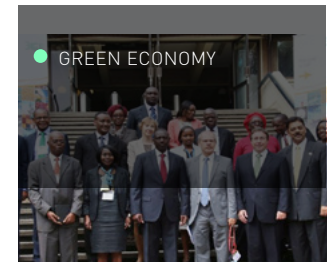




REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA NEWSLETTER

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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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





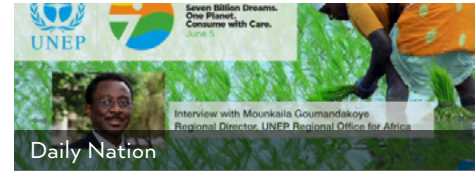
UNEP ASSISTS IN ANTI-RHINO POACHING EFFORTS

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)



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



but delivered within a specified time frame for court purposes. The UNEP-GEF Rhino project also provides advanced crime scene management

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