only right that we in Africa should be conservationists." Leading the crowd in a chant of "Harambee!", the President warmly welcomed the fledgling UN agency to its new home in Kenya.



HOW TANZANIA PLANS TO LIGHT UP A MILLION HOMES WITH SOLAR POWER

Before solar panels were installed at Masaki village's only health centre, doctors, nurses and midwives had to use dim flashlights or the glow from their cellphones to deliver babies and treat night-time emergencies. In one case in 2010, a man arrived late after a motorcycle accident and needed a wound stitching. As the nurse began the procedure by the light of her torch, she felt a cold slithering sensation against her legs.





ON THE ROAD TO PARIS: AFRICAN COUNTRIES CONSOLIDATE THEIR POSITION

Over 100 participants from 40 African countries participated in a meeting organized by the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) on climate change. The meeting was held in Khartoum and supported by UNEP and NEPAD.

The objective of the meeting was to elaborate and strengthen the AGN internal coordination, positions and negotiating strategies and to prepare for COP21/CMP11 as well as the sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP 2.11) that took place in Bonn from 19 to 23 October 2015.

In his opening remarks Dr. Hassan Abdul Gadir Hilal, Minister of Environment, Natural Resources and Physical Development of Sudan, reiterated that climate change was a reality causing food insecurity, fueling conflicts and impeding sustainable development in the region. He stated that there is an urgent need for countries, especially in Africa to integrate issues of climate change into national policies, strategies and development plans.

Dr. Khaled Fahmy, Minister of Environment of Egypt and President of AMCEN added that Africa should go to Paris with the intention of having a successful outcome. He reiterated that Egypt as the president of AMCEN and coordinator of CAHOSCC will negotiate very strongly and do its best to represent the interests of Africa. He emphasized that the Paris agreement should



be within the principles of the convention and ensures parity between mitigation and adaptation. He highlighted that Africa was working on a renewable energy initiative as well as an adaptation initiative, as part of Africa's contribution to the negotiation process.

Dr. Khaled Fahmy emphasized that Africa being the largest continent with 54 countries should make a difference in Paris.

The outcomes of the AGN meeting will be used as a basis to brief both the AMCEN Ministers and Committee of African Heads of State on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) prior to COP 21 in Paris.

The meeting brought together the French Ambassador to Sudan, UNDP representative, as well as African Union Commission (AUC) representative who said that an Africa day will be organized during COP21 on 8 December 2015 at the African Pavilion to highlight efforts being undertaken by Africa in addressing climate change. Other regional organizations namely UNECA/ACPC, the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) and the African Civil Society represented by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) attended the meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL RULE OF LAW CRITICAL TO ACHIEVING INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Over 160 representatives of Africa's judiciary and law enforcement authorities gathered in Nairobi in the first African Colloquium on Environmental Rule of law held from October 14-16 to ensure the enforcement and practical implementation of environmental law.



The Colloquium was organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Office of the Chief Justice of Kenya, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Judiciary Training Institute of Kenya (JTI).

In his address, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP Ibrahim Thiaw, said, «The success in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 'Africa We Want' agenda hinges on our ability to harness Africa's bountiful



The Chief Justice of Kenya, Hon. Willy Mutunga, in his welcoming remarks, invited participants to come up with recommendations on areas and priorities for action and formulate mechanisms for implementation. He expressed his delight that his office is partnering with UNEP and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in this inaugural colloquium.

The colloquium offered an opportunity to exchange information and share good practices in advancing environmental rule of law in Africa. These success stories highlighted the crucial role that the judiciary, prosecutors, auditors, government representatives, civil society and the private sector and other related

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