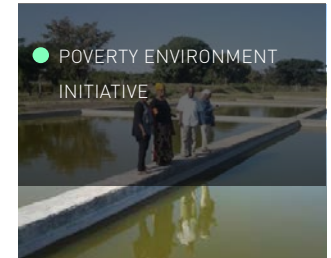
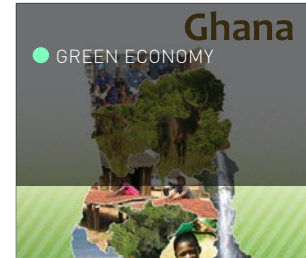
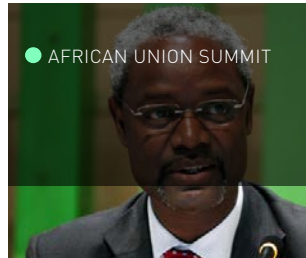




REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA NEWSLETTER

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

JAN-FEB 2016





REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA
NEWSLETTER

CLIMATE CHANGE



KENYA GREEN UNIVERSITIES NETWORK LAUNCHED TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

On 5 February, 2016, more than 160 participants from Kenyan higher education institutions attended the launch of the Kenya Green University Network (KGUN), aimed at including environmental and sustainability practices into the curricula, campus designs and research projects of Kenyan universities.

KGUN is a joint initiative of the Commission for University Education (CUE), the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Speaking during the launch, UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner, said Kenya is seeing fast progress in higher education.

“Many Kenyan universities have already recognized sustainability demands and have responded in ways that are worth sharing. They are investing in greener campuses, greener curricula, and ways of engaging staff, students and community,” he added.

In her opening remarks, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities of Kenya, Prof. Judi Wakhungu, said that the network marks the beginning of long-term cooperation between 70 universities in Kenya that will address sustainability issues through the adoption of low-carbon strategies, mainstreaming environmental sustainability across the curriculum, and engaging with communities and other stakeholders at various levels. She called on all Kenyan Universities to green their policies, programmes and activities.

With 70 public and private universities in Kenya, there is great potential to promote sustainability both through education and practice. Some universities are already implementing low-carbon solutions at their campuses; for example, Strathmore University has installed solar panels with the capacity to produce 0.6 megawatts annually. In addition to being climate-friendly, the move has also proven economically viable, with the university selling 0.25 megawatts to Kenya Power at a price of 12 shillings per kilowatt-hour.

Following the historic adoption of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change last year, KGUN will provide a platform for Kenyan higher education institutions to play their part in these global processes. The universities that comprise the network will serve as hubs for innovation and knowledge sharing of best practices in Kenya.



PROMOTING RESOURCE TRACKING FOR GENDER EQUALITY

About 35 participants took part in a two-day workshop on Resource Tracking for Gender Equality that was jointly organized by UNEP, UN-Habitat and UNON. The workshop was held from January 20-21, 2016 and brought together finance, gender, HR and budget officers from the three organisations.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness, build capacity on financial resource tracking and allocation, and share experiences towards supporting the promotion of gender equality within the three agencies and in particular, the effective implementation of financial resource tracking and allocation for gender equality. Resource tracking and allocation is a key reporting requirement of the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN-SWAP).

In her opening remarks, Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, Director General of UNON, emphasized the need for Senior Management to provide support towards promotion of gender equality within the three agencies.

The workshop provided a platform to share experiences and lessons learnt from World Food Programme (WFP).

The workshop concluded with a consensus for agencies to develop a specific "Gender Catalogue" that will lay out the gender activities and gender-sensitive arrangements in respective projects/activities with associated gender markers.

Launched in 2012, the UN-SWAP is led by UN Women and requires all UN entities to meet requirements of its 15 performance indicators by 2017, with particular emphasis on indicators 8 and 9; indicator 8 is about financial resource tracking while indicator 9 is about financial resource allocation. All UN entities are encouraged to find ways of allocating a percentage of their budgets to gender equality and empowerment of women (GEEW), including meeting pre-set financial benchmarks.

UNEP AND UNECA DISCUSS THE WAY FORWARD ON SDGs AND PARIS AGREEMENT

UNEP Deputy Executive Director Ibrahim Thiaw and UN Economic Commission for Africa Executive Secretary Carlos Lopes met on the margins of the 26th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa to discuss the way forward on SDGs and Paris Agreement and how to provide better support to member states on successful implementation.

The two high-level officials talked about ongoing collaboration between UNEP and ECA and identified potential collaboration areas in consideration to new international development. Regarding climate change issues, they agreed on data collection and research cooperation in developing a global report on climate adaptation work in Africa and joint support in the 22nd



Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22) in Marrakesh, Morocco in November this year.

Dr. Lopes congratulated UNEP on its leadership on the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI). He further promised to strengthen UNEP–ECA collaboration and take it to its highest level.



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA
NEWSLETTER

IN THE NEWS



AFRICAN CAMPAIGNERS LAUNCH AWARD FOR CLIMATE CHANGE REPORTING

The third edition of African Climate Change and Environmental Reporting (ACCER) awards supported by campaigners and bilateral agencies were launched on Tuesday.

Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), a continental civil society based in Kenya, and a host of bilateral donors, have supported the award that seeks to reward African media professionals who have elevated the profile of climate change through their reporting.

TRASH-BURNING COOKSTOVES IN NAIROBI SLUMS OFFER GLIMPSE OF GREEN DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

How a community in Nairobi's Kibera slum overcame management challenges to clean up their neighbourhood, embrace a new source of energy, create green jobs and make some money in the process.

When Jim Archer, a Nairobi-born architect, designed the community cooker, which turns piles of rubbish into heat to help poor communities access clean, safe, and affordable energy, he didn't foresee all the wrangles that would ensue among community members managing this innovative

AFRICA: WANGARI MAATHAI'S LEGACY FETED ACROSS AFRICA

Nairobi – The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director Achim Steiner joined other high-level speakers at the commemoration of Africa Environment Day-Wangari Maathai Day held at the Lavington Primary school in Nairobi on Thursday.

Celebrated as part of the African Year of Human Rights with a Particular Focus on Women's Rights, the theme of this year's Africa Environment Day-Wangari Maathai Day is Strengthening women's access to, and control over natural resources.

KENYA GREEN UNIVERSITIES NETWORK LAUNCHED TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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CLIMATE CHANGE

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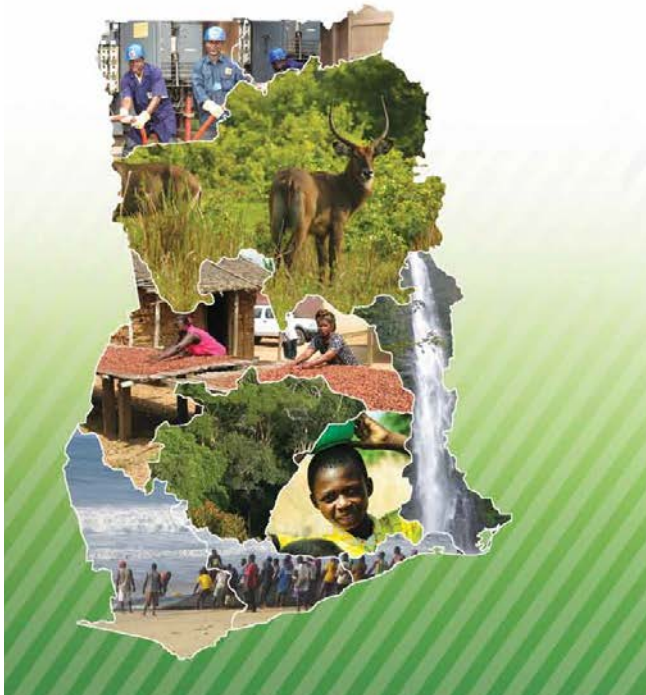
UNEA

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Ghana



OPERATIONALISING GREEN ECONOMY TRANSITION IN AFRICA

The workshop of National Training of Trainers (ToT) held in Ghana from 1-5 February brought together about 35 participants from the national and district levels, representing sectoral ministries and experts; regulatory and technical institutions; academia; district assemblies; national and district planners; and national and regional EPA offices. Participants from the three pilot districts (Tema, Kumasi and Tolon) were present.

The aim of the workshop was to train focal points at national and district levels to assist them develop their next District-level Medium Term Plans (2018-2021) in June 2016.

The trainers learnt the value and benefits of incorporating integrated green economy implementation planning in preparing the district plans. In addition to applying this approach in the three pilot districts, the National Development Planning Commission stated that they would include the Toolkit in the pre-planning orientation organized for all districts in Ghana.

The project 'Operationalizing Green Economy Transition in Africa', jointly implemented by UNEP and GIZ, capacitates countries to translate national Green Economy and climate resilience strategies to concrete development plans at the sub-national level through:

- Development of a Toolbox on Green Economy Planning at the Sub-National level;
- Building capacities at the regional and national level;
- Support for pilot Applications of the Toolbox;
- Development of a knowledge management platform.

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

POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (PEI)



710,000 USD ALLOCATED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THREE GREEN DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN RWANDA

Rwanda's National Environment and Climate Fund (FONERWA) awarded the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) a grant of \$710,000 to implement green objectives in three districts in Rwanda.

To further support the replication of green approaches for poverty reduction, PEI-Rwanda has supported REMA to develop a toolkit for the development of smart green villages, which lays out the step-by-step process for establishing a green village.

PEI supported Rwanda to establish the first green model village back in 2010. "We are getting more crops, yields are bigger and we live in better houses," said Muhawenimana Solange, the leader for the Rubaya village cooperative.

A mother from the same village added: "Kids were not going to school because they were looking for firewood. We had to go far away to pick up firewood".

"Since we have biogas many of our problems are solved. Now with biogas and water nearby, I have time to go to school," added Sandrine, a student from Rubaya village.

The 2016/17 district development plans include activities such as the replication of green model villages (three districts), soil conservation and protection through terracing, land consolidation, and the use of improved cooking stoves. Indicators and a monitoring and evaluation framework to track implementation and impact have been put in place and the level of progress will be part of the district mayors' performance contracts.





POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (PEI)



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BUNDA DISTRICT IN TANZANIA INVESTS IN SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

With Lake Victoria being overfished and environmental and ecosystems degradation widespread, sustainable fisheries is a key concern that impacts livelihoods and natural resources in Bunda district, Tanzania. Based on recommendations from a UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment study, Bunda district has included measures to enhance sustainability and in particular sustainable use of fisheries in its district development plan.

As part of the implementation plan, the district has together with PEI, facilitated the formation of 14 fish farming groups (312 members in total out of which 40% are women) with the aim of enhancing productivity and financing options. In 2015 two of these groups have received loans of \$6200 from Twiga Bancorp to initiate cage fish farming, which is a more sustainable fishing option than the current practices. In addition, farmers have been trained by PEI on how to operate fishponds and use fish rearing techniques. Eight fish ponds have now been established in the

District and the private sector began fish-farming in three villages (Mugeta, Karukekere, Kibara). In total 38,600 fish have been stocked using the new techniques and women and youth are experimenting with new ways of drying sardines to increase profitability.

The District Fisheries Officers have further earmarked sites for aquaculture parks in Lake Victoria, based on a 2015 PEI support feasibility study. It is anticipated that the aquaculture parks will increase fisheries production, generate employment to youth and women and prevent environmental degradation.

Informed by the positive district level work in Bunda, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development is currently revising the national fisheries policy to promote a conducive and enabling environment for the fish sector; the policy is expected to be approved in 2016.

The new integrated approach to sustainable fisheries in Bunda district will help institutionalize sustainable fishing practices in the district and thereby reduce overfishing in Lake Victoria.



POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (PEI)



ADDING VALUE TO MAURITANIA'S ARTISANAL FISHERIES SECTOR WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON WOMEN

The artisanal fisheries sector in Mauritania is an important sector from a poverty-environment and gender perspective. Currently, artisanal fishermen/women work in harsh conditions and with rudimentary tools resulting in poor catches, poor quality of the end products and as a consequence, yields low incomes and encourages overfishing.

In 2015 PEI-Mauritania concluded a study to improve the artisanal fisheries value-chain in order to fight poverty, especially in urban areas. The findings of this study were applied by the department of fisheries to formulate the country's new draft recovery plan on artisanal fisheries products. Important donors such as UNDP and Japan have committed to support the Government of Mauritania to implement the plan in 2016.

Building on the findings of the study, PEI Mauritania signed a partnership agreement with the National Society of Fish Distribution to establish a self-financing mechanism to improve fish distribution businesses, currently subsidized substantially by the government, for the benefit of the poor.



The agreement calls for a pilot programme for a number of fish product distribution outlets that aim to increase the nutritional and health quality of fisheries products, increase their added value and their sale price.

Under the framework of this programme, 60 women fish vendors participated in a training focusing on hygiene, quality and safety issues concerning processing and handling of fish. The training programme focused on how to improve fish product processing techniques such as salting, drying and smoking, to improve compliance with health and hygiene regulations and facilitate increased sales of the fish products.

Inspired by this successful experience, the National Society of Fish Distribution decided to replicate the training programme in other regions of Mauritania to benefit more women.



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UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY



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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION OF AGENDA 2030 DOMINATED DISCUSSIONS DURING THE SECOND MEETING OF OECPR-2

The second meeting of the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-2) to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) met from 15-19 February 2016 at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. This was in the lead-up to the preparations of the Second UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-2), which will be held from 23-27 May 2016. The meeting, which brought together more than 300 delegates, set the stage for discussions on key decisions on the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including addressing the environmental aspects of global humanitarian crises and human health risks.

Delegates held discussions on a variety of topics pertaining to: environmental governance and education, chemicals and waste management, sustainable consumption and production (SCP), natural resources, conflict and the environment among other environmental issues.



During the closing ceremony, UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner presented a concept note on “Delivering on the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” and the draft Global Thematic Report on “Healthy Environment, Healthy People.” He briefed delegates on the preparations for UNEA-2. Delegates provided their views on a possible outcome document from the UNEA-2 High-Level Segment.

During the deliberations, Member States reiterated their commitment to deliver on the promises of the 2030 Agenda by agreeing to act collectively to tackle environmental challenges. In the closing statements, the delegates made key commitments, including: taking coordinated and accelerated action at all levels to implement the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda; supporting the development of a new sustainable and equitable economic model that aims to eradicate poverty; addressing the environmental dimension of the world’s current humanitarian crises, including the root causes of conflict and displacement and the damage inflicted to the environment through the illegal exploitation and trade of natural resources in conflict-affected areas; accelerating efforts to implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10 YFP), strengthening UNEP at a regional level and calling on the organization to expand new partnerships—including with the private sector—to mobilize resources to implement the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

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CONSORTIUM OF UNIVERSITIES TO DEVELOP CURRICULA ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

Nairobi, 25 February 2016 – The world population currently stands at 7.3 billion; it is projected that it will have crossed the 9 billion mark by 2050. More than half of the world's population now resides in cities. The increase in urban populations coupled with rising income levels is resulting in a change in consumption and production patterns, and hence, in growing amounts of municipal waste.

To support African countries overcome this challenge, UNEP is supporting a major initiative for local, national and regional capacity building on waste management in Africa by assisting Universities to develop an academic curricula on waste management. Currently, there are six Universities across Africa who are members of the Consortium namely the University of Mauritius (Mauritius), the Suez Canal University (Egypt), the Joseph Ki Zerbo University of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), the Mekele University (Ethiopia), the University of Nairobi (Kenya) and the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya).

In her opening remarks, Ms. Juliette Biao Koudoukpo, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Africa reiterated that “urgent action needs to be taken to address these issues, such as appropriate technology development, research as well as capacity building, education and awareness raising amongst stakeholders including decision makers and practitioners, to better understand and participate in holistic waste management.”

The development of a holistic approach project will be jointly implemented as part of UNEP Programme of Work, through the UNEP International Environmental Technology Center (IETC) based in Osaka, Japan and the UNEP Regional Office for Africa.



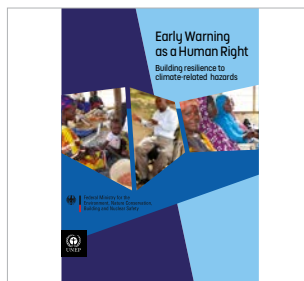
A waste management experts meeting was also held back to back to explore several possibilities of coming up with an African Outlook for waste management to help communities deal with waste management as a critical issue to most African countries.

PUBLICATIONS



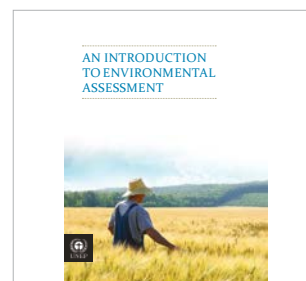
Blue economy: sharing success stories to inspire change

Oceans are vital, not only to a wide array of biodiversity and ecosystems, but also to the food chains, livelihoods and climate regulation for a human population heading towards nine billion people. That is why this report shares stories that illustrate how economic indicators and development strategies can better reflect the true value of such wide spread benefits and potentially even build on them.



Early warning as a human right: building resilience to climate-related hazards

Early warning systems (EWS) can improve resilience of households to climate related hazards, by providing information for early action. However, to be effective, early warning systems must themselves incorporate aspects of resilient systems: diversity, flexibility, local relevance, learning, acceptance of change, consideration of justice and equity.



An introduction to environmental Assessment

This brochure is intended for all audiences concerned with decision and policy making in regard to the environment and sustainable development. There are many different types of environmental assessment methods available to support decision making at global, regional, national and local levels.



Our Planet: Global Climate Action

The momentum towards a low-carbon economy is unstoppable. This is the year in which the world not only decided that growth must be sustainable, equitable and low carbon, but also took crucial strides towards the inclusive, green economy. This issue of Our Planet highlights the measures various governments and other stakeholders have taken towards a low-carbon economy.



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UPCOMING EVENTS



1
MARCH

Promoting Agriculture/
Livelihoods Resilience
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

3
MARCH

Africa Environment Day
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

22-24
MARCH

Regional Training of APELL
Facilitators for Africa
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



FEEDBACK



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