



SWITCH Africa Green
is funded by the
European Union



SWITCH AFRICA GREEN QUARTERLY REPORT (April - June 2017)



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



© 2017 SWITCH Africa Green

SWITCH Africa Green Quarterly Report (April - June 2017)

Graphics/Layout: Job Mubinya (UN Environment)

Reproduction of this publication for educational or non-commercial purposes is authorized without prior written permission from the copyright holders provided the source is fully acknowledged. Reproduction of this publication for resale or other commercial purposes is strictly prohibited without prior written permission from the copyright holder.



www.switchafricagreen.org

Cover Photos: SWITCH Africa Green



SWITCH Africa Green
is funded by the
European Union



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mauritius National Networking Forum 1

South Africa National Networking Forum..... 5

Africa’s Environment Ministers Discuss Green Business Development Potential 6

European Development Days 2017 7

World Circular Economy Forum..... 9

South-South Cooperation A Powerful Mechanism For Sustainable Consumption and
Production In Africa And Latin America And The Caribbean11



PREAMBLE

In this quarter, SWITCH Africa Green held two National Networking forums in Mauritius and South Africa. These forums brought together participants from government, development partners, civil society and the private sector including SWITCH Africa Green grantees and beneficiaries. SAG Networking forums provide support services for networking and communication among the projects, distilling knowledge from project implementation for wider replication, and facilitation of policy uptake.

The main objective of the networking forums in Mauritius was to discuss opportunities, challenges and barriers faced by the private sector in transitioning to an inclusive, low carbon green economy that promotes SCP practices and patterns and to discuss ways of scaling up and replicating green business in the context of trade associations, MSMEs, government policies and programmes; and foster networking between different project entities with other stakeholders. Through SAG support, Mauritius has been able to develop and are currently implementing a 'Greening the Economy Country Implementation Plan'.

In the SAG Networking forum in South Africa, it was noted that the private is keen on exploring ways of transitioning to Green Economy. South Africa has developed its National Implementation Plan and has identified priority areas of intervention.

This report also covers SAG's participation in the 16th African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN). SAG brought together Ministers of environment from the six pilot countries in a side event that discussed the enabling environment for green business development in Africa. In addition, SAG also participated in the European Development Days 2017 where beneficiary entrepreneurs showcased their innovative products at the exhibition in Brussels. One of the entrepreneurs participated in the project lab titled: Building a global community of sustainable enterprises improving livelihoods.

In addition, two beneficiaries of SWITCH Africa Green beneficiaries participated in the 17 Circular SMEs meet the 17 SDG goals at the World Circular Economic Forum held in Helsinki. Finally, SAG participated in the South-South Cooperation Conference on Sustainable Consumption and Production held in Brasilia where participants discussed among other issues the role of MSMEs, eco-innovation and circular economy. Enjoy the read.

MAURITIUS NATIONAL NETWORKING FORUM

SWITCH Africa Green Networking Forums are part of the networking facility whose aim is to provide project support services for networking and communication among the projects and countries, distilling knowledge from project implementation for wider replication, and facilitation of policy uptake.

The SWITCH Africa Green National Networking Forum in Mauritius was held in two parts. The first meeting took place at the Cultural and Leisure Centre, Mont Plaisir, Rodrigues Island from 8 – 9 May, 2017 and the second meeting took place at the Business Parks of Mauritius Ltd (BPML) Cyber Tower 1 – Ebène Cybercity from 10 – 12 May, 2017. Together, these forums attracted about 170 participants from government, development partners, civil society and the private sector including SWITCH Africa Green grantees and beneficiaries. The main objective of the networking forums was to discuss opportunities, challenges and barriers faced by the private sector in transitioning to an inclusive, low carbon green economy that promotes SCP practices and patterns and to discuss ways of scaling up and replicating green business in the context of trade associations, MSMEs, government policies and programmes; and foster networking between different project entities with other stakeholders.

The forum in Rodrigues Island attracted about 100 participants and was officially opened by the Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues, Mr. L. Serge Clair. While delivering the keynote address, Mr. Clair reiterated the need for sustainable agricultural practices and lauded the role of the SWITCH Africa Green project in championing sustainable production and

consumption practices as he highlighted the regional government's agenda of promoting local production. He celebrated the action that has resulted in positive impact from this initiative including job creation for the youth in Rodrigues.

33 beneficiaries who had gone through various SAC trainings including book-keeping, candle and soap making, making soft toys, horticulture and making beauty products were awarded certificates during the forum. About 320 people have so far been trained since the project started and are operating various enterprises applying sustainable production and consumption practices in their business. 90% of these entrepreneurs are women. 31 of these businesses displayed their various products in an exhibition during the forum. Various topics were discussed during the forum including the local context of Green Economy and the Instruments for Entrepreneurship and Services. Eight SWITCH Africa Green entrepreneurs made presentations, sharing their experiences on how they have been able to implement Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) practices in their businesses. Rodrigues Island has three grantees working with about 1000 MSMEs helping them green their businesses with a focus on Agriculture, Manufacturing and Tourism as the priority sectors.



A section of the exhibition area in Rodrigues where 31 entrepreneurs exhibited their products in various sectors

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green



Group photo of the participants attending the forum in Mauritius

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

The forum in Mauritius commenced on 10th May, 2017 which was attended by about 70 participants. The event was attended by Hon (Mrs) Fazila Jeewa-Daureeawoo (Minister of Gender Equality, Child

Development and Family Welfare, Acting Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development), Simon Springet (UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative), H. E Marjaana Sall (Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius) and Mrs. Ng Yun Wing Sin Lan (Director of Environment, Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, Environment and Sustainable Development), the members of the National Technical Coordinating Committee (NTCC)

among others. Ms. Sall highlighted the EU's role in contributing directly to the implementation of SDG12 in ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns are adopted.

"With the Switch Africa Green initiative, the European Union supports this development and offers a significant opportunity for Mauritius to develop its green economy through the SMEs for job creation, value addition and economic democratization," she said referring to the Mauritian vision of becoming a high-income economy through strengthening SMEs.

Mr. Springett reiterated the UN's dedication in driving progress in Green Economy. "[Mauritius]' dedication



L to R: Ng Yun Wing Sin Lan (Director of Environment, Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, Environment and Sustainable Development), Mr. Ashis Kumar Hoolass (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, Environment and Sustainable Development), Simon Springet (UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative), Hon (Mrs) Fazila Jeewa Daureeawoo, Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, Acting Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity, Environment and Sustainable Development), H.E. Ambassador Marjaana Sall (Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius)

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

to the cause of green economy can bring policy reforms and incentives to stimulate the public and private sectors, as well as development partners to invest more funds in clean technologies, renewable energy sources, water efficiency and waste management, all of which will be more sensitive to the environment without compromising the livelihoods of the people of the country," he said.

While delivering the keynote address, Hon. Mrs. Jeewa-Daareewoo noted that current resource use was not sustainable hence the need to switch to more sustainable consumption and production patterns with resource efficiency at its core. Stressing on the importance of advancing to a greener economy.

"...the SWITCH Africa Green project has been an important lever since its inception to catalyze action towards a greener economy," she said recognizing the project's contribution to Green Economy. Notably, the minister highlighted cabinet endorsement of the Country Implementation Plan, which was done with support from SWITCH Africa Green.

Various grantees and project partners made presentations on the progress made, best practices, opportunities and best practices covering the priority sectors in Mauritius; Agriculture, Manufacturing and Tourism. Various presentations on organic farming, sustainable agricultural techniques and promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in the tourism sector were made. Mauritius is now working towards implementing the 'Greening the Economy Country Implementation Plan' having formed sub-committees to work on the identified priority areas.



H.E. Ambassador Marjaana Sall (Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius) delivering the opening remarks during the session

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

Agriculture, Manufacturing and Tourism are the priority sectors in Mauritius



An entrepreneur from Rodrigues showing products made from paper waste at the forum in Rodrigues

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green



1. Some of the young women undergoing training on how to use waste paper to create decorative products as a green business opportunity
2. Marie Lourdes Allas, a SWITCH Africa Green beneficiary, explaining the process of making jam from starfruit in the kitchen where she practises agro-processing
- 3&4. Herman Agathe, an 18-year old beneficiary feeding some of the animals he has in his farm and standing in front of a house he is building for himself from the profits generated from his agri-business initiative (RIGHT)
5. Rhoda Wachira (UN Environment) giving a report on the results of the technical monitoring and evaluation report in Mauritius during the networking forum
6. Group photo of some of the participants that attended the networking forum in Rodrigues
7. Serge Clair (Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues) delivering the opening remarks before officially opening the Networking Forum in Rodrigues

SOUTH AFRICA NATIONAL NETWORKING FORUM

Focusing on Agriculture, Integrated Waste Management and Manufacturing, South Africa has five grantees under the SWITCH Africa Green project working with about 600 enterprises

South Africa held its SWITCH Africa Green national networking forum on 28 June 2017, hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs. About 50 participants comprising of project stakeholders and beneficiaries including the National Technical Committee members, grantees, beneficiaries (MSMEs), UN agencies, and EU delegations.

The networking forum brought together key stakeholders to discuss the opportunities, challenges, and barriers faced by the private sector in scaling up and replicating green business, transitioning to an inclusive green economy and promoting SCP in South Africa. In addition, the networking platform aimed to foster closer relationship between different entities involved in green business development activities and the promotion of SCP. Participants held discussions on policy development through public participatory approach.

It was also noted that the private sector in South Africa is keen on exploring ways of transitioning to green economy, and keeping commitments to climate change and environmental protection.

South Africa has also developed its national implementation plan, and has identified priority

areas of intervention to promote the establishment of green businesses as well as the promotion of SCP. These include policy actions on promoting Climate Smart Agriculture, Circular Economy – integrated waste management and water efficiency in the manufacturing sector.

There was also an exhibition from grantees and beneficiaries to showcase the best practices and lessons learned that has been garnered from the project to date.

South Africa has developed its National Implementation Plan and has identified priority areas of intervention



Group photo of the participants attending the forum in South Africa

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

AFRICA'S ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS DISCUSS GREEN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL



Klaus Rudichauser (Deputy Director-General for Development, European Union) making a point during the side event at AMCEN. On his right is Juliette Biao (Director and Regional Representative, Africa Office, UN Environment) and on his left is Patrick Mwesigye (Regional Coordinator, Resource Efficiency, UN Environment)

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

Under the auspices of the 16th African Ministerial Conference on Environment session (AMCEN 16), Ministers of Environment from the six SWITCH Africa Green pilot countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda) discussed the enabling environment for green business development in Africa

The Ministers shared their assessment on the opportunities and challenges faced by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in greening their businesses in Africa. Against a backdrop of African economies being highly dependent on natural resources, prioritizing transition to a green economy potentially offers opportunities for the region to attract investments in environmental assets; promote resource efficient production processes; encourage Eco-innovation and investments in renewable energy, which will support economic development, reduce poverty and create employment.

"Today the private sector is a key partner for government. We are living in an era in which businesses and governments need to work together.



Participants visit one of the exhibition stands at the meeting

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

We need complete sustainability in the business culture and operations in our countries" said Hon. Patricia Appiagyei, Deputy Minister of Environment, Ghana. Other countries also expressed interest in being included in the programme which has registered positive results in its first phase currently being implemented.

"The implementation of SWITCH Africa confirms the huge potential of green business development to growth and jobs. In a recent survey based on a sample of SWITCH Africa grantees, project partners reported they had created an average of 295 "green jobs" per project. If all 34 projects supported under SWITCH Africa Green have created so many jobs, it means that the programme has already created more than 10,000 jobs in total", said Mr. Bernard Crabbe (European Union) who gave the opening remarks during the meeting.

SWITCH Africa Green project has supported more than 3,000 Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the uptake of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) practices across four main sectors - Agriculture, Manufacturing, Tourism and Waste management. Some of these enterprises from the six pilot countries participated in an exhibition during the meeting.

This demonstrates that green business development is important in protecting the environment, creating jobs and providing livelihoods for the bulging population in Africa.

African Ministers held discussions on enabling Green Business Development in Africa

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2017

European Development Days (EDD) is an annual event that brings the development community together each year to share ideas and experiences in ways that inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

EDD 2017 promoted a new global strategy to address the most pressing current global development challenges and bring together development actors committed to tackling poverty worldwide with a particular emphasis

on engaging the private sector as a partner in economic development. Overarching objectives of the private sector engagement included the promotion of inclusive growth and the creation of decent jobs in particular for women and youth, which leads to improved living conditions.

SWITCH Africa Green participated in the global village and in the project lab titled: Building a global community of sustainable enterprises improving livelihoods

As part of The European Development Days (EDD), the Global Village featured stands showcasing successful projects and reports from around the world. It was a great opportunity for participants to network with and share stories from the field. The Village was composed of up to 80 stands that featured projects, reports or programmes related to the EDD's themes: Investing in People and Planet, Investing in Prosperity, Investing in Peace and Partnership. The stands were designed to underline the useful, practical and knowledge-sharing aspect of the forum.

SWITCH Africa Green co-hosted a cluster booth at the Global Village with SWITCH Asia, SWITCH Med and SWITCH 2 Green facility to exhibit the activities and products of the beneficiaries from the SWITCH programmes and showcase impacts of green business development in the respective regions.

In addition, the four SWITCH Programmes gave a two minute pitch under the private sector topic: Building a global community of sustainable enterprises improving livelihoods. During the pitch the 4 programmes also invited participants to learn more about these programmes by visiting to the SWITCH stand. (Insert a brief about the two MSMEs).

Business switch to green with innovative support services - The SWITCH Programme engages with the private sector to promote an inclusive green economy

The session addressed the transition to an inclusive green economy as a new model of development, which can be based on the circular economy paradigm. The session focused on the experience of the SWITCH programmes in Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean region, in developing partnerships with the private sector to shift SME's behaviour and practice, towards Sustainable Production & Consumption patterns. The lab generated a debate on private sector collaboration approaches – ranging from enabling eco-entrepreneurship to providing



Generous (Middle), a Ugandan entrepreneur displaying some of the products from her company, Aloesha, supported by SWITCH Africa Green showcasing at the European Development Days 2017

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

SWITCH Africa Green participated in the global village and in the project lab titled: Building a global community of sustainable enterprises improving livelihoods

MSMEs with technical assistance on SCP and to enhancing sustainable value chains – and how these can become more effective in the context of the inclusive green economy transition. The session was moderated by Mr Alexander Charalambous, SWITCH to Green Facility and the panel comprised of 4 panellists from EU, SWITCH Asia, SWITCH Med and SWITCH Africa Green.

Ms Chantal Marijnissen (European Commission DG Development Cooperation Unit C2 - Environment, Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Wildlife) outlined the portfolio of EU development cooperation initiatives on inclusive green economy, emphasising on the support available to the private sector through the SWITCH regional programmes.

Ms Nour Kays (SWITCH Med), presented her win-win experience from partnering with the SwitchMed programme as both a Switcher and an incubated green entrepreneur, emphasising on aspects proving there is a business case in such partnerships.

Mr James Mwaura Muiruri (SWITCH Africa Green), described the types of interventions that he has received from Switch Africa Green and the benefits he has seen/his business has experienced since the intervention of the project.

Mr Vivekanad Mishra (SWITCH



An entrepreneur from Kenya, James Mwaura (Director, Champion Shoes) displaying some of the products made by his enterprise

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

Asia), explained what was the added value to his business of engaging in the SWITCH-Asia programme, highlighting those aspects that supported the decision to switch to green production.



The panelists at the project lab where discussions focused on businesses switching to green with innovative support services

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

WORLD CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM



Participants hold discussions during the meeting

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

The World Circular Economy Forum 2017 (WCEF2017) took place from 5-7 June 2017, in Helsinki, Finland. The meeting brought together the world's leading experts and decision makers circular economy field—a total of around 1,500 participants from over 100 countries.

WCEF2017 was convened to show how the circular economy presents new and unprecedented opportunities to create wealth and support well-being, as well as to demonstrate that it is an essential engine for achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Host country Finland presented its experiences with turning the vision of a circular economy into reality and delivering clear benefits across all sectors of business and society.

WCEF2017 featured 17 plenary and parallel sessions showcasing circular economy solutions for business, cities and finance. A wide variety of topics were addressed, including: integrating the circular economy into the 2030 Agenda; innovation challenges for the circular economy; circular cities; economic research on the circular economy; and financing the circular economy. All 17 sessions were live streamed, and the video recordings are available on the WCEF2017 website. A short video summarizing the meeting is also available.

Nine key messages emerged from WCEF2017. These called on public and private actors to, inter alia, mainstream the circular economy into the global economic model and its deployment in the front line of the world's drive to achieve the SDGs and combat climate change.

Table talks

Participants engaged in three 20-minute rounds of “table talks,” in which the SME representatives presented their company’s work in more detail at a table with around ten participants. SME representatives described the nature of their businesses, as well as guiding principles, successes, challenges and future ambitions. They also addressed the wider socio-economic and environmental impacts of their products or services, and ways in which their work ties into the SDG framework. These short presentations were followed by an interactive discussion. Participants then moved to another table and SME. Following three such rounds of “table talks,” there was an opportunity for additional information exchange and networking.



Participants hold discussions during the meeting

Photo | SWITCH Africa Green

Meetings were held using innovative formats, including a game show, talk shows and “table talks.” Workshops and side events were also on the agenda, as well as organized networking opportunities such as a Marketplace with 24 selected exhibitors, an Opportunities Stage for short pitches, and “lakeside chats.” On the third day of the meeting, participants took part in various side events and business excursions. Two beneficiaries of SWITCH Africa Green project participated in the 17 Circular SMEs meet the 17 SDG goals; Allan Ochieng Marega of Global Supply Solutions Limited (Kenya), and Harm Voortman of Anatrans SARL (Burkina Faso),

Two beneficiaries of SWITCH Africa Green project participated in the 17 Circular SMEs meet the 17 SDG goals

17 CIRCULAR SMEs MEET THE 17 SDGS

This parallel session, held on Monday, was moderated by Peter Woodward, Quest Associates.

Ashok Khosla, Development Alternatives India, addressed circular economy in the developing world and the role of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Stressing the need to involve the “people who got left behind,” he described a vicious cycle of inequality, poverty and resource destruction.

As a case study, Khosla outlined the successful development of a circular economy hub in India becoming the center of village development. He said a textile recycling company was central to this hub, and noted that it provides jobs and encourages families to use their earnings to purchase goods that sustainably improve their living standard, such as low-cost water filters and clean cook stoves. Khosla concluded that vicious cycles can be transformed into virtuous cycles of increased wellbeing, smaller families, local jobs and livelihoods, and increased income.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION A POWERFUL MECHANISM FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Some of the participants pose for a photo at the meeting

Photo | South-South Cooperation

The South-South Cooperation Conference on Sustainable Consumption and Production took place on 6-7 April, 2017 in Brasilia and was organized by Brazilian Ministry of the Environment and UN Environment.

The conference brought together participants of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, the global platform for action to increase cooperation and promote sustainable consumption and production worldwide, including national focal points and members of the six thematic programmes of the Framework, which focus on sustainable public procurement, tourism, food systems, buildings and construction, lifestyles and consumer information.

Practitioners from the African and Latin American regions swapped knowledge and best practices at the conference, also discussing the role of small- and medium-sized enterprises, eco-innovation, circular economy and integrated waste management.

“The financing, facilitation and transfer of clean technologies and the development and sharing of capacities for the sustainable use of natural resources at the global level are cornerstones in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In this context, Sustainable Consumption and Production is a change of paradigm”, the Brazilian Minister of the Environment, Sarney Filho, said during then conference’s opening ceremony.

Six dedicated sessions took place to discuss the way forward of the 10YFP implementation and provide concrete recommendations to cooperation agencies

and development banks. Key messages were: (i) to avoid duplication of efforts to approach and work with development agencies and banks; (ii) to foster more synergies between 10YFP Programmes [for example, sustainable public procurement in building sector and sustainable gastronomy in the tourism sector] and (iii) increase capacity building and facilitate dialogue among governments and civil society organizations.

The importance of anchoring South-South cooperation in the priorities of actions of the national and international agendas was also highlighted in the speech of His Excellency, Ambassador João Almino, director of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency. “South-South cooperation is an instrument for capacity building of institutions and individuals,” he said. “Through sharing experiences and good practices in horizontal exchange processes, it promotes the empowerment of all the stakeholders.”

Mr Almino outlined the important role Brazil played, highlighting some of the South-South cooperation actions that the country has been implementing, such as the Food and Nutrition Security Program, the Cotton Program and the Climate Change Program, alongside countries from Africa and Latin America. Brazil’s leading role was also noted by Mr Sarney, who said Brazil was responsible for the largest donation from a developing country to the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns. He said Brazil’s contribution had been used in the implementation of five projects: two in South Africa, one in Uruguay, one in Colombia, and one benefiting Kenya, Burkina Faso and Nepal.

Ligia Noronha, Director of UN Environment's Economy Division, highlighted the importance of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes as a mechanism to bring together different groups, characterizing it as an enhancer of positive initiatives. "The conference showed us that South-South cooperation is a new and very powerful mechanism to help us globally in the 10YFP implementation," she said. "Here we have seen a narrative that can bring together different projects in the programme's agenda - involving public and private initiatives, as well as banks and cooperation agencies. The 10YFP program goes beyond its six areas of expertise and has to be part of a global movement and a global demand that already exists towards sustainable consumption and production patterns".

Ms Noronha said it was essential to connect this agenda with major international environmental accords such as the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the New Urban Agenda.

The Brazilian Government representatives emphasized the importance of inclusiveness and of not leaving anyone behind: "This is a cross-cutting theme that involves economic, social and environmental dimensions and it needs a multi-sectoral approach with different partnerships and stakeholders", said His Excellency, Ambassador José Antonio Marcondes de Carvalho. He said the conference was a milestone, as it was the first global

event to bring together sustainable consumption and production experts and Development Cooperation representatives.

Sustainability as a business opportunity was also discussed by the conference, with speakers emphasizing the importance of private-sector involvement to reach the 2030 Agenda. José Guilherme Ribeiro, SEBRAE's superintendent director, highlighted the relevance of small and micro enterprises, noting that in Brazil there were 11 million micro and small enterprises, which accounts for 99% of the Brazilian business universe, 52% of formal jobs and 27% of the national GDP. "Sustainability is transversal to small and large companies. Micro and small entrepreneurs must be the protagonists in this process to change the way the whole society thinks," he said.

Patrick Mwesigye, UN Environment's Regional Coordinator of Resource Efficiency in its Africa Office, said promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns and practices was well entrenched in 16 countries that had developed national action plans in close collaboration with 10 YFP Secretariat. This process had further been catalyzed by projects such as Switch Africa Green that had enabled Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to green their businesses and enhance their competitiveness and efficiency. The South-South Cooperation Conference had provided a very



From left to right: Ms. Raquel Breda, Ms. Denise Hamú, Mr. Charles Arden-Clarke, Mr. Fernando Coimbra, Ms. Adriana Zacarias and Mr. Patrick Mwesigye

Photo | South-South Cooperation

good opportunity and platform to enhance collaboration between Africa and Latin America in promoting sustainable consumption and production in the two regions.

Elisa Romano, coordinator of the Biodiversity Agenda, from the National Industry Confederation (CNI), said that as long as the business sector did not understand its impact on the environment, it would not be possible to achieve the desirable patterns of consumption. For her, the conservation of biological diversity translated as a challenge, but also as an opportunity for industry to become a key player in helping the government transition to a sustainable economy.

In the financial sector, Luiz Corrêa Noronha, Planning Director for the Southern Regional Development Bank in Brazil (BRDE), presented the banks' credit line for sustainable consumption and production, the first product from the bank to specifically address sustainable consumption and production. Cecília Guerra, Corporative Director of Environment and Climate Change in Brazil, Latin America Development Bank, said sustainability had been a key issue on the bank's agenda for the past five years and that its 2020 goal was to have 30 per cent of its operations "green", reaching 50 per cent by 2030.



Participants engaging the panel during the meeting

Photo | South-South Cooperation

 **SWITCH-Africa Green**

 **@switchafrica**

 **SWITCH Africa Green**

www.switchafricagreen.org