



UN ENVIRONMENT NEWSLETTER

AFRICA OFFICE

MAR-APR 2017



WOMEN TURNING THE TIDE FOR CLEAN OCEANS



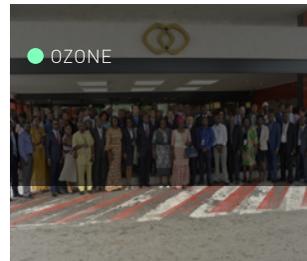
● AMCEN



● NEW ATLAS



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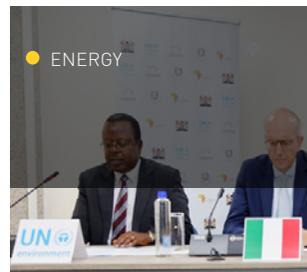
● OZONE



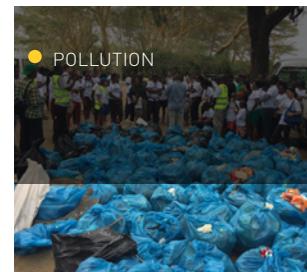
● CHEMICALS AND WASTE



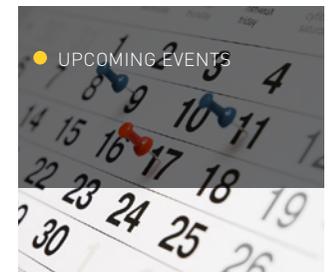
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THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (AMCEN)



THE SIXTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT TO BE HELD IN GABON



The Sixteenth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) will be held on June 12-16, 2017 in Libreville, Gabon, under the theme: "Investing in Innovative Environmental Solutions to Accelerate Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa".

The conference is an opportunity for ministers and experts to discuss and prepare Africa's common position and engagement in upcoming global

environmental fora such as the 13th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to be held this September in China; the 23rd Session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in November in Bonn, Germany; and the Third United Nations Environment Assembly of the UN Environment, whose theme is "Towards a Pollution Free Planet" that will take place in December 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya.

It will also be an opportunity for the Ministers to be updated on the implementation of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, Africa Adaptation Initiative as well as the process of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Ministers and experts will review progress made in the implementation of the decisions adopted at the fifteenth regular and the sixth special sessions of AMCEN, and will consider other emerging issues of interest to the region. At the end of the conference, the ministers will adopt a declaration, a set of decisions and key messages reflecting the discussions under the various agenda items.

The session will also offer an opportunity to discuss other pertinent issues, initiatives and processes related to the environment and sustainable development

on the continent including Ocean Governance, implementation of the strategy on Illegal Wildlife Trade, migration and environmental security, energy, preparation for the 14th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, deliberations on the outcomes of the Chemicals Conventions (Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm), as well as environment and youth engagement.

The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment was established in 1985 to strengthen cooperation between African Governments in economic, technical and scientific activities with the prime objective of halting and reversing the degradation of the African environment. AMCEN has contributed significantly to heightening policy responses of African Governments and the international community to the region's environmental and sustainable development challenges and opportunities.

Through its meetings, AMCEN provides guidance to governments and policy-makers on key regional policies and initiatives related to the environment and sustainable development on the continent. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of article 9 of its Constitution, AMCEN holds its ordinary sessions once every two or three years.

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NEW ATLAS SHOWS ENERGY POTENTIAL OF AFRICA AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT TO MEET AFRICA'S ENERGY NEEDS



Energy consumption in Africa is the lowest in the world, and per capita consumption has barely changed since 2000 shows a new Atlas released today by the UN Environment and African Development Bank at the World Economic Forum being held in Durban, South Africa.

Current energy production in Africa is insufficient to meet demand. About a third of the total African population still lacks access to electricity and 53 per cent of the population depends on biomass for cooking, space heating and drying. A kettle boiled twice by a family in the United Kingdom uses five times as much electricity as a Malian uses in a year.

Prepared in cooperation with the Environment Pulse Institute, United States Geological Survey and George Mason University, the Atlas consolidates the information on the energy landscape in Africa. It provides information in the form of detailed 'before and after' images, charts, maps and other satellite data from 54 countries through visuals detailing the challenges and opportunities in providing Africa's population with access to reliable, affordable and modern energy services.

"The Atlas makes a strong case that investments in green energy infrastructure can bolster Africa's economic development and bring it closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It is therefore an important policy guide for African governments as they strive to catalyze

national development by making use of their energy resources," said Juliette Biao Koudonoukpo, Director and Regional Representative, UN Environment, Africa Office.

The Atlas shows both the potential and the fragility of the continent's energy resources which are at the heart of Africa's socio-economic development. It highlights some success stories of sustainable energy development around the continent, but it also puts the spotlight on major environmental challenges associated with energy infrastructure development.

"This Atlas will be instrumental to ease access to information and data in the energy sector for all stakeholders, including the donor community, African governments and the private sector," said Amadou Hott, Vice-President in charge of power, energy, climate and green growth, African Development Bank.

Reserves of coal, natural gas and oil represent 3.6 per cent, 7.5 per cent and 7.6 per cent of global reserves respectively. A growing population, sustained industrialization and rising urbanization mean that energy demand in Africa is increasing. Only an insignificant fraction of the existing energy potential has been tapped into—leaving the continent lagging behind in the production and manufacturing sectors due to low and unreliable access to energy.



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POVERTY ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE



LOCAL SOLUTIONS INFORM NATIONAL PRIORITIES: WASTE BECOME BIOGAS, IMPROVES YIELDS AND GENDER RELATIONS IN TANZANIA

In 2014 the Poverty-Environment Initiative of the UN Development Programme and UN Environment partnered with districts across Tanzania to examine the relationship between poverty and environmental sustainability. Informed by findings from the assessment, sustainable agriculture and energy practices were piloted in Sengerema District in northern Tanzania.

Today more than 120 rural women and men in Sengerema benefit from biogas plants and modern cook stoves in their homes. The biogas installations are fed with animal and human waste which then provides energy for households used in cooking, and lighting. Women in the community say that the stoves save them more than three hours a day previously spent to gather fuelwood. They can now devote more time to income-generating activities such as agriculture. This was in part due to a surprising change in gender roles too, because the new devices make cooking easier. "Boys are now participating in cooking, unlike in the past, which gives me time to do other chores" said 60 year old Bibi from Nyampande village.

Bio-slurry, a by-product of the biogas production, is applied to the farms to improve soil fertility, resulting in increased agricultural outputs. Improved soil fertility also means that farmers use less chemical fertilizers, leading to improved savings. This has positive effects on the environment as well and will improve food security and income for poor households.

"I use the waste products from biogas to grow crops around my home, which has led to increased agricultural productivity and enhanced income generation," said Maama, an elderly lady from Nyampande village.



These types of interventions can help close the gender gap in agricultural productivity common in developing countries. Gender-based inequalities in access to and control of productive and financial resources inhibit women's agricultural productivity. In Tanzania, the gender gap in agricultural productivity is estimated to cost the country \$105 million every year. If this gap could be closed and women empowered to be as productive as men, 80,000 people could be lifted out of poverty every year while crop production could increase by at least 2 % (UN Women, UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative and the World Bank, 2015).

In Tanzania, the Poverty-Environment Initiative works closely with research institutions, civil society organizations and district councils to document the experiences from the ground to inform national development planning and budgeting processes. Recognizing the positive impacts of renewable energy solutions as evidenced from the pilot interventions, Tanzania's new National Five Year Development Plan aims to promote clean and affordable renewable green energy technologies including biogas.

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GENDER AND YOUTH



#BEBOLDFORCHANGE: WOMEN TURNING THE TIDE FOR CLEAN OCEANS

This year, UN Environment headquarters in Nairobi celebrated International Women’s Day in style by participating in the Global Goals World Cup event. UN Environment had an all-women team consisting of employees in the organization playing for and promoting Sustainable Development Goal #14.

The football event was held on 5th March 2017 at Impala Sports Club in Nairobi, Kenya. Among the women playing was Juliette Biao, Director and Regional Representative for Africa at UN Environment and Damaris Mungai, Gender and Youth Officer in the Africa Office. Other players came from the Gender and Social Safeguards Unit, Executive Office and Communication Division.

It was a five-a-side activist football tournament where amateur teams of girls and women played football to raise awareness on the UN Global Goals and advocate for change. UN Development Programme Goodwill Ambassador and Game of Thrones celebrity actor, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, graced the day and was a referee in the tournament along with Victor Ochen, Nobel Peace Prize nominee (2015) and founder of African Youth Initiative Network in Uganda.

UN Environment chose Goal 14 (Life Below Water) seeking to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. On February 23rd, 2017 UN Environment launched a global campaign dubbed #CleanSeas Campaign. This is a global movement targeting governments, industry and consumers to urgently reduce the production and excessive use of plastic that is polluting the earth’s oceans, damaging marine life and threatening human health.

According to UN Environment, 60-90% of marine litter is plastics. Women can play their part in the fight against marine litter by avoiding cosmetics with microbeads, which could help turn the tide on plastics in water bodies. The women at UN Environment are particularly urging their colleagues, family and friends to take action against plastic packaging and shopping bags.



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QUEEN'S BATON FLIES THE FLAG ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



The Queen's Baton for the Commonwealth Games was in Kenya between 5-8 April 2017, in a country that has become synonymous with athletic prowess especially on middle and long distance track events globally. The Baton is to the Commonwealth Games what the Torch is to the Olympics, or the World Cup Trophy is to the World Cup.

The 2018 Commonwealth games, officially known as the XXI Commonwealth Games and commonly known as Gold Coast 2018, is an international multi-sport event for members of the Commonwealth that will be held on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia in April 2018.

The Baton has been making its way from the United Kingdom heading to Australia's Gold Coast in what is known as the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay. It makes several stops in Commonwealth countries around the world and is used as a symbol of solidarity and to spread a message at every stop.

The message that the Baton advocated for in Kenya was one on environmental sustainability. UN Environment and the Australian High Commission to Kenya teamed up to mark the leg of the Baton's relay in the country through sports on April 8. Sports teams from a cross-section of society ranging from women, refugees, children, youth and the physically disabled participated. Teams put up a spirited display of sportsmanship and commitment to the theme of the games.

The event held at the lush Karura Forest and attracted an audience of over 300 people including dignitaries from various countries in Africa. Present were the Ambassador of Australia to Kenya and the Director and Regional Representative for Africa at UN Environment, who were also the co-conveners of the event. One famous Kenyan athlete who graced the occasion was Tegla Lorupe as the chief guest. Lorupe is a renowned

athlete who has won several prestigious medals. Other athletes included Catherine Ndereba and the legendary Kipchoge Keino. The Commonwealth Games Federation was represented by the vice-president, Sam Gideon.

In her remarks, Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, UN Environment Africa Office Regional Representative and Regional Director said, «The 5ps of the Sustainable Development Goals implementation (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership) require us to take an inclusive approach in caring for the environment.» She placed emphasis on the #LeaveNoOneBehind message and talked about tackling pollution from plastics.

His Excellency, John Feakes, Australian Ambassador to Kenya called on participants to be advocates of the environmental sustainability message while Mr. Gideon challenged all to "live" the message in order to become effective influencers and advocates.

The event demonstrated the power of advocacy through sports and how it can drive change by cutting across gender, age, race, religion and physical boundaries. In addition, participants also planted trees at the venue of the event as testimony to the unbridled audacity of hope demonstrated by all who dared to become the change.



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OZONE



POST KIGALI AMENDMENT: OZONE OFFICERS IN AFRICA CHART WAY FORWARD

National Ozone Officers from Africa gathered in Abidjan on 20-24 March 2017 to review and address challenges related to the phase-out of HCFCs and their national Montreal Protocol activities as well as to discuss strategic frameworks and plans of action for HFC phase-down. The meeting was organized by UN Environment in collaboration with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire.

The meeting was officially opened by H. E. Madame Anne Désirée Ouloto, Minister of Environment of Côte d'Ivoire. She called on countries to ratify the Kigali Amendment by the end of 2017 and urged the national ozone officers to lead the ratification process in their countries.

Ms. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, Director and Regional Representative, Africa Office, UN Environment commended the efforts from member states and encouraged participants to keep up the good efforts to ensure African countries fully meet their obligations under the Montreal Protocol.

Under the Kigali Amendment, most developing countries, including Africa are expected to freeze HFCs consumption in 2024 based on 2020-22 levels and achieve a ten per cent reduction in 2029. The Kigali Amendment will enter into force on 1 January 2019, provided that it is ratified by at least 20 parties to the Montreal Protocol.

The immediate obligation for African countries under the Kigali Amendment is to ratify the Agreement and establish HFC consumption baselines by 2024. The Republic of Mali has set the pace for other African countries by ratifying the amendment, five months after it was agreed upon in Kigali.



During the meeting, Mr. Kofi Agyarko, Head of Energy Commission, Ghana, presented a case on the first African Refrigerator Market Transformation programme, where 10,000 used and energy-inefficient refrigerating appliances were exchanged for the same number of new and more efficient ones. This led to average consumer energy savings of 850kWh and US\$ 120/year. Mr. Agyarko emphasized that good cooperation between the Energy Commission and Ghana National Ozone Unit significantly contributed to attaining this achievement.

The meeting also discussed how the African network countries will meet their 2020 control measures for HCFCs while addressing technological challenges related to different sectors. It demonstrated the Multilateral Fund's online Country Programme data reporting platform, discussed climate co-benefits of the ODS phase-out, energy efficient issues and how UN Environment and countries can provide capacity building, support and guidance.

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YOUTH IN ACTION FOR A POLLUTION FREE AFRICA

Over 150 youth delegates from 24 African Countries gathered at the United Nations Office in Nairobi on April 19-20 for the Pan Africa Youth Conference held under the theme, "Partnership for Capacity Development on Sustainable Urbanization, Protection Against Hazardous Chemicals and Waste towards Achieving 2030 Agenda."

The overall objective of the conference was to raise awareness and identify collaborative partnerships for the youth with governments, private sector and civil society organizations to enhance an inclusive and sustainable socio-economically developed Africa, free of hazardous chemicals and waste.

The conference was hosted under the auspices of the UN Environment-Africa Office, with support from the UN Environment International Environmental Technology Centre, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Kenya, National Environment Management Authority of Kenya, Green Economy Alliance Partners Kenya, African Youth Partnership Initiative, Safaricom Limited, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and other partners.

H.E. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in Kenya, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment and Dr. Manu Chandaria, Chandaria Innovation Centre officiated the opening of the conference.

The youth conference was timely, falling just a week prior to the meetings of the Conference of Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions which took place in Geneva Switzerland on April 24-May 5, 2017. The three Conventions all address measures to promote and ensure the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste, including the phase-out of hazardous substances.



In his closing remarks, Frank Turyatunga, Deputy Regional Director for Environment, urged the youth to be catalysts for change and seize opportunities to find innovative solutions to the continent's challenges. He noted that youth have the potential to transform Africa through their fresh and dynamic approaches to problem-solving in the sustainable management of chemicals and waste, which can in turn create jobs and promote healthier living.

The key organizer of the event was the National Youth Green Growth Secretariat (NY2GS), a youth-led organization striving to achieve Green Economy transition in Kenya and across Africa through active youth engagement and participation to drive development.



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ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE



UN Environment works with countries around the world to strengthen laws and institutions so that criminal acts in violation of environmental laws can be addressed at national and international levels.

UN Environment collaborates with national governments, INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, the Convention on International Trade in

Endangered Species (CITES) and the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement to strengthen legal responses to environmental crime. Through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), UN Environment assists countries to strengthen weak legislation on trade in endangered species by enhancing the understanding of the links between appropriate domestic legislation and preventing and combating illegal trade in wildlife. This includes work on prohibiting trade in specimens in violation of the Convention and ensuring there are appropriate legal means of penalization and confiscation in place at national levels.

Many of the countries in Africa are making good progress on meeting CITES requirements; some are even at the stage of presenting draft legislation and UN Environment is supporting them in this work. In the past one year, UN Environment has assisted over 25 African countries in various capacities to strengthen environmental governance in the areas of: biodiversity access and benefit sharing, illegal trade in wildlife, green courts, enforcement capacity, diplomacy and understanding/ implementing multilateral agreements.

UN Environment has provided support in raising awareness relating to requirements for CITES domestic legislation and articulation of their needs in countries such as Angola, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Zimbabwe, among others.

In Kenya, support has been provided through training judges and magistrates on environmental law theories and techniques. In Mauritius, UN Environment has facilitated agreement on a common approach on the framework for developing and implementing judicial training programmes on environmental law

The training conducted have focused on topics in environmental law, multilateral environmental agreements and CITES national legislation. Experts trained include 100 judges and magistrates in Kenya, 50 judges and prosecutors in Malawi, 30 judges and magistrates in Zimbabwe and 40 enforcement officers in Seychelles.

UN Environment continues to engage countries, convention secretariats and other partner organizations to strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks and to address the root causes of environmental crimes.

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FINANCING FROM ITALY BOOSTS GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT IN KENYA

The Ambassador of Italy to Kenya, H.E. Mauro Massoni and the Deputy Regional Director, Africa Office of UN Environment, Mr. Frank Turyatunga today signed a partnership agreement to cement collaboration in geothermal resource exploration and development in Kenya.

The agreement signed today will mainly provide technical assistance, through UN Environment, to the two main players of geothermal exploration and development in Kenya: Kenyan Electricity Generation Company (Kengen) and the Geothermal Development Company (GDC).

The main purpose of this technical assistance is to accelerate the pace of geothermal resource development in Kenya including in Suswa, Eburru and Elementaita and Baringo in terms of both electricity production and direct use application in agriculture and industry sectors. Geothermal energy has various potential benefits and offers immense opportunity for sustainable growth and development of African economies.

The agreement will be implemented under the African Rift Geothermal Development Facility Programme (ARGeo) of UN Environment. Through

the ARGeo programme, East African Rift countries are forging a collective strategy to develop this huge untapped resource.

“UN Environment is celebrating this milestone because it signifies that our partners, such as the Government of Italy (through the Italian Development Cooperation) appreciate our work and entrust us with resources to support member states, through our competency and in delivering our organization’s mandate of “promoting the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the sustainable development’ in the UN System, towards implementation of the agendas on Sustainable Development Goals, Africa Union Agenda 2063 as well as the Paris Agreement”, said Frank Turyatunga.

Kenya has made remarkable progress in generation and development of 653 Mega Watt from geothermal resource at the Olkaria and Eburru geothermal fields where about 105 Mega Watt is at the wellhead of the Menengai geothermal prospects for development. This demonstrates the matured infrastructural and institutional capacities in Kenya in terms of geothermal resource exploration and development. Other African countries can learn from its best practices and experiences.



African countries also recently agreed to set up the “Africa Geothermal of Excellence” to be hosted by the Government of Kenya.

UN Environment has reiterated its commitment to support the establishment of this Center of Excellence in collaboration with other partners, towards the objective of promoting sustainable geothermal development in Africa.



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POLLUTION



UN ENVIRONMENT ON THE FRONTLINE AGAINST POLLUTION IN AFRICA



A major clean-up exercise took place today at Lake Naivasha in Kenya as part of activities to mark World Water Day. UN Environment, in conjunction with a non-governmental organization, Clean Up Kenya, supported local action on Lake Naivasha to draw attention to the threats facing freshwater bodies all across the world.

Lake Naivasha, a RAMSAR site (The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance), provides livelihoods, food and water to thousands of

residents. However, the lake's biodiversity is critically threatened by human factors, including: pollution (from plastics, discarded fishing gear, pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers), sewage effluent, livestock feeding lots and water extraction.

Kenya has joined the list of countries that have placed a ban on the use of plastic bags. Effective September 2017, the use, manufacture and importation of all plastic bags used for commercial and household packaging will be banned.

Use of and poor waste management of non-biodegradable plastic bags is a major concern across the country and is evidenced by the havoc wreaked on the environment including in freshwater and ocean systems.

UN Environment welcomed the commitment of the government of Kenya towards environmental stewardship noting that plastic bags kill birds, fish and other animals that mistake them for food. Plastics also damage agricultural land, pollute tourist sites and provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes that carry malaria and dengue fever. Through the Clean Seas Initiative, UN Environment has declared 'war on plastics' and is calling on



governments, businesses and individuals to join the campaign and take action to address pollution from plastics.

Over 150 participants from UN Environment and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) dedicated their time at Lake Naivasha and focused clean-up efforts on the Karagita public beach. In addition, 1,500 participants from schools, flower farms and other local organizations participated in five other clean-up sites around the lake.

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2017

16th session of the African
Ministerial Conference on the
Environment (AMCEN)
Libreville, Gabon





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