



Africa Environment Link

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The UNEP in Africa Bulletin

Enhancing Africa's Capacity in Environmental Diplomacy: A Combined Approach by UNEP, UNECA and AUC

On October 12th, UNEP/ROA through, UNEP Addis Ababa Liaison Office in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the UN Economic Commission for Africa organized a High Level Environmental Diplomacy Seminar. With Environmental Diplomacy gaining interest, the seminar was well attended by 180 participants, among others, the diplomats and representatives of over 20 African Countries, delegations of various European and North American countries, and high level representatives of UN agencies. During the seminar Environmental Diplomacy was highlighted from various angles, ranging from the development, peace and security and socio-economic perspective.



Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP

This seminar brought together some of the most eminent voices in the field of environmental protection and sustainability along with renowned experts and prominent diplomats in order to discuss the complex and highly important reality of current environmental challenges and the roles diplomats have to fulfill to ensure the objective of sustainable development — particularly from an African Perspective — is realized. Special focus will be laid on the topical debates surrounding Climate Change,

Biodiversity and the way forward in International Environmental Governance, 20 years following the Rio Declaration and 40 years after the establishment of UNEP.

Environmental Diplomacy, an emerging field

Environmental Diplomacy is a field that is becoming more and more important as environmental issues ranging from climate change, hazardous chemicals to biodiversity loss are affecting almost every aspect of policy making —

cont'd page 4



Mr. Achim Steiner, addresses high level panel of: H.E. Faustus Mogae, former President of Botswana; H.E. Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway; H.E. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the Africa Union; H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Mr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank

CONTENTS

Environmental Diplomacy	1
Editorial	2
Biodiversity: Convention on Biological Diversity, Nagoya	6
Biodiversity: Opportunities for Green Growth	8
Climate Change: Road to Cancun, Mitigation and adaptation	10
AMCEN	14
Sustainable Consumption & Production: ARSCP-6, Ecolabelling in Africa	16
Health and Environment: Ministers Launch a Pioneering Initiative to Boost Health and Environment in Africa	19
UNEP's Programme of Work	21
Project News: Sustainable water, Coping with drought	23
Project News	25
UNEP's 26th GC	27
Ozone	28

Environment in Africa: opportunities for sustainable economic growth and human well being

We are used to a string of calamities and misfortunes when people describe Africa or report to what is unfolding in the continent. It is important to never lose sight of the immense potential of the region and progress being made despite the challenges and adversities. Our continent is among the most rapidly growing economic regions of the world. For the period 2006-2008, the GDP was at 6 % average. Last year's financial crisis and economic downturn reduced it to 2.5 % but it is expected to increase to 4.5% this year. A 5.2% growth is even predicted in 2011. Environment will play a more important role in future to contribute to sustainable economic growth and human well being. Many studies indicate that about 26% of the overall capita wealth are derived from environment and this proportion is much higher in most African countries. Environment is also important for human health as 23 % of deaths according to a WHO study are tied to environmental risk factors in Africa.

The continent is endowed with considerable environmental resources on which its economic and social systems, wealth and health are based. The adequate management and use of these resources can accelerate growth and bring better living conditions. Africa is rich in biological resources which underpin climate regulation, the development of agriculture, forestry, industry, energy and tourism to name but a few of the most critical areas. The continent has about 40% of the world biodiversity, one quarter of the world's 4,700 mammal species. The deserts of Namibia provide habitat for rich succulent flora and exceptional plant endemism—69 percent of its plants are found nowhere else in the world. Also in the West Indian Ocean islands such as



Photo: Karel Gallas/Shutterstock Images

Madagascar, there are bird families, and primate families that live nowhere else on Earth. The Congo Basin shared by Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon has the world's second largest rainforest (19% of the planet's remaining tropical rainforest). For those who do understand only economic returns it can be mentioned that pharmaceutical sector generates over 650 billion USD per year and up to 50 % are derived from genetic resources. The tourism industry in Africa relies strongly on natural assets such as beaches and wildlife and it can generate as much as 800 million US dollars per year for countries such as Kenya. On the social side, a WHO study indicates that about 60 % of children suffering from fever are treated with medicinal plants in Ghana, Mali, Nigeria or Zambia.

Africa has 60 % of world total uncultivated arable land. This potential needs to be managed properly for sustainable agriculture. World food production may need to rise by 70% from 2005-2007 level over the next 40 years to feed the growing population of the planet (moving to 9 billion by 2050).

The continent has great potential to successfully engage in a low carbon development path and green economy. Renewable energy is abundant as can be substantiated by the following figures: solar energy with 325 days / year of sunlight, more than 80% of the landscape receiving 2000 KWh per square meter and per year; only 7% of the hydro electricity potential are used and less than 2 % of geothermal. UNEP has recently documented best practices already going on in Africa with regard to green economy: the Kenya Government has taken a critically important step in the development of the country's significant potential for renewable energy generation, while pursuing equally important economic, environmental and social policy objectives. A feed-in tariff (FIT) policy has been put in place. It is an instrument that makes it mandatory for energy companies or "utilities" responsible for operating the national grid to purchase electricity from renewable energy sources at a pre-determined price that is sufficiently attractive to stimulate new investment in the renewable sector. This, in turn, ensures that those who produce electricity from identified renewable energy sources such as solar, wind



and other renewable sources have a guaranteed market and an attractive return on investment for the electricity they produce. Aspects of an FIT include access to the grid, long-term power purchase agreements and a set price per kilowatt hour (kWh).

Another good example is Uganda which has taken important steps in transforming its agricultural production into a system of organic farming, with significant implications for its economy, the society and the environment. Organic agriculture (OA) is defined by the Codex Alimentarius Commission as a holistic production management system, which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including bio-diversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It seeks to minimize the use of external biological inputs, avoiding the use of synthetic drugs, fertilizers and pesticides.

Uganda is among the world's least users of artificial fertilizers with less than 2 per cent or 1kg/ha of the already very low average of 9kg/ha in Sub Saharan Africa. While increasing the level of non-organic fertilizer use is one way of increasing productivity, turning this apparent weakness into an opportunity to pursue an organic form of agricultural production is a policy direction that Uganda is embracing. According to the International Federation of Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), the global market for organic foods and drinks is estimated to be around US\$50 billion, and is increasing by US\$5 billion per

year. This sub-sector provides a unique export opportunity for many developing countries, owing to the fact that 97 per cent of the revenues are generated in the OCED countries, while 80 per cent of the producers are found in developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. As an important producer of organic products, Uganda benefits from an important source of export earnings and revenue for farmers.

Certified organic exports increased from US\$3.7 million in 2003/4, to US\$6.2 million in 2004-2005, before jumping to US\$22.8 million in 2007/8. In terms of price premiums and income for farmers, studies commissioned by UNEP and UNCTAD indicate that in 2005 the farm-gate prices of organic pineapple, ginger and cotton were 80 per cent, 185 per cent, and 33 per cent respectively, higher than conventional products. Through organic farming, Uganda not only gains economically, it also contributes to mitigating climate change, as CO₂ emissions per ha are estimated to be 48 per cent to 68 per cent lower than in conventional agricultural systems. Various studies have shown that organic fields sequester 3–8 tons more carbon per ha than conventional agriculture (UNEP, Best practices in green economy – 2010).

It is also worth mentioning that more and more municipalities are generating electricity from landfill sites and some are even selling it through national grid

(South Africa). The electricity is produced by burning the methane that is released during decomposition of organic waste.

With regard to water resources, even though the continent has only 9% of the world freshwater, there are over 50 internationally shared river and lakes basins that are important assets for irrigation, hydro power, industry, tourism etc. There are large marine and coastal resources now being used for urban, industrial and port development, oil and gas production, fisheries and aquaculture etc.

Africa needs to harness and maximize the existing environment opportunities for economic growth, poverty alleviation and sustainable development. At the beginning of the 20th Century, the population of the continent was about 118 million inhabitants. It is now over 1 billion to be close to 2 billions by 2050. The environment resources need sound and strategic management to ensure a better and brighter future to all Africans. It is however of prime importance to stress that human resources are the ultimate resources that have to be adequately educated, trained and empowered to create institutional, scientific and technological, social, economic and political conditions for peace, progress and prosperity. ■

By Mounkaila Goumandakoye
Regional Director for Africa, UNEP

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nationally and internationally — in one way or another.

Ecosystems and environmental problems ignore political boundaries, making it difficult to address them unilaterally. Besides that, natural resources and the environment have a number of characteristics that make them good candidates for conducting talks and negotiations between representatives of groups or states and can be used for bringing parties together. They however often require long-term cooperation, providing an opportunity to build up trust over time. This moves beyond traditional notions of environmental diplomacy that focus more narrowly on the negotiation of international environmental agreements towards conflict resolution and shared problem solving!

UNEP's role in Environmental Diplomacy, two examples from the Disaster and Conflicts Subprogramme

With increasing population growth and consumer consumption, the demand for natural resources will continue to increase. Since the increase in consumption and economic growth

are still coupled, the supply of natural resources will continue to decrease. This in combination with Ministries of environment and overall governance of natural resources that may remain weak in many countries could be a strong potential for the increase in resource-based conflicts.

To address these challenges UNEP has developed three main capacities:

- UNEP conducts post-conflict environmental assessments which aim to identify how environmental damage from conflict threatens human health, livelihoods and security.
- UNEP helps conflict affected countries to design and implement environmental recovery programmes and to build capacity for environment and natural resource management.
- UNEP aims to help countries identify and transform the risks of conflict over resources into opportunities for cooperation and peacebuilding. Specifically, how shared natural resource and common environmental threats can be used as a platform for dialogue, cooperation and con-

fidence building between divided groups and countries. In short, transforming potential sources of conflict into a force for cooperation.

UNEP is now looking at developing the services it can offer in this area, such as providing impartial and technical data, convening meetings, establishing a neutral space for discussions, as well as providing training modules on natural resource management in preventing conflict or defusing the risk of conflict relapse. These new services are aimed towards member countries, conflicting parties, fellow UN organizations and UN country teams.

Case 1. Sudan

Sudan has suffered protracted armed conflict for most of the past 50 years. Conflict over scarce natural resources remains a destabilizing influence in many parts of the country. For example, the provision of potable water is an ongoing challenge across Sudan but population displacement in Darfur has put unique stress on aquifers, compounding the region's chronic vulnerability to drought. A serious drought in the current context could cause considerable social upheaval with devastating consequences.



The provision of clean water is a challenge across Sudan

Active in Sudan since 2005, UNEP's activities focus on addressing the links between environmental pressures and conflict through capacity-building, equitable governance and more effective natural resource management. UNEP has developed an extensive Sudan Integrated Environment Programme to help build community resilience, address poverty issues and support peace building. UNEP's efforts have secured a place for natural resource management to be at the core of the peacebuilding process.

Case 2. Nigeria

At the request of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, UNEP is conducting an extensive, independent environmental assessment of oil-impacted sites in Ogoniland, within the Niger Delta in southern Nigeria, where environmental contamination from oil operations remains unremediated, or only partially remediated, until this day.

To undertake the scientific assessment, UNEP is working with a range of stakeholders, including the Rivers State Government, community organizations, local landholders, local and international universities and laboratories.

UNEP's assessment will examine the levels of contamination on the following: land, forestry and agriculture, aquatic life and public health. The findings of UNEP's assessment will be used to make recommendations to the government on appropriate levels of remediation needed to rehabilitate the land to a condition which is acceptable according to international standards. UNEP's assessment report is expected to be released in the first quarter of 2011.

It is hoped the study will make an important contribution towards placing objective facts on the table which can contribute to conflict resolution and prevention.



Leaking oil from field in the Niger Delta. A story of human and environmental survival

Environmental Diplomacy across conflicts resources and politics

UNEP believes that Environmental Diplomacy has a role to play across the conflict cycle, across resource types and across political levels.

- It can be based around a variety of different resources: shared rivers, land, forest resources, minerals, areas of high biodiversity or marine stocks.
- Environmental diplomacy can also take place on multiple levels and combine local, national, and transboundary elements.
- Transboundary water resources or protected areas have historically garnered the most attention, but examples encompassing a wider set of resources and ecosystems are beginning to emerge. It might involve land, such as a contested border between countries or a migratory corridor for pastoralists and their livestock, or a joint response to a shared environmental challenge, such as air or water pollution, or the impacts of climate change.

- It is also worth noting that natural resource conflict issues are missing from the agenda of Rio +20. Developing the capacity for conflict prevention is a key issue to take into account in order to achieve sustainable development.
- Creating sound sustainable natural resource management and taking environmental factors into account in conflict prevention, management and peace building strategies can play a vital development role, not only for building peace, but also in building the foundation for sustainable jobs and a sustainable economic growth for the future. □

By Serge Bounda and Cees Lafeber

Convention on Biological Diversity: major outcomes of the Nagoya conference

By Kamar Yousuf

The tenth session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-10) was successfully concluded on 30 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. The Conference was organized as a mix of plenary, two working groups (scientific and strategic), various contact groups, and Friends of the Chair groups, as well as small group meetings. An informal consultative group (ICG) on Access and Benefit Sharing of genetic resources (ABS) was also established to negotiate and finalize the Protocol. The high-level ministerial segment of the COP was held from 27 to 29 October with the participation of the President of Gabon; the Prime Minister of Yemen (on behalf of G77 and China); the President of the 65th session of the General Assembly and the President of the World Bank to name a few.

The COP adopted 47 decisions and considered a series of programmatic, strategic, administrative and budgetary issues. An ABS Protocol, a ten-year Strategic Plan and a Resource Mobilization Strategy were adopted as a package. Delegates saw the package deal as the most important decision to be taken by COP-10. The adoption of the ABS Protocol will strengthen the Convention by setting out rules and procedures for the implementation of CBD's third objective "The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources". The Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020 includes 20 headline biodiversity targets; and the Resource Mobilization Strategy provides the way forward to a substantial increase to the level of official development assistance in support of biodiversity.

The Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Protocol

During the two-week COP, the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and two other key agenda items (ten-year Strategic Plan, and Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS)) were adopted. Under the new Protocol, 193 parties to CBD will be legally obliged to follow rules designed to prevent misuse and misappropriation of genetic resources and the associated traditional knowledge and to provide



Opening session of the 10th COP, CBD

benefits, including monetary and non-monetary resources, to other parties when their genetic resources are accessed.

The establishment of an ABS Protocol is an important goal for this COP, as it would set the terms for commercial access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge, and the sharing of benefits arising from products incorporating those resources or knowledge with the communities in which they originate.

With this new Protocol, CBD parties

will begin focusing on national implementation plans and options on ABS, including preparation for the ratification process once the Protocol is open for signature in February 2011. UNEP-ROA has a role to play in supporting African countries to develop: (a) the necessary legal and regulatory measures on ABS; (b) model and draft contractual clauses for various elements of the Protocol; (c) information sharing mechanisms; and (d) institutional structures at national level, as well as strengthen the capacity of stakeholders. During the period 2011-

Photo: iisd.com



African Ministers in Nagoya

2012, UNEP-ROA needs to focus on preparing African countries to ratify the Protocol and begin its implementation.

The Strategic Plan

COP-10 adopted the Strategic Plan that includes a shared vision, a mission and 20 headline targets, organized under five strategic goals that address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, reduce the pressure on and safeguard and enhance the benefits provided by biodiversity.

The vision of the Strategic Plan is a world of "Living in harmony with nature" where "By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people." Parties debated the necessity to take into account the diversity of national circumstances, and accordingly the Strategic Plan is a flexible framework that will apply to all the biodiversity-related conventions for setting targets at the regional, national and local levels. Furthermore, parties agreed to translate this overarching framework into national biodiversity strategies and action plans within two

years. An opportunity for UNEP-ROA to work closely with the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and UNEP-WCMC on mainstreaming the targets into their respective programmes of work, and to provide guidance to African countries on integrating biodiversity concerns into all sectors.

The Resource Mobilization Strategy

Negotiations on the mobilization of financial resources to support achievement of the CBD objectives focused on the development of targets and indicators for the RMS and on policy options to address innovative financial mechanisms as a tool to support ecosystem services and additional funding for CBD's implementation. Many developing countries supported a Strategy with a monitoring mechanism. They also advocated that the RMS is to be part of the package in order to back up their demands for sufficient financing for the national implementation of CBD. They focused on developing targets and indicators to assess financing flows. Developed countries wanted to prioritize innovative financing mechanisms, in an attempt to shift part of the burden towards the private

sector. Positions became particularly polarized. One of the reasons for these divergent views is that the concept of innovative financing mechanisms remains vague and subject to different interpretations across the developed-developing country divide.

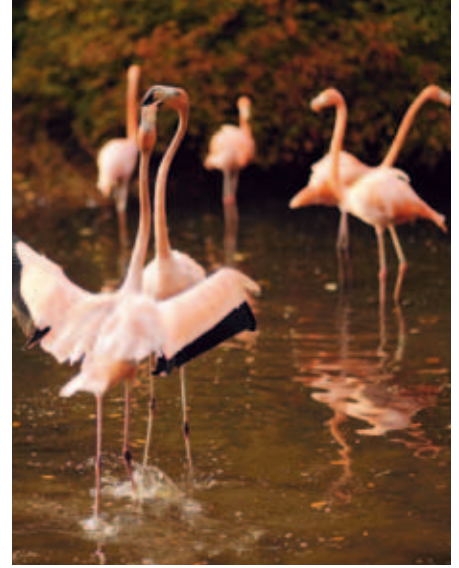
The COP finally adopted the RMS as part of the package with aggregated financial flows from categories including official development assistance, domestic budgets, private sector and NGOs.

The Prime Minister of Japan announced \$2 billion in financing, while the Minister of Environment of Japan announced the establishment of a Japan Biodiversity Fund. Additional financial resources were announced by France, the EU and Norway. About \$110 million were pledged in support of projects under the CBD Life-Web Initiative aimed at enhancing the protected-area programme of work.

The CBD Secretariat is planning a series of regional consultations to come up with specific ideas for this element of COP-10 decisions. UNEP-ROA will have a role to play in the implementation of this decision. □

Valuing biodiversity in Africa: opportunities for economic growth, job creation, investments and poverty reduction

By **Thierry de Oliveira**



The Republic of Gabon recently organized a High Profile Pan African Conference on biodiversity themed "Biodiversity and fight against poverty: What opportunities for Africa?" in the context of the celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity. The conference initiated discussions that lead to the adoption of concrete actions for valuing biodiversity, ecosystem services and renewable natural resources as factors contributing to economic growth, job creation, investment and poverty alleviation.

From Namibia where 70% of the population depend upon natural resources for their livelihoods to the coastal rich region of Kenya, via the Congo Basin which is the largest tropical forest in the world and the source of livelihood for more than 60 million people, the importance of biodiversity and the various opportunities for economic betterment, employment, investments and poverty reduction has never been so real and the need to better manage it more urgent.

Two thousand and ten has been declared the International Year of Biodiversity and the recently published report from the International Convention on Biological Diversity

(Global Biodiversity Outlook 3) has provided us with some stark figures in terms of biodiversity loss and reaching closer to a number of potential tipping points. At the same time there are some bright prospects especially for biodiversity-rich Africa, especially as we are approaching the end of 2010 which will see the Convention of Biodiversity meeting that takes place in Nagoya and the year 2012 which is the "RIO+20" Earth Summit, where countries will be discussing four key areas:

- Review of Commitments;
- Emerging Issues;
- Green Economy in the context of Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development;

- Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development.

It is in the context of the third issue mentioned above (i.e. Green Economy in the context of Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development) that this short paper highlights some of the key challenges and opportunities that present themselves to the African continent.

Many economies remain blind to the enormous value of the biodiversity of plants, animals and other life-forms and their key supporting roles in healthy and functioning ecosystems ranging from forests and freshwater to soils, oceans and the atmosphere.



Fauna Biodiversity



Development pathways of regions are in many instances shaped by ecosystem services be it agricultural or timber production, fishing, tourism as well as other productive sectors. National and sub-national economies are largely dependent on biodiversity. For instance, tourism is one of Rwanda's largest sources of foreign exchange, earning about US\$ 42 million in 2007. Namibia's protected areas contribute 6 percent of GDP in tourism. The overall contribution of biodiversity to the pharmaceutical sector is about 20% to 50% that is derived from genetic diversity. In Burkina Faso, 92% of the active force is employed in agriculture. It is also the sector where the majority of world's poor is concentrated. The percentage of people in Africa that rely on traditional medicines (plants and animals) as the main sources of their health care needs is estimated at around 80% (Source: WHO). Ecotourism is a growing sub-sector of the tourism industry and is becoming an attractive way for many rural communities to make a living.

Biodiversity-related ecosystems such as forests and the critical services they deliver provide capital assets, substance safety nets, sources of employment and cash income among other things. Valuing biodiversity becomes an important policy and management tool as it essentially examines the causes, values and policies associated with problem of biodiversity decline as well as the trade-offs involved when making competing choices amongst development imperatives and environmental protection.

Valuation and especially monetary valuation of biodiversity plays a vital role in project appraisals and regulatory review using cost-benefit analysis, in setting environmental regulations such as using Pigouvian taxes¹, as the initial step for designing markets for biodiversity conservation

¹ Wikipedia: Pigouvian tax is a tax levied on a market activity that generates negative externalities



Mangroves provide a natural habitat for fish, crustaceans, molluscs and waterbirds

(for instance ecotourism, green forest products etc.), in the assessment of damages in liability cases (e.g. in the case of oil spills), in assessing risks (using risks and damage functions), and for green national accounting (essential in the estimation of the depreciation of national capital). For biodiversity-rich Africa, valuation provides an opportunity for governments to correct the consistent undervaluation of biodiversity resources both in terms of investments on key ecosystems as engines of economic growth and sustainable welfare, as well as sources

of revenues and capital assets for governments and private enterprises. Valuation in that sense permit to gain insights on estimated shortfall in expenditure as well as capital gains as a fraction of the actual expenditure, budgetary allocations and opportunity costs related to better management and conservation of biodiversity.

The time is now and the time is ripe for Africa to seize this opportunity and place biodiversity at its proper and central place within the development process. □



Madagascar: picking rosy periwinkle, Catharantus roseus, used to make drugs to treat cancer

The Road to Cancun

By Merlyn van Voore



It is ten months since the Copenhagen climate talks took place in December 2009, and now with just two months to go before the Cancun talks (the Sixteenth Conference of Parties, 29 November to 10 December 2010), expectations are mixed as to what Cancun will deliver.

Copenhagen resulted in the 'Copenhagen Accord', and a decision to continue with the negotiations along two tracks (AWG-LCA and AWG-KP). However, the Accord was not accepted by all Parties and was not adopted as a formal decision – instead it was 'noted'.

At both the June and August meetings, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) conducted detailed discussions on emission reduction targets, adaptation, technology transfer, reducing emissions from deforestation and climate finance. As Parties got down to work on the details, differences started to emerge.

Setting reduction targets for the next

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA)

The AWG-LCA was set up in December 2007 by UNFCCC Parties to "enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in order to reach an agreed outcome and adopt a decision" in December 2009. It is mandated to continue its work and to present the outcome to the Parties for adoption in December 2010.

commitment period

A key issue in the current negotiations is setting emission reduction commitments by Annex 1 Parties. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that developed nations must make emission reductions to 25-40% below 1990 levels by 2020.

The June and August meetings failed to agree on how emission reduction targets should be set. One position advocates for a 'pledge-based' approach (as reflected in the Copenhagen Accord), which involves individual countries making pledges. Japan, for example, has pledged a 25% emissions reduction compared to 1990 levels; the United States has pledged 17% against 2005 levels by 2020; Canada has pledged the same as the United States; Australia has pledged 5-25% against 2000 levels.

The alternate position argues that you must first determine the aggregate target required (based on science), and then determine the contributions by Parties to the aggregate scale.

The European Union appears to be in favour of an agree-



Opening ceremony COP-15

Since the Copenhagen climate meeting, two rounds of talks (in June and August) have taken place in Bonn. The first round took place from 31 May to 11 June 2010. The meeting got off to a difficult start, as many countries questioned the status of the Copenhagen Accord. In their opening statements at the June meeting, developing and industrialised countries appeared to hold shared views as to the areas where progress must be made in order to advance the negotiating process. These areas include adaptation, finance and technology transfer.

About the Ad hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex 1 Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP)

The AWG-KP was established in December 2005 to negotiate commitments for Annex 1 Parties under the Protocol beyond the first commitment period of 2008 to 2012. It was supposed to complete its work in setting aggregate and individual/joint emission reduction targets for Annex 1 Parties and to have these adopted in December 2009. That deadline was missed and negotiations continue in the run-up to Cancun (December 2010), when the Sixteenth Conference of Parties (COP-16) takes place.

The Kyoto Protocol (KP)

The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005.

The KP aims, in the period 2008 to 2012, to reduce emissions to 5% below what they were in 1990, and has a mandate for further commitment periods. The first commitment period under the Protocol expires on 31 December 2012, with the second commitment period starting in 2013.



Wangari Maathai and SG Ban-Ki Moon at COP 15 in Copenhagen

gate target, proposing a 30% aggregate emission reduction level by 2020 (compared to 1990 levels). Africa, meanwhile, has also proposed an aggregate reduction level, of 40% below 1990 levels by 2020².

The Africa Group argues that a 'pledge-based' approach would fall short of the emission reduction target of 25-40% suggested by the IPCC. Existing pledges, when added together, appear to yield an aggregate of only 10-14% reductions from 1990 levels. Developing countries are calling for deeper and more ambitious reduction targets by Annex I Parties.

Adaptation

The G-77/China, with AOSIS, the LDCs, the African Group, and others, support the establishment of an adaptation body under the Convention to assess adaptation needs of developing countries, formulate guidance and facilitate implementation. The LDC's also emphasize the establishment of regional adaptation centres and networks to facilitate implementation. Developed countries, however, are not in favour of establishing a new adaptation body/institution, arguing that existing institutions can provide the necessary technical support and advice to facilitate implementation of adaptation projects.

Climate finance and technology transfer

The Copenhagen Accord commits 'developed countries' to deliver a total of US\$30 billion in kick-start financing to developing nations from 2010 to 2012 and it sets a goal of mobilizing US\$100 billion a year by 2020.

At the August meeting, AOSIS expressed "great concern", that several months after Copenhagen, financing for adaptation is yet to materialize. There is a call for the operationalization of the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund.

On the issue of a climate finance mechanism and institu-

tional arrangements – parties remain split. Developing countries are calling for the establishment of a Finance Board under the Convention. Developed countries prefer to use existing institutions to channel climate finance to developing countries. The LCA text now contains both options.

On the important issue of technology transfer - Parties differ over the role of an enhanced Technology mechanism, including a Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and setting up a Climate Technology Centre.

Prospects for Cancun?

The first two meetings in Bonn left a number of key issues unresolved. At the end of the August meeting in Bonn, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Christiana Figueres stated that governments made progress towards deciding the 'shape of a successful result at COP 16, but now need to narrow down the many options for action on climate change presently under negotiation'.

Parties met in Tianjin (China) from 4 – 8 October. This was the last formal negotiating session before the big meeting in Cancun. The main objective of Tianjin was to "present a balanced set of decisions" to COP 16. How much progress was achieved on this objective resides firmly in the eye of the beholder.

Jairam Ramesh, the Indian Minister of State for Environment and Forests, is quoted as saying – "whether it is one agreement or a series of sub-agreements remains to be seen. But I am not very optimistic of one overarching legally binding agreement". He went further to add "What I am more hopeful of is series of building block agreements like forestry, like technology, like finance. Whether it adds up to an overall overarching legally binding agreement I am not sure". □

2 UNFCCC : Appendix I - Quantified economy-wide emissions targets for 2020

Climate Change: Mitigation and Adaptation Efforts in Africa

By **Bubu Jallow**

Addressing African climate change challenges: Human well being and national development perspective

Africa contributes the least to global warming yet bears the greatest burden of climate change impacts. Not only is sustainable development in the continent threatened by climate change, it can also undo the gains made so far towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For example, yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50 percent, between 75 and 250 million people in Africa are projected to face increased water stress, about 70 million people and up to 30% of the Africa's coastal areas could face the risk of flooding by the end of the 21st century due to climate change induced sea level rise and about 25-40% of mammal species could become endangered or extinct by 2080 while 5,000 African plant species will be faced with substantial reductions in areas suitable for growth by 2085.

Africa also holds an important role to the solutions of climate change following its carbon stocks held in forests, although has a weak position at the global climate change negotiations. There are emerging opportunities in the continent to chart a low carbon-intensive development path to sustainably develop using its abundant hydro, solar, wind and forest resources to promote access to cleaner energy and improve land use practices. However, the transaction cost remains a challenge.

What does Africa need?

Africa continues to make all efforts to face these challenges despite the inadequacy in both mitigation and

adaptive capacities and capabilities of the continent. Specific needs include finance to support investments, technology development and transfer and capacity-building. This is crucial if Africa is to adequately adapt to climate change impacts and take advantage of the emerging opportunities as well as taking appropriate mitigation actions towards a low carbon-intensive economy in line with its sustainable development imperatives in a cost-effective manner. Recent reports from the Grantham Research Institute estimate the adaptation cost and the cost of putting Africa on a low-carbon growth pathway at about US\$ 2 billion to US\$ 31 billion per year by 2015. These costs could rise to US\$ 52 billion to US\$ 68 billion per year by 2030. These costs are low in comparison to the economic benefits of adaptation and mitigation. It is estimated that adaptation could reduce the economic costs of climate change in Africa significantly, from 2% to 1% of GDP by 2040. Other ancillary benefits could include a significantly reduced need for food aid, freeing up more resources for development as African agriculture becomes more resilient. Targeted-flexible actions are urgently needed to remove barriers and pave the way for mainstreaming adaptation into development planning and decision making frameworks. This could be achieved through the creation of an enabling political environment that identifies the importance of integration of risk management and adaptation into policy, improving the availability of knowledge and information, enhancing engagement of stakeholders and regional networks and improving communication. The specific expertise of the private sector, its capacity to innovate and produce

new technologies for adaptation and mitigation, and its financial leverage can form an important part in the multi-sectoral partnership that is required for planning and implementation of adaptation and mitigation.

What is being done about it?

A lot of national, regional and global initiatives are being implemented in Africa with the objective of reducing the current concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as well as reducing the adverse effects of the impacts and adapting to climate change. Few of these are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Using funds provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Climate Change and Development – Adapting by REducing vulnerability (CC DARE) Programme jointly implemented by UNEP and UNDP is supporting 11 countries in Sub Saharan Africa (Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda) with their priority needs for adaptation. The programme is providing targeted-flexible support that helps integrate climate change issues into their development planning and decision-making frameworks. Activities are designed to create enabling environment for the implementation of adaptation. Completed and on-going national activities cover three main areas relevant to removing barriers to mainstreaming climate change:

- Awareness raising, mass communication and training
- Building capacity, educational programmes and institutional processes
- Data and technical analyses

The CC DARE interventions are designed to complement and strengthen more conventional project activities (e.g., GEF/LDCF NAPAs, NATCOMs, Japan/UNDP AAP, UNPEI, etc) while at the same time drawing on their expertise, networks, and existing guidance materials. The CC DARE programme represents a great funding model for adaptation in Africa and elsewhere in expanding adaptation actions even with small funds mindful of the urgent needs of the vulnerable majority at the frontline of climate change impacts. For more information check on <http://www.ccdare.org/>

The traditional Global Environment Facility (GEF) activities on National Communications, NAPAs, NAMAs, NCSAs etc. cover all African countries.

The African Development Bank also raises resources to support African countries. The World Bank Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) are being used to finance clean technologies and adaptation in Morocco, Egypt, South Africa, Nigeria, Niger, Zambia and Mozambique.

The Congo Basin Forest Fund supported by UK and Norway is being used to slow and eventually reverse the rate of deforestation in the Congo Basin Forest.

The African Development Bank Clim-Dev Africa Fund is being used to enhance capacities within Africa to generate, disseminate and use appropriate climate information for development planning.

The Japan – UNDP African Adaptation Programme (AAP) is being implemented in 21 African countries and provides support for integrated and comprehensive approaches to climate change adaptation in Africa.

There are other bilateral initiatives and community-based actions on adaptation some carried out by both international and national NGOs. ▣

UNEP's initiative to mitigate climate change effects from households

On 21 August 2010, a scientific team lead by Professor Veerabhadran Ramanathan of the University of California visited the UNEP/UNIDO-supported methane biogas plant at the Nyongara Slaughterhouse at the Dagoretti market. They also visited nearby homesteads to understand the impact of smoke from biomass used in domestic cooking. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) and the Department of Nuclear Sciences of the University of Nairobi were part of the team.

The purpose of the team's visit was to assess the extent and impact of the atmospheric brown clouds (ABC) (See inset 1) - which includes smoke (Black Carbon) (See inset 2) from domestic firewood and charcoal. In the nearby homesteads fossil fuels and biomass were predominantly used for cooking, both emitting a substantial amount of Green House Gasses (GHGs) and Black Carbon (BC) both of which have disastrous effects on global warming and human health. Monitoring these emissions through standard methods helps in the identification of mitigation measures.

The Institute of Nuclear Science of the University of Nairobi and the Kenya Meteorological Department have been identified as good centres to establish ABC observatories in Africa owing to their existing profile measuring instruments for Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Ozone (O₃). These instruments are located at their base stations and on Mt Kenya. It is proposed that ABC observatories be built on existing meteorological stations. Similar observatories have been in operation in Asia since 2002.

Atmospheric Brown Clouds

ABCs are layers of brownish haze made up of mostly sub-micron particles, intercepting solar radiation, and significantly affect the earth's energy budget. ABCs are responsible for acid rain and is laden with particulate matter, which has close correlation with human respiratory diseases. Industrial smog, and smoke from burning forests and grasslands, contributes to the ABC load in the air and GHGs, affecting local air-quality and climates.

Black Carbon

For generations, Black Carbon in Africa has had insidious effects on the human health, especially women because of their extensive exposure due to food-preparation in poorly ventilated kitchens. Particulate matter generated during burning of the woody material and coal, lodges into the human respiratory systems causing long-term bronchial and lung complications.

Presently animal waste from the slaughterhouse is converted into methane in a digester chamber and stored in a gas bag rather than discharged into the atmosphere. To maintain the temperatures in the dialysis and digester chambers at optimum level for gas production, solar panels and a boiler operating on biogas are operated. Gas produced runs a generator producing electricity used for lighting, running electric pumps and motors for the operations of the slaughterhouse. It is envisaged the facility will in future package purified gas for sale to the local community. ▣

Bamako Declaration: The Road Map for Africa's Engagement

By Cees Lafeber

Opened by the President of Mali, His Excellency Mr. Ahmadou Toumani Toure, the ministerial segment of the thirteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, "change, biodiversity and desertification for sustainable development", brought together over 40 African Ministers of Environment. Meetings of the experts and environment ministers to deliberate on substantive issues of importance to Africa that must be taken

The 13th Session of the AMCEN resulted in the adoption of a set of Decisions and the Bamako Declaration, a 73-point reference document, which can be seen as the continent's new road map for sustainable development and the basis for strengthening the common negotiating position on climate change and biological diversity.

In adopting the Bamako Declaration, all African environment ministers made a bold and recognizable statement of how they expected their respective governments to engage both at the domestic and international level in addressing issues of loss of biodiversity and access to benefit sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as desertification and climate change challenges. They called upon countries to seek ways and opportunities to strengthen the synergies in the implementation of the conventions on climate change, desertification and biodiversity at all levels in support of sustainable development for Africa.

Climate change: Ensure coherence, transparency and effectiveness in the negotiation process

In the context of a future carbon constrained world, together with Africa's development, poverty eradication and security priorities, Africa's expectation is that the international climate change negotiations will conclude with a strengthened multilateral climate change regime that balances mitigation and adaptation (overriding) priorities. The future regime needs to resolve the current challenge and potential future crisis of devastating climate change impacts. It must also, simultaneously support efforts of African countries to create sustainable and equitable socie-



At the opening session from left to right: Mr. Jonathan Pershing, special representative of the President of the United States of America, Mr. Idriss Ndele Moussa, President of the Pan-African Parliament, Mr. Nancoma KEITA, Minister of Environment and sanitation, Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director UNEP, Mr. Amadou Toumani Touré, President of Mali, Ms. Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Environment of South Africa and President of AMCEN, Ms. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, Mr. Juan Rafael Elvira Quesada, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico

ties that can ensure economic development, competitiveness and growth in a way that enhances social and environmental development. African ministers commit themselves to reinforce and to implement decisions by the African Union and AMCEN to ensure and guarantee the coherence, transparency, continuity and effectiveness of the political and legal representation of Africa in the process of negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, so that these clear messages from the continent are heard.

Biodiversity: Africa call for a new international regime on access and benefit sharing

A common position was welcomed by representatives for the negotiations of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing, as adopted at the pan-African ministerial conference on access and benefit-sharing held in Windhoek from 8 to 10 March 2010. Ministers commit themselves to further

developing a common position for the continuing negotiations on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) and called upon the African Union and UNEP to support African negotiators in the negotiation of a new international regime on access and benefit sharing.

Desertification: Africa calls for effective implementation of the UNCCD 10-year strategic plan

Noting the increasing challenges being posed by land degradation and desertification, the ministers urged the African Union Commission, with the continued support of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and desertification in Africa, UNEP, UNDP, the Global Environment Facility and other partners, to implement the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018). The ministers further called upon UN agencies to support the development and implementation of the

Climate Change, Biodiversity Strategies and Environment Blueprint

and Angele Luh-Sy

Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held in Bamako (Mali) from 23 to 25 June 2010 under the overall theme "Enhancing the interrelationships between climate change and the environment". The 13th session of AMCEN and the Climate change negotiators (20-23 June) preceded the Ministerial consultations. The main objective of the 13th session was to provide a platform for discussions in the context of desertification, continuing negotiations on climate change and biodiversity.

Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel initiative.

African Ministers also addressed cross-cutting issues and in this regard, they called on representatives at the joint annual meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the UN Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to take specific steps in mainstreaming environmental issues in development planning.

Wide-ranging proposals were made on tackling waste, chemicals, health and the environment. Ministers urged governments to support the implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa and the establishment of a strategic alliance for health and environment in the continent. Ministers also made extensive recommendations regarding a green

economy transformation in Africa, the Africa environment outlook, technology supported learning as well as marine and coastal strategy.

Way forward

The role of UNEP as the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment was reaffirmed. For UNEP and regional and international partners promoting sustainable development in Africa, this will translate in an enhanced and more coherent support to the implementation of the programme of work of AMCEN for the next biennium, through specific initiatives and broadened partnerships.

This work should be guided by the need for more coherence and effectiveness in addressing environmental challenges in the continent. In this regard, AMCEN should integrate its work with the New Partnership for Africa's Development's Environment Action Plan. In 2008 in Jo-

hannesburg, AMCEN changed its business operation to become more operational and more relevant with regard to the continental environmental agenda. This move will be consolidated. This would further materialize in a clearer approach in identifying environmental and related sustainable challenges and opportunities.

In adopting a set of bold decisions and the Bamako Declaration, AMCEN needs to engage, in the process, other line ministries within African governments such as ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance and ministries with sustainable development agenda in their portfolio. AMCEN also needs not only to identify regional programmes for priority action and mobilize resources for the implementation of identified programmes, but also to increase the Trust Fund currently standing at US\$ 3.0 million.

Africa's voice must be clearly projected at major forthcoming environment meetings, bringing solutions and rejecting excuses not to act. The continent has the potential to shape the next set of global environmental governance instruments and should take the opportunity to promote climate change innovations and solutions, at the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in Brazil 2012.

Further information on AMCEN, including the Bamako Declaration and Decisions of the 13th session of AMCEN can be found on:

http://www.unep.org/roa/Amcen/Decisions_Declarations/default.asp. □



Mr. Amadou Toumani Touré, President of Mali who was awarded a special prize by UNEP for his services to the environment

Africa holds its Sixth African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP-6)

By Patrick Mwesigye

The Sixth ARSCP was held in June 2010 in Cairo, Egypt, at the initiative of the ARSCP in collaboration with the Egypt National Cleaner Production Centre (ENCPC) at the Ministry of Trade and Industry with support from UNEP and UNIDO. The meeting had strong political support from the Egyptian Government whose State Minister for Environmental Affairs, H.E. Eng. Magued George Elias officially opened roundtable, in the presence of Mr. Ahmed Samy, the Executive President, Technology Transfer and Innovation Council, Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The Cairo Roundtable: SCP as a vehicle for greening the African economy

150 participants from 29 countries attended the Roundtable, including an important local delegation from both private and public sector environmental consultancies and the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs and the Ministry of Trade and Industry. For the first time, UNEP facilitated the participation of participants from West Asia. The participation of National Cleaner Production Centers from African and Arab countries added new opportunities and an extended scope to the meeting.

The Egypt National Cleaner Production Centre organised an Exhibition for Egyptian companies capturing success stories in the field of implementing sound environmental management and sustainable development approaches. This exhibition was a great opportunity to reflect on the efforts done by the participating companies. The event was also a good opportunity to build stronger ties between the Egyptian media and ARSCP-6, providing extra leverage for the dissemination of information on the activities of ARSCP-6.

The main theme of ARSCP-6, 'SCP as a vehicle for greening the African

economy' was covered through six sub-themes focusing receptively on:

- Role of Businesses, Governments and Civil Society in promoting SCP including through educational and outreach programmes
- SCP, Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture
- Eco labeling of African natural products
- SCP and Energy (Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Transport and Sustainable Buildings and Construction)
- SCP and industry development
- Integrated Solid Waste Management Programs

The discussions were deemed as interesting as controversial and the outcomes of the roundtable would be very useful for the continued promotion of SCP in Africa. The ARSCP-6 also provided a platform for enhanced cooperation between the different Marrakech Task Forces on Sustainable (Lifestyle, Buildings and Constructions, Tourism and Public Procurement) and Cooperation with Africa that participated in ARSCP-6.



ARSCP-6 in Cairo



Participants at the ARSCP-6 drawn from the public and private sectors

How did it all begin?

The Regional Roundtables on Sustainable Consumption and Production are forums that are promoted by African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) Secretariat and supported by UNEP to facilitate information exchange and experience sharing amongst the increasing number of institutions and practitioners that are engaged in the promotion of sustainable consumption and production.

In August 2000, the First African Roundtable on Cleaner Production and Consumption was organized in Nairobi, Kenya. The Second African Roundtable on Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption was organised by the Cleaner Production Centre of Tanzania (CPCT) in collaboration with UNEP and was held in March 2002, in Arusha, Tanzania. Participants of the First and the Second ARSCP requested UNEP to provide support on institutionalising the African Roundtable as a regional networking organization. In March 2004, UNEP with the financial support from the Government of Norway started to implement the project on 'Institutionalizing ARSCP' was established as a non-governmental, not for profit regional coordinating institution

during the Third ARSCP held in Casablanca, Morocco in May 2004.

In May 2006, the Fourth meeting of the ARSCP which identified five focal areas for the follow up, namely: production and use of bio-fuels, water efficiency and provision, labelling of African products, waste management and knowledge and information sharing was held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. The Fifth ARSCP was organised in June 2008 in Johannesburg, South Africa where activities and issues related to the African 10-YFP were discussed.

How does ARSCP operate?

The ARSCP is a multi-stakeholder forum promoting SCP in Africa. Its activities include support for the organization of national and sub-regional SCP roundtables, facilitate information exchange on SCP, develop and maintain a directory of African experts on SCP, compile and disseminate case studies in the application of SCP policies and strategies, provide technical and policy input to regional initiatives such as NEPAD, develop sub-regional and regional projects on SCP, organize training workshops and seminars on selected topics and promote research partnerships in the area of SCP. The Secretariat of the ARSCP has been established in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania and ARSCP has become a legally registered regional not-for profit organization. Individuals and institutions can subscribe to be members of the organization.

The ARSCP-7 will be held in 2012 and all those who missed the action in Cairo should start planning to visit Accra, Ghana. □



Exhibition of Egypt Cleaner Production Centre at ARSCP-6

The African Eco-labelling Mechanism (AEM) on the move

By Patrick Mwesigye

The context: laying the basis

The development of an African 10 Year Framework Programme (10-YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) was one of the key activities that have been facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as part of the follow-up on Johannesburg Plan of Implementation that was endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The process was carried out in active consultation with the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) and the framework document that was developed through a series of expert meetings was approved by the 2nd AMCEN Partnership Conference for the implementation of NEPAD Environmental Action Plan in March 2005.

One of the key activities identified under the African 10-YFP is the need to expand the market access of African products in regional and international markets by improving the environmental profiles of African products and establishing a mechanism that promotes their marketability. The Fourth African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP-4), which deliberated on the key follow-up steps that need to be taken identified the development of an African Eco-labelling Mechanism as one of the five priority areas for follow-up.

UNEP in consultation with the Marrakech Taskforce on Cooperation with Africa, which is facilitated by the German Ministry of Environment, developed an activity that was aimed at laying down the basis for the development of an African Eco-labelling Mechanism. The initial phase has been implemented in close consultation and cooperation with the Trade and Industry Department of the African Union Commission (AUC), United



Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The strategy: assessment and consultation

As a first step, a comprehensive assessment of existing eco-labelling programmes and initiatives in the region was conducted and a Regional Expert Meeting was held in June 2007 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Based on the outcome from the regional assessment and consultation, a follow-up activity has been carried out with an objective of further strengthening the regional consensus and developing a comprehensive strategy document for the AEM. In 2008, a follow-up consultation was carried out with the Trade and Industry Sections of the AUC and the Trade and the Sustainable Development Sections of UNECA during which the key elements of the strategy document were presented and the elements of the way forward were discussed and agreed. The strategy document was finalised based on the input obtained from the ARSCP-5 in June 2008 and was reviewed by the UNEP-facilitated stakeholders meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2009. The meeting also confirmed the constitution of the Executive Board of AEM that is chaired by AUC.

Based on that document, UNEP and AUC in collaboration with the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) and the Marrakech Task Force on Cooperation with Africa developed a programme document that has been used for mobilizing the required funding for the mechanism. The programme document aimed at establishing the basis for the operationalization of the AEM in accordance with the key functions and structures that have been defined under its strategy document. The expected outputs from the activities identified in the programme document are expected to lead to ensuring expanded market access to African products thereby contribution to sustainable development agenda in the region. The programmatic activities are those that constitute the core structure and functions of the AEM Secretariat while the project activities are those that need to be developed and implemented through active partnership with or delegation to other principal players and partners.

The implementation: partnership for the project

ARSO will implement the activities with the support from the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation

and Nuclear Safety (BMU) who is funding the AEM project through its International Climate Initiative. Additional partners for implementing the activities include AUC, UNEP, UNIDO and the ARSCP. The aim of the AEM is to establish a benchmarking system and umbrella label for sustainability standards which will function as a quality assurance mechanism. Minimum ecological, social and climate-relevant standards as well as an effective operational structure and implementation mechanisms will be defined. National and international standards fulfilling these requirements will be able to use the AEM label. In order to achieve this aim, financial self-sufficiency will be ensured and a comprehensive benchmarking system to assess existing sustainability standards in organic agriculture, forestry, tourism and fishery sectors will be developed and evaluated against the AEM standard. These sectors have been selected because of their economic importance in Africa and their contribution to global Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and their GHG saving potential.

The activities include capacity development to further enhance the know-how of national accrediting institutions and certifiers as well as the establishment of a panel of marketing experts from national and international companies, NGOs and state agencies to promote the label in regional and international markets.

How far are we?

During its first sitting in February 2010, the AEM Executive Board authorised the recruitment of the Executive Manager, Technical and Support staff. The Executive Manager and two technical coordinators have been recruited and the procurement of the Project Coordinator is in the process. The work plan of AEM was developed and considered by the Executive Board during its second sitting in September 2010. The process of putting African eco-labels in place is now truly up and running and all stakeholders need to play their part to ensure that the goals of AEM are achieved. □

Ministers Launch a Pioneering Initiative to Boost Health and Environment in Africa

By David Ombisi & Angele Luh-Sy

African Health and Environment Ministers gathered for the second Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa, held in Luanda, Angola from 23-26 November 2010 have established the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance that will stimulate policies and investments in favor of enhanced joint actions for health and environment in Africa. The conference was aimed to sustain the political commitment made by ministers in the Libreville Declaration in 2008, in which African countries committed to undertaking 11 priority action points to address challenges relating to health and the environment in the African region.

African Health and Environment Ministers on Friday ended a two-day meeting in Luanda, Angola, with the establishment of the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance (HESA), a novel mechanism that will stimulate policies and investments in favour of enhanced joint actions for health and environment in Africa.

HESA, the first ever collaboration framework of its type between African countries and two United Nations agencies in Africa, was adopted along with two other major outputs at the end of the Second Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment. The conference was held at the initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with the Government of Angola.

Building on the linkages between the health and environment sectors, HESA, now institutionalized, will develop and coordinate actions to effectively protect and promote public health and ecosystem integrity with a view to helping countries attain Millennium Development Goals.

It will concretely support country efforts through advocacy, resource mobilization, capacity building, technical assistance as well as progress monitoring, as part of the implementation of the Libreville Declaration, adopted in 2008 to reduce environmental threats to human health and well-being.

Ms. Fatima Jardim, the Minister of Environment of Angola said: "Angola can contribute by setting the example and through interaction and information, consolidate the mutual



commitments set out in the important tools we have adopted at this meeting and which will serve not only as a link between the health and environment sectors but also to connect us in a commitment as countries of a continent."

Also, for the first time, African Ministers of Health and Environment made their strongest pronouncement ever on climate change and health in the region, with the adoption of a Joint Statement on Climate Change and Health.

The Statement articulates Africa's common position on climate change and health, and calls for support for actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience in the health sector in African countries. The statement also captures commitments by African Ministers to address climate change in the continent, particularly as its effects are likely to be more severe than originally anticipated and may exacerbate the effects of traditional and emerging environmental risk factors on human health, thereby hampering Africa's efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals.

It will be tabled before the 16th Conference of the Parties to the United



Photo: Andre E. Gascoigne/Shutterstock Images

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be held from 29 November to 10 December 2010 in Cancun, Mexico.

Regional Director and Representative of UNEP in Africa Mounkaila Goumandakoye said: « The Luanda Conference is a milestone as the health and environment sectors become credible and strategic partners. I leave this meeting further convinced that the future of Africa is not cast anywhere. It is we who determine this by our commitments, our determination and our actions".

The ministers also adopted the Luanda Commitment, which deepens the engagement by countries to consolidate a joint continental response to the heavy burden of disease attributable to environmental factors, within the context of the Libreville Declaration.

Assessing the outcomes of the conference, the WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Luis Sambo said: " The three tools that we have adopted at this conference are clear and consistent and the decisions we have taken will serve us well in the implementation of the Libreville Declaration with a view to better manage health and environment issues in our region".

The ministerial conference was preceded by a technical session that brought together over 300 participants,

including senior government officials, experts on health and environment, academics, representatives of NGOs, IGOs, bilateral and multilateral organizations, among others, to discuss the scientific evidence, as well as programmatic issues such as environmental risk factors to human and ecosystem integrity. The technical meeting also discussed country and regional priorities and the coordination of international action in support of country programmes.

All the outcomes of the Second Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment will be available on the HESA website: <http://www.unep.org/roa/hesa/Events/2ndInterMinisterialConference/tabid/6011/Default.aspx> □



Photo: Africa924/Shutterstock Images

Delivery of UNEP's Programme of Work 2010–2011 in the Africa Region: Where do we stand?



By Gertrude Ngenda

The UNEP Regional Office for Africa (ROA) has steadily played a central role during the past ten months, in coordinating UNEP's Programme of Work in the region with the view to ensuring the effective and efficient delivery of interventions, in response to regional, sub-regional and national needs. The delivery of this programme in Africa is a collective effort by UNEP and various partners, Governments institutions and Ministerial fora, non governmental agencies, regional economic communities, other sister agencies, Major groups and stakeholders including Civil Society organizations, the private Sector, local Authorities etc. as well as regional Centers of Excellence.

Integrating Climate Change responses into National, sub regional and regional Development Processes

Within this thematic area, three priority focuses have been identified i.e: the Ecosystem –based adaptation, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) and Clean Technology readiness. The activities cover both adaptation and mitigation and focus on helping countries with highly vulnerable ecosystems (dry lands, mega-deltas and low lying coastal areas) in Africa to reduce their vulnerability to climate change. Support is being provided in building the resilience of vulnerable ecosystems to the impacts of Climate Change in selected African countries (Mountain Ecosystems in Uganda, Okavango basin, Lake Faguibine, Nile Basin).

Emphasis is also placed on supporting the development of sound policies, technologies and investments that will lead to the reduction of Green House Gas emissions. Programme activities on renewable energy and efficient technologies are developed and the private sector is stimulated to provide finances for cleaner energy goods, services and appropriate technologies. In the REDD+ partnership, the move is to intensify the activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia.

UNEP is also improving the understanding of Climate Change impacts. As the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), UNEP has, in collaboration with partners, developed a Climate Change Communication Strategy and a comprehensive framework of African Climate Change programmes. A comprehensive Climate Change Communication, Education and Outreach Package is in the pipeline.

The UNEP-RISOE Centre is supporting Cleaner Development Mechanisms (CDM) and Climate Change resilience programmes through the European Commission-funded ACP-CD4CDM project. This project will develop a regional CDM projects portfolio that could be marketed in international carbon events, thus enabling selected countries in Africa to participate in the global carbon market. Angola, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda and São Tomé & Príncipe have been targeted for this phase of the project.

Another important focus for UNEP in this area is to extend assistance to other countries in Africa (Algeria and Egypt) in leded gasoline phase-out, sulphur reduction, adoption of cleaner vehicles, promotion of non-motorized transport and public transport in the region. A Pilot Global Fuel Economy project is scheduled to start before the end of 2010 in Ethiopia.

Minimising threats to human well being from the impacts of natural and man made disasters and conflicts

This work is done through risk-assessments to inform countries of the anticipated key environmental threats and recommendations for disasters /conflict prevention and mitigation. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Sudan and Sierra Leone are engaged in this effort. These assessments will inform national strategies and development plans for long term sustainability planning as well as the post recovery planning, programming and support capacity building activities and pilots. Early warning on environmental risks, environmental data and expertise in mitigating the possible impacts of disasters will also be provided to countries upon request.

Efforts are also being made to promote environmental Cooperation and peace building and provide conflict analysis, advisory and resolution. These efforts include interventions in Ogoniland in the Niger Delta in Nigeria. Work on Environmental Diplomacy is on going in Sudan and new activities are planned with strategic partners. One of the landmark initiatives is the project on Sustainable Building and Construction in Disaster affected countries, which is being piloted in Sudan in collaboration with the Sustainable United Nations (SUN) Unit.

Ensuring the holistic management of land, water and living resources to promote conservation and sustainable use

UNEP facilitates the development of policies that promote environment for development, emphasizing the socio-economics aspects of ecosystem services through payment for ecosystem services and incorporate biodiversity as a working system for ecosystem functioning. Using the Ecosystems approach UNEP will develop and test tools and methodologies for national governments and regional bodies to restore and manage ecosystems and biodiversity. The focus of the activities is in countries with rich biodiversity, high water stress and recurrent food shortages and will mainly be carried out in the transboundary ecosystems (River Basins (Okavango) Lake Basins (Chad, Faguibine and Tanganyika), Mountains Ecosystems (Uganda / Tanzania), Forests (Congo), National Parks (Lubombo Transfrontier), coastal and Marine (African SIDS).

UNEP played a strategic role in the organization of the First Pan African Conference on Biodiversity and Poverty Alleviation, which was held in September in Libreville Gabon, preparation for the High Level Meeting on Biodiversity on 22 September in New York, and the tenth Session of the Conference of Parties (COP-10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Besides, UNEP will also support the development of Indicators and the integration of ecosystems into National Plans through the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative

Strengthening Global, Regional, national and local Environmental governance to address agreed environmental priorities

ROA assists governments in obtaining environmental information for decision-making, enhancing global and

regional environmental cooperation, developing and applying national and international environmental law, advancing national and regional implementation of environmental objectives, and bridging major groups and governments in policy development and implementation processes. In this process, environmental trends and emerging issues are brought to the attention of policy makers through the ongoing work on the UNEP Flagship, the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) process and the corresponding regional Africa Environmental Outlook (AEO), due for publication in 2012. Other assessments, alerts, outlooks and indicator reports are planned in the current biennium concurrently to monitor environmental trends (The Africa Water Atlas, the Zambezi Basin Atlas and other National Atlases). Through the associated Scientific Networks awareness is created with the help of an elaborate outreach strategy.

Assistance at country level consists of a multi scaled set of capacity building products and services to enable countries to keep national and sub national environmental situations continually under review. In 2010 UNEP is furthering its support to Africa Ministerial Fora, Regional Institutions, Major Groups and other related processes for global agenda setting and policy dialogue. The engagement with the *One UN* country processes is a milestone and is mainly to provide environmental information, guidance and technical expertise in the integration of environmental sustainability in the UN development Assistance Framework (UNDAF's).

In addition the UNEP / UNDP collaboration under the Poverty and Environment Programme has been scaled up in Africa to support more countries in the integration of poverty – environment linkages into national planning processes.

UNEP also plays a catalytic role in strengthening International Coopera-

tion through the global environmental Agenda set by the GC/GMEF, with the view to aligning policies to those of Governments. The African Negotiators package has allowed African Policy makers to participate in the global negotiations and come up with a common position through UNEP guided processes, which will continue in the current biennium.

Minimising impacts of Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste on the environment and people

ROA promotes chemical safety by providing policy advice, technical guidance and capacity building to developing countries and those with economies in transition, including activities on chemicals related to the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). UNEP also provides the secretariat for the negotiations of a global legally binding instrument on mercury. This is done through scientific assessments of trends in the use, release and disposal of harmful substances and the analysis used to inform policy and create awareness. Currently scientific reviews are being done on lead, mercury and cadmium. The Quick Start Programme (QSP) of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) encourages African Countries to submit proposals to promote the sound management of chemicals. ROA has also initiated programmes in the region to increase access and sharing of information, lessons learnt and best practices within the continent on the management of harmful and hazardous chemicals. It also supports capacity building activities in the negotiation of legally binding instruments to reduce risks to human health and the environment and helps the member states to strengthen their legal and regulatory frameworks in addressing national priorities. Activities and pilots in the management and disposal of hazardous waste have been initiated in Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, and in Kenya.

Promoting Resource efficiency and Reducing adverse impacts of consumption and production

To decouple economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation, UNEP work focuses on four core services: Strengthening and communicating the knowledge base for RE&SCP; building government institutions' capacities; consolidating and extending partnerships with business and industry; and influencing consumer choice.

Through the scientific Panel for Sustainable Resource Management independent scientific assessments on sustainable use of natural resources will be conducted to inform policies on the sustainable use of the scarce resources and the benefits of efficient, clean and safe industrial production methods. Work is ongoing in collaboration with UNIDO and UNDP in strengthening the capacity of the National Cleaner Production Centres and RECP activities with Industries in four countries. The support to regional and national processes on SCP through various programmes under the Marrakech Task Forces and the 10 year Programme of Action is also progressing well with projects in Eco-labelling, Sustainable Tourism, Sustainable Procurement, Buildings and Construction. Private sector is being mobilised to stimulate the demand for resource – efficient goods and services and setting appropriate market signals on removing market distortions, advancing unified and credible tools and certification schemes i.e. the Africa EcoLabelling Mechanism and the African Beverage Industries Water Savings Initiative. Tools are being developed to advance the RESCP and Green Economy agenda in the region. The Africa Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, has scaled up awareness SCP in Africa by facilitating the exchange of information and the sharing of experiences on SCP initiatives in Africa. □

South-south cooperation to boost sustainable water resource management

By Julie Marks

Following conflict or a natural disaster, access to safe water can be a pressing issue. To help build a platform for development and lasting peace in Sudan, UNEP is working with all levels of government to improve the management of water resources for the long-term³.

Wending its way through north-east Africa, the Nile is perhaps one of the best known water sources in the world. Yet for many in Sudan, accessing water is difficult.



Ms Karar of South Africa's Water Research Commission addressing the state council of North Darfur

For years, public water corporations and international actors have worked diligently to supply water where it is scarce, particularly in Darfur. Building dams, digging wells and drilling bore holes, the mantra has been "provide water", but there has been little acknowledgement of the impact on water resources and long-term consequences for the environment.

The need to examine the sustainable use of water resources in Sudan was plainly stated in UNEP's Post Conflict Environmental Impact Assessment, published in 2007. While the provision of clean water is a challenge across Sudan, population displacement in Darfur has put unique stress on aquifers, depleting a fragile resource and compounding the region's chronic vulnerability to drought. The consequences are potentially devastating. A serious drought in the current context could cause considerable social upheaval and is therefore a crucial contingency planning scenario for aid and peacekeeping stakeholders.

³ The UNEP Sudan Programme is supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), USAID and the Italian Government.

UNEP has responded, leveraging expertise to introduce new thinking into water resource management, starting with the United Nations and international aid community. Over several years, UNEP has reviewed hydrological data and consulted widely within the water sector and is now providing the leadership for an integrated water resource management initiative. Supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the initiative recognizes key structural challenges to sustainable resource management and environmental governance. It includes a programme on small dams and capacity building to support water resource management and drought contingency planning in camps and cities. But officials need concrete examples and practical direction.

Earlier this year, UNEP arranged a knowledge exchange between water engineers and decision makers from South Africa and Sudan. In May, 15 officials from the Darfur states and national departments visited South Africa, widely acknowledged as a leader in integrated water resource management. Their guide was a Sudanese-born water expert, Ms Eiman Karar, Director of Water Resource Management at South Africa's Water Research Commission.

The Darfuri delegates reviewed drought management strategies in the Eastern and Southern Cape, which are experiencing their lowest rainfall in 100 years. While it was hard for some participants to accept these were "drought" conditions, given the rainfall was well above the Darfur average, the means by which South African water managers coped with a reduction in their usual plentiful supply yielded valuable lessons.

In June, Ms Karar paid a return visit to Sudan during which she joined



Mr. Nasr Al Din points to Golo in North Darfur, an important water resource for El Fasher

UNEP to brief the State Councils of North and South Darfur, and the Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources, Dr. Salah el Din, about the benefits of long-term water resource management and potential areas for collaboration.

A participant in the exchange was Mr. Nasr al Din Ali, Acting Director-General of the North Darfur State Water Corporation. "UNEP brought all the actors together for the visit to South Africa to work together and learn. We have taken many recommendations to improve here in Darfur states," he said.

Mr Nasr al Din Ali is concerned with the depletion of ground water sources in the displaced person camps but hopes management efforts will be aided by sharing information more widely. "The Department of Ground Water and Wadis, UNEP, UNICEF, UNOPS, as well as international NGO's, have joined us in the effort. We are now putting in integrated water resource management, providing surface water support, rehabilitation of hafirs and dams, as well as drought mitigation," he explained.

The study tour conveyed the reality of integrated water resource management and prompted the development

of a shared vision across the Darfuri water sector of how to move forward on resource management. The tour and follow-up visit by Ms Karar, during which ministers and governors in Darfur were engaged in the water management debate, has also created major political support for the integrated water resource management process.

A shift is evident. There is increased investment in urban water supplies. The National Public Water Corporation has worked with a range of partners to draft the first joint water management plans for each state for 2010. The Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources plans to establish a multi-disciplinary water research centre with support from South Africa, facilitated by UNEP. Drought preparedness contingency planning is under way at vulnerable camps in Darfur. The Golo Dam rehabilitation is another contribution to the drought resilience of Darfuri settlements.

The change in approach is promising but the scale of the challenge cannot be overstated. ▣

“Improving Water – Enhancing Lives for Working for Water” Payment for Watershed Services Project Launched in South Africa

By Jenny Clover

In response to BASF-UNEP partnership established in late 2009, UNEP Regional Office for Africa facilitated the submission of a proposal from the Government of South Africa to BASF Sozialstiftung (BASF Social Foundation or “BSF”), a charitable organization. In December 2009 the BSF 2009 Christmas Employee Donations Campaign generously raised more than Euro200,000 for the Project on Payments for Watershed Services in South Africa. The project, formerly launched in May this year started in June.

The goal of the project – “Improving Water - Enhancing Lives for Working for Water”, is to improve water quality and quantity while enhancing livelihood opportunities for the rural poor.



Measuring streamflows from ‘portable’ weir



Watershed Services project in South Africa

More specifically the objectives are to assess the institutional options available for the implementation of Payments for Watershed Services projects; optimize the livelihood options for rural communities and undertake action research on the impacts of land management practices on water quality and quantity.

The South Africa Government Department of Water Affairs’ Natural Resource Management Programmes have subsequently allocated an amount of R2.009 million per year over the next two years in support of the BASF project to enhance the development of payments for watershed services in South Africa. This has been allocated from the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). They anticipate creating around 14,650 person days of employment per year through the restoration and maintenance of the

Upper Umzimvubu watershed, which will create temporary direct employment opportunities for around 146 individuals on a regular basis. Obviously the improvement of the natural resource and more specifically water resources will benefit thousands more people locally and downstream. This project now forms part of a Grasslands Payments for Watershed Services Programme worth around R10 million (including BASF Investment) in the Upper Umzimvubu (Eastern Cape), Upper Orange (FreeState) and Upper Thukela (Kwa-Zulu Natal).

UNEP has responsibility as project manager and body responsible for oversight and financial decision making of the project. Monitoring of the project will be the responsibility of the Regional Office for Africa, supported by the Division for Environmental Policy and Implementation. □

Coping with Drought: UNEP coordinates Experience Sharing Between African countries and China

By Mohamed Abdel-Monem

In the framework of the Africa-China cooperation on environment, UNEP has built a strong partnership to strengthen the African response to the impacts of climate change. A training workshop was carried out in July 2010 for 20 African experts in Shanxi on the techniques of drought early warning systems, water resources management and water-saving techniques for agriculture.

One-third of the population in Africa live in drought-prone areas and are vulnerable to the impacts of droughts. With global warming and regional climatic change, it is expected that drought is likely to increase and impose an additional possible threat to the already scarce freshwater resources in Africa. In addition, drought may increase existing land degradation problems and, through the added stress on limited water supplies, threaten the food security of some countries.

Drought has significant impact on the livelihood of people in Africa, as it is directly related to reduction of rain fed crops and rangelands production. It also aggravates the effects of overgrazing, increasing degradation of natural vegetation and soils. The problem is even more serious taking into consideration population increase and rising demands on agricultural production and consequently pressures on the water resources.

Enhanced resilience to future periods of drought stress may be supported by improvements in existing rain-fed farming systems, such as water-harvesting systems and water-saving agriculture techniques in semi-arid farming systems ('more crop per drop' strategies).



Field visit to Settat Agricultural Research station in Morocco

The design and use of proactive rather than reactive strategies can enhance adaptation. Improved early warning systems and their application may reduce vulnerability to future risks associated with climate variability and change. In Africa there is a great need for enhanced capacity to cope with drought as related to climate change.

In the framework of the Africa-China cooperation on environment, UNEP (represented by ROA) is engaged in partnership with the Ministry of Science and Technology of China (MOST), Institute of Soil and Fertilizer, Shanxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Ministries of Environment and Agriculture in Libya, Morocco and Zambia. Objectives of the project are: 1) Build and strengthen scientific and technical capacities in adaptation

to drought and climate change, 2) Strengthen existing drought early warning systems at national levels, and link the national systems into sub-regional one, 3) Share and exchange information and experience in the areas of drought adaptation and 4) Capacity building through training courses and replicable pilot projects on the application of water-saving agricultural technologies as a solution for adaptation to drought.

Activities of the project include carrying out field survey to Libya and Morocco to collect primary data and information, followed by an inception workshop to finalize the implementation plan. One main activity is establishing a pilot experimental site in Settat (Morocco) to demonstrate water-saving technologies for adaptation to drought where loca-

tion of the pilot site was selected and the field work is under way. Organizing training program for African experts in China is the third element of the project activities.

A training workshop was executed from 4 to 17 July 2010 for 20 African experts in Shanxi on the techniques of drought early warning systems, water resources management and water-saving techniques for agriculture. The training workshop included scientific and technical lectures and field trips to different research stations and farmers field where new techniques of coping with drought were practiced. Address of the Chinese experts covered the areas of GIS based decision support system for sustainable water management, agronomic measures to improve farmland water use efficiency, soil moisture monitoring technology and development trends, and meteorological drought monitoring. Mr. Mohamed Abdel-Monem, the Ecosystem Management Officer in ROA gave presentation on Climate Change and Drought in Africa: Challenges and responses.

The Project is a successful model for South-South cooperation by providing platform where African and Chinese experts exchange experiences and information on the issue of drought. □

Environmental Governance, Green Economy and Sustainable Consumption Top African Deliberations in Preparation for UNEP 26th Governing Council and 12th Global Major Groups Forum

By Angele Luh-Sy

Regional consultations for the Global Major Group and Stakeholder Forum are underway in the run up to UNEP GC/GMEF, to be held in February 2011. Africa just concluded its meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.

The African MGFSF aimed to provide a platform for exchange and consultation among civil society on key environmental issues, in preparation for the 12th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF), to be held from 19-20 February 2011, prior to the 26th Session of UNEP's Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF); and to facilitate Major Groups' contribution to the GC/GMEF and other international environmental forums.

As part of their inputs to the GMGSF, the African consultations provided a platform for exchanges on the International Environmental Governance (IEG), the RIO+20 preparation processes as well as green economy and sustainable consumption and production. Participants also discussed and reached a consensus on key messages and recommendations from Africa for the consultations International Environmental Governance and Green Economy held in October 2010 in Geneva. The meeting provided an opportunity to deliberate on key regional environment processes such as the outcomes of AMCEN- 13 and its ongoing work on climate change, the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance, and the AEO-3 process.

The regional consultations generated an African statement capturing of key messages and recommendations of the major groups and stakeholders in the region. It is also enhanced the collaboration with civil society organizations in the delivery of UNEP programme in Africa and fostered a greater engagement of African MGS in key environmental issues/debates at regional and global level.

The regional and global Major Groups and Stakeholders' Forums (MGFSF) are meant to ensure a continuous involvement of civil society in shaping UNEP's policies and programmes as well as its full and effective engagement in Africa's environmental agenda. This consultative meeting also serves as a means for UNEP Regional Office for Africa to strengthen relationships with different major groups/civil society organizations in the region. □

Winners of the First Ozone Africa Media Award Announced

By Angele Luh-Sy and Jeremy Bazye

The Jury of the Ozone Africa Media award recently honored two African journalists for the high quality of their articles on Ozone. Zimbabwe's Busani Bafana and Gerald Tenywa from Uganda Share Top Prize

The co-winners, Busani Bafana and Gerald Tenywa were announced at the closing ceremony of the 14th Joint Meeting of the Ozone Officers Network of English and French-speaking Africa, organized by UNEP Regional Ozone Action Compliance Assistance Programme, in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Busani Bafana's article "Come 2010, time for Ozone Depleting Substances to go" tells the story of the phase out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in Africa with continent ready to close its borders to imports of ODS while opening up to the rest of the world to celebrate the World Football Cup. It is a story of a challenge to be met, as the African continent is ready to score goals against ODS.

Gerald Tenywa's story "Ban on Old Fridges Starts Biting as NEMA Swoops in", focuses on the second life of archaic fridges in Kampala, which have helped so many people, particularly women who chill items cheaply in the kiosks but now have to face the ban imposed on old fridges. The dealers in old fridges are afraid of losing their business since the Uganda Revenue

Authority working under the advice of the National Environment Management Authority is now implementing the ban.

The jury also awarded a special prize to Malawian Frazer Potani's entry "When climate change is witchcraft", for the originality of his story, which illustrate how people's ignorance can lead to drama and death in rural communities, confronted with the dire effects of climate variability and change.

For UNEP the story of the Montreal Protocol is not just about numbers and statistics. The Montreal Protocol is above all a story with a human face, showing how the consequences of a global environmental issue can affect us and how we as individuals can be part of the solution. The regional office is therefore very happy that African journalists have really used this special opportunity to tell this story and is encouraging all categories of journalists to participate in future editions.

Each of the co-winners will receive a cash prize of US\$ 1,000 and will be invited in Kampala, Uganda, host of the 22nd Meet-

ing of Parties to the Montreal Protocol in November 2010 to receive their awards.

The Ozone Africa Media Awards is designed to elevate the standards of excellence in Environmental/scientific reporting in print, audio and audiovisual media, focusing on Ozone issues and honors individuals for their outstanding achievement. The jury may however choose not to award prizes if applications do not meet the minimum standards defined by the jury for its selection.

For this first edition, the jury, consisting of representatives from UNEP, other implementing agencies, Ozone, and Media experts decided not to award prizes in Radio, and audiovisual media.

The UNEP Ozone Africa Media Award was launched in May 2010 in Lilongwe by the Minister of Information and Civic Education of Malawi, Hon. Leckford Thotho, at the 16th main meeting of the Ozone Officers Network for English speaking countries in Africa. The meeting was held jointly with a media workshop, gathering journalists from twelve countries in Southern Africa. □



Sustaining total Phase out of ODS in Africa

The 14th Joint Meeting of the Ozone Officers Network of English and French-speaking Africa, was organized to facilitate compliance in meeting and sustaining total phase out requirements in various Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) as set by the Montreal Protocol.

Specifically, the meeting facilitated exchange of experiences among ODS Officers in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol activities including follow up on the progress on the implementation of various Montreal Protocol projects; addressed specific non-compliance situations in view of the 2010 phase out target; provided guidance for HPMP preparation and implementation; addressed methyl bromide phase-out in the region and finalized the Ozone Africa Media Award 2010 competition process.

The meeting was attended by Ozone Officers from all countries in Africa, Ozone Secretariat, Multilateral Fund Secretariat, Implementing and Bi-lateral Agencies and Environmental Journalists. In the African Region, the implementing agencies of the Multilateral Fund include UNIDO, UNDP as well as bilateral partners – US-EPA, France and Germany.

The Regional Network of National Ozone Units (NOUs) under the Multilateral Fund

is a path-breaking mechanism for North-South and South-South cooperation, as intended in the Bali Strategic Plan. Networking provides a platform for NOUs from African Countries to exchange experiences, develop their skills and tap the expertise of their peers in other countries. Conducted at the regional level, the Networking activity builds the Ozone Officers' skills for implementing and managing their national ODS phase-out activities. □