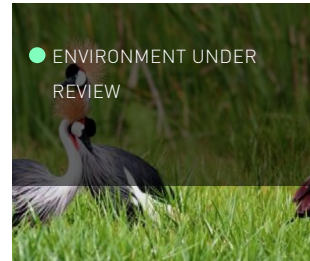




UN ENVIRONMENT NEWSLETTER

AFRICA OFFICE

2016 HIGHLIGHTS



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PAVING THE WAY FOR A STRONGER UN ENVIRONMENT IN AFRICA

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

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

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

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

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



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





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PAVING THE WAY FOR A STRONGER UN ENVIRONMENT IN AFRICA

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

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

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



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

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COP 22: TIME FOR ACTION



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

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



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



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COP 22



COP 22: TIME FOR ACTION

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

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

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

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



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





COP 22: TIME FOR ACTION

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

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



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

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



AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (AMCEN)



ALIGNING AFRICA'S ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES TO THE GLOBAL AGENDA

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

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

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



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



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DISASTERS & CONFLICTS



UN ENVIRONMENT IS BACK TO SOMALIA



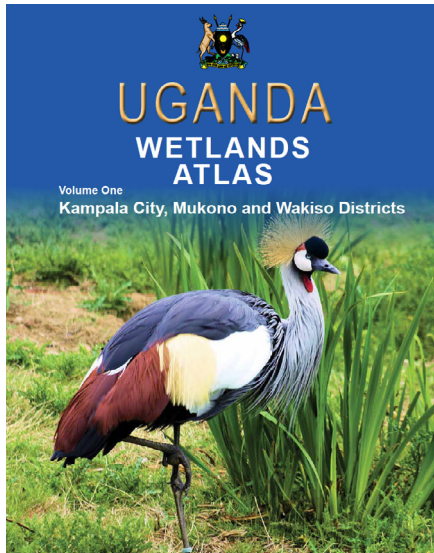
The UN Environment has marked its return to Somalia through the implementation of the UN Joint Programme for Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihoods (PROSCAL). The programme, funded by Italy and Sweden, has a duration of 24 months and will be implemented by UN Environment, UN Development Programme, Food Agriculture Organization and the Ministry of Forest, Land and Range of Somalia.

This Joint Programme is in response to the UN Security Council Resolution 2036 (2012) that seeks international cooperation to ban illegal exports of charcoal from Somalia. The programme envisages a comprehensive response to support this resolution. The specific objectives of the programme are: 1) Support the government in Somalia as

well as countries in the Horn of Africa and the region to produce pertinent legal instruments and strengthen enforcement mechanisms at national, regional and local levels; 2) Promote alternative sources of energy to reduce local charcoal consumption; 3) Provide alternative livelihoods to the Charcoal Value Chain Beneficiaries (CVCBs) involved in the charcoal production and trade; and, 4) Country wide reforestation and afforestation to regain the productive potential of environmentally degraded lands.



UGANDA WETLANDS ATLAS VOLUME II



Production of the Uganda Wetland Atlas, Volume II has been completed and handed over to the Government of Uganda through the UNDP Country Office. UNDP provided the funds for preparation of the atlas while the Africa Office Assessment Team was responsible for its production.

The Uganda Wetlands Atlas, Volume II provides visual evidence of the extent and severity of the changes taking place in the country's wetlands spanning a period of about thirty years. The atlas is among recent major publications depicting the dynamics in Uganda's wetlands using satellite imagery. The site-specific, side-by-side display of the "before and after" satellite images show different kinds of changes in wetlands ecosystems all over the country including agricultural encroachments, urban growth into wetlands, altered hydrology (river diversions, and drained wetlands), and the impacts of climate change.

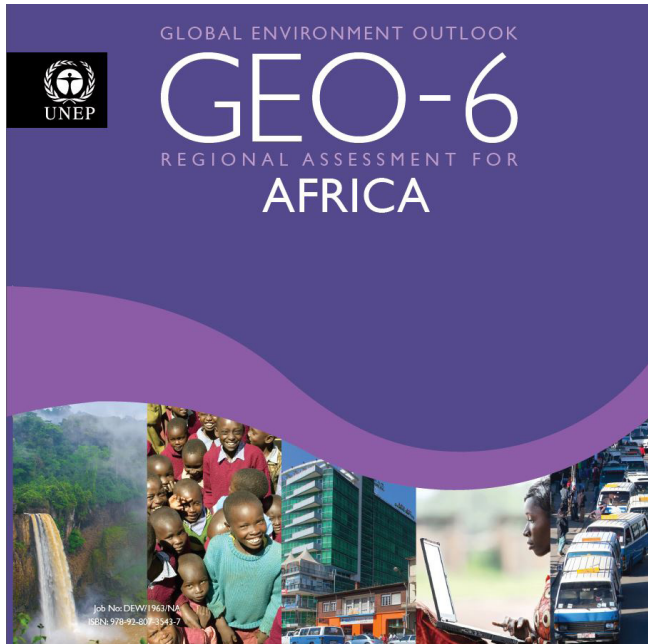


In response to the findings and policy recommendations contained in the atlas, the Government of Uganda recently cancelled 350 land titles illegally obtained in the country's wetlands. It has also started enforcing existing regulations to limit activities on the banks of rivers and lakes and in wetlands.

In addition, under a Presidential directive to the Ugandan Minister of State for Environment, the government is preparing to launch a National Wetlands Restoration Programme.



GEO-6 AFRICA REGIONAL ASSESSMENT



The GEO-6 Africa Regional Assessment was launched prior to the second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) held May 23-27, 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The GEO-6 Africa Regional Assessment recognizes the continent's rich natural capital - the diversity of soil, geology, biodiversity, water, landscapes and habitats- which if wisely managed, hold the promise to lead the region to a future where ecosystem integrity, as well as human health and well-being are continuously enhanced. It also observes that the economic growth of Africa hinges on the sustainable management of its natural capital that involves reconciling wise stewardship with human development for today's population and for future generations. The report notes that this requires both the protection and valuation of natural assets, as well as effectively communicating their importance. Africa's natural capital is challenged by competing uses, illegal off-take, weak resource management practices, climate change and pollution.

The report calls for forward looking, flexible, inclusive and integrated approaches in the formulation and implementation of policies. Finally, the report observes that Africa has an opportunity to use its large young population to drive its growth. To this end, low-carbon, climate-resilient choices can help develop its infrastructure, accelerate industrialization, increase energy and food production, and promote sustainable natural resource governance.

The GEO-6 Africa Regional Assessment is one of the six regional assessments that are currently contributing to the development of the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook. The analytical framework and approaches that were used in the regional report continue to inform countries in Africa as they develop their respective national State of Environment and Outlook Reports.



POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (PEI)



THE POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE



The Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) supports country led efforts to adopt integrated approaches to poverty reduction and environmental sustainability in national policymaking, planning and budget processes.

In 2016, PEI worked closely with the Governments of Tanzania, Mali and Burkina Faso to include poverty-environment objectives into the respective countries' new five year development plans and budgeting frameworks.

In Tanzania, sustainable natural resources management is recognized as one of the key strategic interventions for fostering economic growth and reducing poverty in the country. The Vice President's office has further earmarked 56.25% of its budget for environmental management. Interventions include enhancing community-based natural resource management and promotion of green energy.

In Mali, the development strategy now emphasizes that impacts of climate change requires new sustainable development paths that are beneficial to all. Budget allocations towards poverty-environment related interventions have also increased in four key sectors - Water, Environment, Urbanization and State Land – and environmental sustainability is recognized as key to meet the country's development goals, and in particular, food security.

In Burkina Faso, PEI together with partners assisted the government to apply an SDG prioritization tool to develop its national development plan. As a result, the country will prioritize four key SDGs, three of which are closely linked to the poverty-environment nexus: industrialization (SDG9), affordable and clean energy (SDG7), clean water and sanitation (SDG6) and environmental sustainability (SDG15).

PEI has also worked closely with ministries of agriculture, fisheries and forestry in Malawi, Mauritania and Tanzania to apply mainstreaming guidelines to ensure that sector policies and implementation plans include poverty-environment objectives.

In Malawi, PEI used key studies on the costs and benefits of (un)sustainable natural resource use, the cost of the gender gap in agriculture (partnership with UN Women and the World Bank) and a soil loss assessment (partnership with Food Agriculture Organization) to ensure the integration of poverty-environment objectives in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors. For example, the agriculture policy now promotes investments in climate-smart agriculture and sustainable land, soil and water management with a strong focus on empowering women and the youth in the sector. The fisheries policy emphasizes the need for an ecosystem approach to minimize the loss of biodiversity while ensuring that communities derive nutritive benefits from the waters.

In Tanzania, PEI supported two districts to adopt more sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices and the interventions have had clear benefits for women and men through bigger catches. Seeing the value of the interventions, the district authorities have in 2016 replicated the practices in at least two other locations; plans are underway to scale this up more widely through the national development plan. As a result, Tanzania's new National Fisheries Policy is centered on sustainable fisheries for poverty reduction and livelihood improvement.

Similarly, the Government of Mauritania is also up-scaling a PEI initiated training programme for women fish vendors aiming to increase the nutritional quality of fishery products, increase their added value, and their sale price and thus enhance women vendors' incomes. PEI Mauritania is linking these interventions through influencing relevant policies in the Ministry of Fisheries.



GREEN ECONOMY

OPERATIONALIZING GREEN ECONOMY TRANSITION IN AFRICA

The project Operationalizing Green Economy Transition in Africa supports the integration of a Green Economy approach into economic and development planning at the sub-national level.

The project (2014-2018) is jointly implemented by UN Environment and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and is funded by the German Federal Government through its International Climate Initiative (IKI). 2016 saw the most intense roll-out of the project to date, with baseline assessments being carried out for all pilot districts/counties, as well as conducting national and sub-national level trainings on green economy planning in four of the five pilot countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda).

In three of the pilot countries, draft green economy plans have already been developed for the pilot sub-national areas, and efforts are underway to support replication of the approach nationally.

In Ghana, four-year Integrated Green Economy Implementation Plans have been developed for the three pilot districts (Kumasi, Tema and Tolon). These were integrated into the District Annual Action Plans for 2017-2018, and will also be used as a basis for the Medium-Term Development Plans (MDTP) 2018-2019. The project is also supporting the National Development Planning Commission to integrate the Green Economy Toolkit and Step-by-Step Guide into the Planning Guidelines for the MDTP. This will ensure that the approach can be replicated and adopted by all 216 districts in Ghana.

In Kenya, both pilot counties (Nakuru and Mombasa) have integrated a green economy approach into their Annual Development Plans (ADPs) for 2017. The project will support the counties in developing their five-year County



Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) for launch in 2018. The project is also supporting the County Assemblies in developing the County Fiscal Strategy Papers (CFSP), which guide the county government in preparing its budget for the financial year and over the medium term. As there is currently no standard template for the ADPs, the project will work with the government to develop a new one in order to ensure the replication of the approach to the other 45 counties in the country.

In Ethiopia, Integrated Green Economy Implementation Plans (IGEIP) have been developed for the five pilot woredas (Adwa, Bambasi, Este, Wolmera and Wonsho) and submitted to the County Cabinets for review and approval before being integrated into the woreda development plans in 2017. The IGEIP for Wonsho has already been approved. In addition, the five National Technical Institutions supporting each woreda aim to integrate green economy planning into the curricula, based on the Green Economy Toolkit to ensure the continuity of the approach and training of future practitioners and experts on green economy planning.



ROOTING UN ENVIRONMENT VALUES DEEP IN WEST AFRICA



Strategic regional presence is one of the mandates of the Rio+20 outcome related to strengthening and upgrading UN Environment as the global environment authority. In the context of the 2030 Agenda, UN Environment promotes environmental sustainability at all levels as a crucial enabling factor in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and aims to build countries' capacity to track progress. Strategic and innovative partnerships are therefore essential to ensure that all partners including governments, regional/sub-regional institutions, UN agencies, civil society and the private sector, etc. have better access to UN Environment's expertise.



Accordingly, UN Environment and the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have taken concrete steps towards strengthening partnership in advancing environmental sustainability in the ECOWAS region.

Member States met in Abuja, Nigeria from 26-28 September 2016 and agreed to develop a formal cooperation framework that will guide their work to support their efforts towards implementing the environmental dimension of the ECOWAS Vision 2020, the African Union Agenda 2063,

and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

A stronger cooperation and a more strategic engagement between UN Environment and ECOWAS will create better synergies, coherence and concerted actions towards a transformative environmental agenda in the sub-region.



ECOSYSTEM BASED ADAPTATION FOR FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA ASSEMBLY (EBAFOSA)

EBAFOSA is making progress on multiple fronts towards positioning climate action as a socio-economic development opportunity in Africa. It is leveraging state and non-state actors for complementary synergistic actions that actualize country food and livelihood security priorities, alongside climate objectives as set out in their respective Intended Nationally Determined Contributions. Offshoots are as follows:

- **Expanding EBA Driven Agro Value-Chains in Malawi:** EBAFOSA is working with the Malawi Bureau of Standards to develop quality standards for the sesame crop as an Ecosystems Based Adaptation strategy. The aim is to mainstream the wide-scale use of this crop as a climate adaptation strategy and expand its domestic and export marketability. EBAFOSA is also working with farmers’ cooperatives to link farmers directly to large-scale traders hence enhance market linkage efficiencies and reduce marketing costs by cutting out middlemen. These actions are increasing farmer revenues thus incentivizing wide-scale growth of sesame which in turn builds community climate resilience through enhancing farmer incomes. It also makes a contribution in combating poverty while at the same time building bio-physical resilience given that the crop is drought resistant.
- **Spurring Youth Employment Opportunities in Nigeria:** EBAFOSA Nigeria has mobilized youth groups to partner with farmer cooperatives in developing an EBA farm, expanding reach of EBA site-based actions in Nigeria. This farm is being linked to markets and other commercial value chains to enhance earnings. Over 1000 youth are being engaged and this is contributing to sustainable development goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 13, 15 and 17 (with the partnerships on EBAFOSA playing a catalytic role) and Article 7 on adaptation of the Paris Agreement.



- **EBA Integrated into Policy In Kenya:** EBA has been integrated into Kenya’s Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy (SDGs 2 and 13, Article 7)
- **EBAFOSA Fostering Inclusive Partnerships with the Private Sector**
Solar Irrigation: SunCulture Kenya, a solar irrigation enterprise that is a member of EBAFOSA Kenya is partnering with farmer groups in the country to enhance use of solar irrigation. This is actualizing Kenya’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) priorities of climate smart, resource efficient agriculture, while also offsetting carbon in accordance with Article 4 of the Paris Agreement.
M-Kopa Solar: EBAFOSA Kenya has also partnered with M-Kopa solar, a pay-as-you go solar company focusing on domestic solar to expand access to industrial clean energy towards powering agro-industries hence directly contributing to SDGs 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, and 13. These lessons from Kenya will be replicated across the 40 EBAFOSA member countries in Africa.





ECOSYSTEM BASED ADAPTATION FOR FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA ASSEMBLY



Innovative Climate Financing: EBAFOSA is building on established agriculture financing risk sharing facilities to actualize voluntary adaptation financing (Article 9(2)). By leveraging EBA as a climate risk reducing component of the agriculture risk sharing facilities, the latter simultaneously finance upscaling adaptation given that EBA is an adaptation technique. Three partnerships with the private sector have to date been established:

1. Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) (targeting 5 ARC member countries - Ivory Coast, Malawi, Togo, Nigeria and Kenya)
2. Nigeria Incentive Based Risk Sharing System for Agriculture Lending - NIRSAL (Nigeria), and
3. Equity Bank Kenya Kilimo Biashara Initiative (Kenya).



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AFRICA OFFICE

NOF Block 2, Level 1, South-Wing
P.O. Box 30552, 00100
Nairobi, KENYA
Email: communication.roa@unep.org

www.unep.org/roa