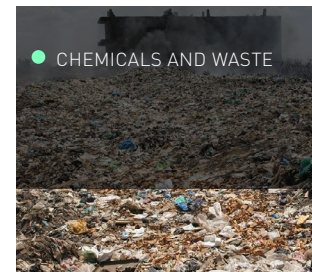
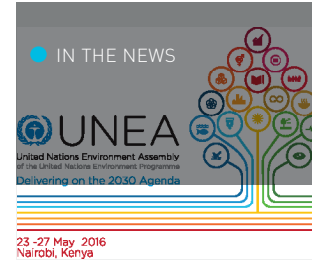




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AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT



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AFRICAN MINISTERS PLEDGE ACCELERATED ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE

The 6th Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held in Cairo, Egypt 16-19 April and attended by over 45 Ministers of environment and representatives of African countries. Countries agreed to accelerate action on issues ranging from the



implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to climate change and the illegal trade in wildlife.

They also pledged to engage strongly, with a common approach, in the second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2), which will be held in Nairobi from May 23-27,, to shape the global environmental agenda in support of Africa's priorities.

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

The Ministers agreed on the urgent need for the sustainable management of Africa's natural capital in support of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs and Agenda 2063 and its first ten-year implementation plan. They also agreed to put in place policies and practices to reverse ecosystem degradation and promote sustainable consumption and production patterns. In addition, the forum agreed to create and strengthen private and public partnerships and establish centres for sustainable harnessing of natural capital, value addition, green industries and agro-processing centres.

Climate change and implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change

The Ministers reaffirmed that adaptation to climate change is an essential priority for Africa and that there is an urgent need for immediate and adequate support for the implementation of adaptation measures to cover agreed full and incremental costs.

The forum also welcomed the progress made with regards to the two African owned and led initiatives - Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) - and called for their swift implementation.

Illegal Wildlife Trade

The Ministers committed to provide leadership to establish inter-agency task forces involving relevant sectors, including police, customs authorities, the judiciary, defense forces, environmental agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

The forum also agreed to support the African common strategy on combatting illegal trade in wild fauna and flora and facilitate the implementation of its action plan.

Desertification drought, floods and restoration of degraded land

The Ministers agreed to support the ongoing programme on land degradation neutrality initiated by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). They requested member States to develop a Strategic Framework for Drought Management and Actions to Enhance Resilience to Drought and develop Early Warning Systems for African countries, through the support and technical guidance of the UNCCD and other relevant partners.



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UNEP STRENGTHENS COLLABORATION WITH WEST AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

The Director, UNEP Regional Office for Africa, Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, hosted a high-level delegation from the West African Development Bank April 13-14, 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya.

A series of working sessions took place at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi between the representatives from BOAD and ROA as part of the

operationalization of the accreditation of BOAD as an implementing agency for GEF. UNEP is among the first three GEF agencies and has capitalized a long experience in development and implementation of GEF funded projects. The delegation of BOAD was led by Mr. Almamy Mbengue, Director of Environment and Climate Finance (DEFIC).

The continued collaboration between the two institutions will enable member countries to mobilize adequate resources to finance environmental and climate change projects in the region; implement the Rio + 20 recommendations, the COP 21 agreements as well Agenda 2063 among others. The team identified two regional projects for submission to potential partners including the GEF for funding:

- a) Regional optimization of electricity production networks, transport and distribution in the UEMOA countries. This project will cover three main components namely:
 - i) support for institutional reforms in the electricity sector in the UEMOA zone;
 - ii) optimization of the production infrastructure, transport and distribution of electric energy;
 - iii) support promotion of renewable energy for development to strategic development sectors such as agriculture, SMEs and the private sector.

- b) Establishment of a center of resources efficiency and cleaner production in West Africa. This project has also attracted the interest and support from other partners such as the French Development Agency and Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable(IFDD).

The meeting explored other common areas of intervention such as the sustainable management of the Palm Oil industry in West Africa; sustainable agriculture and food security; ecosystem management; environmental education and green jobs for youth; ocean governance and management of marine and coastal ecosystems as well as joint organization of activities for COP22 later this year.

The working sessions ended with an aide memoire signed by both parties.





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UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAMS



ROA RECEIVES GOLD AWARD IN SUPPORT OF UNCT ACTIVITIES

On April 29, the Regional Office for Africa (ROA) received a Gold Award from the Regional –United Nations Development Group (R-UNDG). This award was in recognition of the excellent contribution of ROA in support of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) activities.

ROA through Mr. Jean-Jacob Sahou, has been a member of the Quality Support and Assurance-Peer Support Group (QSA-PSG); Mr. Sahou has made immense contributions as a resource person for the meetings.



Among the countries he participated in are Eritrea, Botswana, Ethiopia UNDAF, Swaziland UNDAF, Tanzania UNDAF, Zambia UNDAF, Botswana UNDAF and Mozambique UNDAF.

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OZONE



TAKING STOCK OF OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES ALTERNATIVES IN AFRICA

National Ozone Officers agreed to embark on country wide surveys aimed at collecting data on hydrofluorocarbon (HCFC) alternatives in their countries. This was during a joint network meeting for National Ozone Units (NOUs) which was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from March 17-23.

The surveys will assist the countries create better management plans for HCFC alternatives to mitigate the negative consequences on the ecological systems and human health occasioned by the use of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS).

Speaking at the meeting, Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Head of UNEP OzonAction said, «UNEP uses the network to offer a platform for member states and implementing agencies to exchange views and experiences on the best methodologies and approaches in carrying out ODS alternatives surveys and to gain a better understanding of alternatives and the sectors to be surveyed under such projects.

The meeting brought together 28 English-speaking countries and 26 French-speaking countries, as well as 12 countries from West Asia region, the Multilateral Fund Secretariat, the Ozone Secretariat, implementing agencies, bilateral agencies, regional institutions, international experts and other technical resource persons.

UNEP Regional Office for Africa, through the Compliance Assistance Programme, provides technical support and guidance to ozone officers on how to carry out the surveys.



A pilot project in Nigeria in Irolu, runs on basic raw materials of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and associated petroleum gas (APG), and is expected to produce significant amounts of propane (R-290) and isobutene (R-600a) both of which are safer alternatives. "The pilot hydrocarbon plant shows that Africa has the capability of producing ozone-friendly refrigerants and also prevent climate change," said Idris Ishaka, National Ozone Officer, Nigeria.

Developing countries have the potential to boost their own industrial capacities while complying with the required standards to implement agreements such as the Montreal Protocol, as demonstrated by the commissioning of Nigeria's pilot hydrocarbon plant in 2015.



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UNEA2 IN THE WORDS
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EGYPT



UNEA2 IN THE WORDS OF
BOMO EDNA MOLEWA,
SOUTH AFRICA



UNEA2 IN THE WORDS
OF FLORE JOSÉPHINE
MISTOUL YAME, GABON



UNEA2 IN THE WORDS
OF HAKIMA EL HAITE,
MOROCCO



UNEA2 IN THE WORDS OF
H.E. OUSMANE KONE



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GREEN ECONOMY



OPERATIONALIZING GREEN ECONOMY TRANSITION IN AFRICA

UNEP Regional Office for Africa held a National Training of Trainers meeting on Green Economy Planning at the Sub-National Level in Musanze, Rwanda in March.

The training was attended by 30 participants drawn from the national and district levels. Participants included senior District planners, infrastructure officers and sectoral representatives from the three pilot districts - Bugesera, Gicumbi and Muysanze – as well as representatives from a range of national ministries, including the Rwandan Environmental

Management Authority (REMA), Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA), Ministry of Local Authorities (MINLOC), Ministry of Natural resources (MINIRENA), Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) and FONERWA.

During the training, the participants recognized the importance of mainstreaming sustainability into their development planning, as well as use of the Toolbox and its various tools in supporting the exercise. They also found the step-by-step guide useful in guiding them through the key stages and considerations in the planning process.

The current District Development Plans (DDPs) run until June 2018. The project was an opportunity to re-examine the 'greening' options, and critically evaluate the plans against 'green economy' criteria. The next DDPs will run from June 2018-2021 and will be developed during the 2016-2017 period, providing an opportunity for the Toolkit and Integrated Green Economy Implementation Planning approach to be integrated into the district planning process. The Toolkit will support officers, at the district level, to prepare project proposals and funding requests, including to FONERWA, the Rwandan fund for environment and climate.

The project 'Operationalizing Green Economy Transition in Africa', is jointly implemented by UNEP and GIZ, and aims to capacitate countries

to translate national Green Economy and climate resilience strategies to concrete development plans at the sub-national level through: Development of a Toolbox on Green Economy Planning at the Sub-National level; Building capacities at the regional and national level; Support for pilot Applications of the Toolbox; and Development of a knowledge management platform.

The project is currently in the capacity development stage, where experts and government officials from the national and sub-national levels are being trained to develop Integrated Green Economy Implementation Plans or to integrate Green Economy into their development plans with the aid of the Toolkit.



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ENERGY



THE STATE OF ENERGY RESOURCES IN AFRICA: THE AFRICA ENERGY RESOURCES ATLAS

UNEP Regional Office for Africa, in collaboration with the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, African Development Bank (AfDB/ICA) is preparing the Africa Energy Resources Atlas which will provide a comprehensive, reliable and scientifically credible assessment of the state of energy resources development on the continent, including the enabling framework for the realization of goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 'First Expert Review Meeting' of the Africa Energy Resources Atlas was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on April 4 – 8. The meeting's goal was to subject the draft Atlas to a technical peer review, focusing on validating information in the draft, the adequacy of coverage in terms of case studies and hotspots and the accuracy of the story lines.

The Atlas will combine illustrative maps, charts and comparative images which can provide important information on renewable energy resources across the continent. The Atlas will target a potential spectrum of end-users in particular: policy-makers and state owned enterprises, private investors and developers, academics and interested public. The project scope includes: identification of the major energy resources (current and potential); data collection, analysis and visualization, validation of surveys, development of relevant maps and illustrations and preparation of storylines to explain the various info-graphics that will be included in the Atlas. Brief energy profiles for each of the 54 African countries will also be presented in the publication.

Africa's renewable energy potential is mostly untapped, partly because of unavailability of sufficient information vital for further exploitation by both public and private investments.



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STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT OF THE ENERGY SECTOR IN MALI

Only 25.6% of Mali's population has access to electricity. Biomass, wood and charcoal are the key sources for meeting household energy needs and only 4% of the primary energy supply comes from renewable sources, mainly hydropower. It is well recognized that the dependence on biomass to meet energy needs contributes to deforestation, has tremendous negative health impacts from smoke inhalation and reduces time available for women and girls to engage in more productive activities.

In 2015, the Ministry of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development together with the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative Mali programme undertook a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) of the Energy Sector. The objective of the SEA was to provide recommendations to improve the integration of pro-poor environmental sustainability into energy related policies.

The SEA assessed the environmental and social impacts from the implementation of the national energy sector policy and identified measures for mitigating against negative impacts. The main SEA findings concluded that environmental considerations in the energy sector policy were centred on reducing wood fuel dependence and GHG emissions from thermal plants.

The SEA recommendations primarily aimed to strengthen institutional capacity of the Ministry of Energy and its stakeholders (e.g. private sector) to address environmental issues pertaining to air and water pollution and land degradation in the planning, operations and monitoring of energy producing stations (dams, thermal electricity power stations) and electrical power lines. It also recommended the elaboration of regulations to support the implementation of the energy sector policy with due consideration for environmental sustainability.

One outcome of the SEAs is the decision by the Ministry of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development to elaborate a policy and regulation on conducting SEAs for all sector policies. The PEI Mali team has been requested to provide technical assistance for the elaboration of policy and regulatory documents in 2016.



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CHEMICALS AND WASTE



INTEGRATED HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT OBSERVATORIES AND LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS IN AFRICA

This project aims to improve health and environment through strengthening national and regional institutions, and implementing priority chemicals and waste related assessments and interventions. It contributes to the implementation of the 2008 Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa implementation process, and to the African programme to reduce chemicals risks on health and environment which was endorsed by AMCEN in 2012.

A workshop was jointly organized by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Health Organization (WHO) in Nairobi, Kenya, to come up with a detailed proposal which will contribute to improved health and environment through strengthening national and regional institutions, and implementing priority chemicals and waste related interventions. Participants were mainly representatives from the ministries of Health and Environment drawn from nine countries: Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The workshop was also attended by representatives from WHO Afro Regional Office, UNEP Global Environment Facility (GEF) as well as scientific and technical experts, NGOs and academics.

In her opening remarks, the Director, Regional Office for Africa, Ms Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, said, "The cost to national economies of human and environmental exposure to harmful chemicals is often unrecognized, but can be substantial as shown in the Global Chemicals Outlook (GCO) and UNEP's Cost of Inaction report. Along with WHO's work on the Burden of Disease, efforts to overcome the challenging task of quantification indicate considerable risks associated with poorly resourced and fragmented approaches to sound management of chemicals".



She added that the recent adoption of the SDGs and its recognition of sound management of chemicals for sustainable development, as well as the outcome of ICCM4 and its decision to advance a post 2020 SAICM agenda have created a window of opportunity to shape the future of global chemicals management within the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The project focuses on the collection of data on chemicals from all sectors of society including government departments, chemical producers, retailers and users exposed to the negative impacts of improper use of chemicals. It is likely to stimulate investment in prioritized areas for management and pollution remediation interventions by justifying the multiple benefits and advantages resulting from the joint coordinated health and environment interventions and their contribution to the broader economic development framework.

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UNEP ENHANCES EFFORTS FOR PREPAREDNESS OF EMERGENCIES IN THE REGION THROUGH APELL

Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) is a methodology that provides guidance for multi-stakeholder preparedness efforts for technological hazards and environmental emergencies. APELL aims to enable communities identify potential hazards and as a result, prepare measures to respond to and control emergencies that might threaten public health, safety and the environment. After the recent agreement on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) seeks to further strengthen knowledge and capacity for applying APELL in different sectors and regions.

UNEP organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from March 22-24. This ToT programme aims to strengthen and build capacities of existing and potential APELL experts in each region, by equipping them with the tools and knowledge to raise awareness, develop skills to initiate an APELL process locally, as well as promote replication of the APELL process at national and regional levels.

During the training, participants examined and assessed their respective countries experiences with regard to disaster risk reduction, industrial disasters and emergency at the local level. The training also underscored the importance of risk evaluation in disaster preparedness and planning. Risk is often poorly analysed, and at times even ignored, which poses significant threats to communities as it renders them more vulnerable to the effects of disasters. The training expounded on various key considerations in the APELL process.



As people and communities change, assumptions must be re-verified, new risks and vulnerabilities re-considered and capabilities appraised, all in an effort to guide and feed into plans for preparedness.

POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (PEI)



INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY INTO SECTOR PLANS AND BUDGETS RESULTS IN IMPROVED FARMING CONDITIONS AND ENHANCED ACCESS TO ENERGY EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES AND CLEAN WATER

Rwanda's Environment Management Authority and the joint UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI) Rwanda programme developed an environment and climate budget and planning checklist for the first time in 2011. Since then, the guidelines are updated yearly and used by sector and line ministries in their annual budget and planning process under the guidance of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN). The continuity of this work is bearing fruit.

A performance assessment of the 2015 sector plans carried out by REMA and PEI Rwanda shows that all 14 sectors and 30 districts continued to integrate poverty-environment linked issues into their annual plans and budgets. The assessment noted that in terms of implementation, the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) has furthered soil conservation efforts and expanded crop varieties in support of local farmers. In the infrastructure sector, energy efficient technologies have been promoted, resulting in increased access to electricity. The environment and natural resources sector has further rehabilitated degraded ecosystems and improved forest management as well as piloted integrated water resource management enhancing water security at the district and community levels. Improved farming conditions, enhanced access to energy efficient technologies and clean water improves the livelihoods and quality of life for many Rwandese. The Director General of REMA, Rose Mukankomje, notes that the Sector Assessment 'revealed that remarkable achievements have been made, even if there is still a long way to go. I hope that the recommendations made in this report will prove useful to all those concerned sectors to better plan for further achievements'.



Caleb Rwamuganza, Budget Director, MINECOFIN, Rwanda said that 'investing in environmental issues is a necessity; if we do not address environmental issues people will struggle.' He further emphasized the importance of having easily applicable tools (e.g. budget and planning checklists) and building adequate capacities of sector and district staff to utilize such checklists; the significance of having the Ministry of Finance to lead and guide the process; and the usefulness of evidenced based studies to achieve the desired results.

In 2015, three sector ministries, Trade and Industry, Infrastructure (MININFRA), and MINAGRI further recruited environmental experts to ensure compliance with environmental guidelines and regulations. The ministries conducted strategic environmental assessments (SEA) for their planned projects and complied with the recommendations from these assessments. MINAGRI has further established an internal working group on environment and climate change following the recommendation from the SEA. The recruitment of the environmental experts indicates that sector ministries have internalized the importance of integrating an environmental sustainability perspective into their day to day operations.



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UPCOMING EVENTS



**23-27
MAY** UNEA-2
Nairobi, Kenya

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JUNE** World Environment Day



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