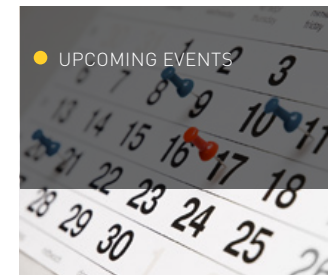
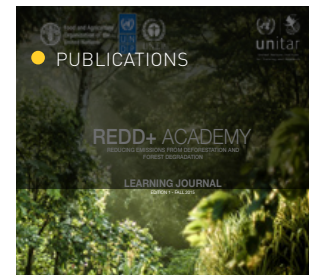
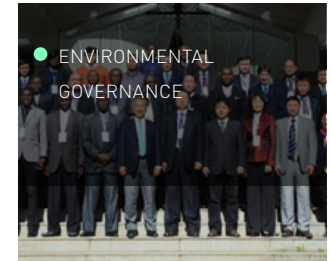
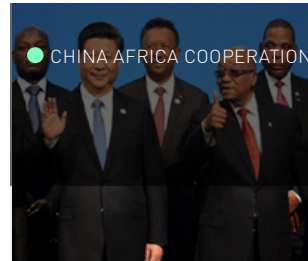




REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA NEWSLETTER

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

NOV-DEC 2015





AFRICA AND COP21

By Richard Munang, Coordinator, Africa Regional Climate Change Programme, UNEP

Representatives of 195 countries adopted global climate deal during the COP21. The agreement, a truly landmark climate accord, sets out an action plan to limit global warming below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C, submission of updated NDCs every 5 years, balanced allocation of finances between adaptation and mitigation for developing countries, among other goals. The agreement represents a real foundation for moving forward.

Considering that Africa is not locked in carbon intensive growth model, the COP21 agreement can be seen as a win-win deal for the Continent. However, it will depend on how governments, private sector, development and other key partners will leverage the benefits of the Agreement.

Although Africa has a vast of renewable resources, over 621 million people lack access to electrify, 70% being from rural areas. Access to electricity is estimated at 1% - 8%, thus expenditure on energy is high. The proposal to support solar projects in Africa is an opportunity that governments can tap through relevant policy to attract such investments. Oil subsidies in Africa cost an estimated 5.7% of Africa's GDP, scrapping subsidies and redirecting funds to low carbon initiatives and Reinvesting in clean energy will create jobs and reduce emissions.

Globally, renewable energy sector created 7.7 million jobs in 2015, an 18% increase from 2014. Though investment in renewable energy, it is projected that the continent can create a thriving electricity supply industry with an estimated 2.5 million temporary and permanent jobs through investment in renewable energy, as the case of Bangladesh an LDC, whose SHS sub-sector created an excess of 115,000 direct jobs and 50,000 induced jobs due to availability of solar energy. This can be replicated in Africa thus savings Africa's poor households, which spend up to USD 8 billion on energy for lighting. This can also contribute in reducing poverty in sub-Saharan Africa by 16 – 26 million people and reduction in CO2 emissions by 27%.

The deal also pledged to restore 127Ha of degraded lands in Africa. Agriculture sector employs up to 64% of the population, 70% of Africa's poor who reside in rural areas and depend on agriculture and women produce up to 80% of the food. Utilizing already established implementation platforms such as Ecosystem based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly, will enhance yields by up to 128%, lower climate induced crop failure risks and enhance farmer incomes at lower environmental and financial cost. Create 17million jobs and catalyze an agro-sector projected to be worth US\$ 1trillion by 2030. The World Bank reports that in Africa, a 10% increase in crop yields translates to approximately a 7% reduction in poverty.

COP 21 showed clearly how global partnership is critical to defeat climate change. The biggest surprise came from Africa. The continent did not go to Paris to ask for aid; it offered solutions and became a partner for driving global change. Let's translate that spirit to action for the benefit of the Continent.



THE AFRICITIES 7TH SUMMIT

The 7th edition of the Africities summit of the Local Governments Pan-African Days, was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 29 November to 3 December 2015. The central theme was: "Shaping The Future Of Africa With The People: The Contribution Of African Local Authorities To Agenda 2063 Of The African Union." During the Africities 7th Summit UNEP and UN-Habitat launched the Africa District Energy in Cities Initiative and UNEP report "District Energy in Cities: Unlocking the potential of energy efficiency and renewable energy."

The Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative is ambitious in its objectives but entirely achievable with the technology of today. Its objectives are to:

1. Ensure universal access to modern energy services
2. Double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
3. Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

The UN, under that SE4ALL's energy efficiency priority areas action, identified district energy as one of the six key sectors that will achieve this objective (together with buildings, transport, industry, lighting, and appliance and equipment). As a result, in September 2014 at the climate summit in New York, UNEP and lead partners including UN-Habitat launched the Global District Energy in Cities Initiative.

The District Energy in Cities report presents the best practice guidance developed with 45 champion cities (150 interviews). The report highlights key technology options available to communities to provide heating and cooling services in a cost-effective manner and with low environmental impacts. The findings of this report should be studied carefully by all policymakers and private developers who are endeavoring to achieve a more sustainable future. It also provides a critical set of information to cities as they develop action plans to meet sustainability, energy and climate goals. By providing thoughtful analysis of both key barriers and successful best practices, this handbook helps decision makers quickly identify important issues and successful tactics from peer cities as they move forward with district energy. It is a timely, comprehensive and useful knowledge tool.

South Africa, with the funding from Germany, is piloting the development of one of the world's first multi-level government approaches in Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMAs or vertically integrated NAMAs). V-NAMAs recognize the role of local and provincial actors in climate mitigation and include strategies to leverage climate finance for cities. The V-NAMA programme on energy efficiency in public buildings forms part of the Energy Efficiency and Energy demand Management flagship, one of 8 near-Term Priority Flagship Programs for achieving South Africa's emission reduction targets. The aim would be to support municipalities retrofit and upgrade public buildings to be energy efficient. V-NAMA is cooperating across 3 Ministers, 4 Provinces and 9 municipalities. It foresees 'Energy Efficiency Fund' for providing finance to cities, local policy support and capacity building. Lessons from South Africa could inform development of District Energy V-NAMAs globally.



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CHINA AFRICA COOPERATION



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THE JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT OF THE FORUM ON CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION

The Johannesburg Summit of FOCAC was held at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa, from 4-5 December 2015 under the theme: "Africa-China Progressing Together: Win-Win Cooperation for Common Development". FOCAC aimed at strengthening consultations and expanding cooperation within a pragmatic framework. It also focused on promoting political dialogue and economic cooperation with a view of seeking mutual reinforcement and cooperation. African heads of state and government, representatives from the African union, heads of regional organisations and multilateral organisations participated in the summit. A new Declaration and Plan of Action (2016-2018) was the outcome of the summit.

The leaders welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a universal, transformative and integrated development plan. China is committed to supporting Africa's efforts to implement Agenda 2063, its First 10-Year Implementation Plan and New Partnership for Africa's Development and believes that they are essential to Africa's pursuit of peace, stability, integration, growth and development. FOCAC



supports the 21st Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the convention, which provides an effective solution to the global response to climate change with means of implementation required by developing countries.

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ROA PARTICIPATES IN COP 21

Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, Director ROA participated in COP 21 that was held in Paris with the objective of facilitating consultations between AMCEN and AGN to shape Africa's position

for the climate change negotiations. During her mission she also held a number of bilateral meetings with ministers from the region; as well as with the President of AMCEN to discuss ways of improving the work of AMCEN secretariat.



During her discussion with various ministers of environment from the region, they expressed their desire to continue strengthening collaborations with UNEP. During one of the meetings an agreement on Angola to host WED was co-signed by the Minister for Environment for Angola with UNEP Executive Director.

Juliette, also participated in a number of side events in order to foster collaboration and partnerships with UN sister Agencies and other key partners. The side events were: (i) Effects of climate Change on social and environmental determinants of Health in Africa, an event organized with WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO-AFRO); (ii) Science-Policy Dialogue on Climate Change and Resilience in Africa, an event which aimed to offer integrated expert to guide processes that will enhance effective policy responses to adapt to climate change, from national to continental scale in Africa; and (iii) Annual breakfast meeting of the network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment which aimed to promote gender responsive sustainable environmental management at regional and global levels and enhance representation and involvement of women in decision-making areas of environment and sustainable development at all levels.



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA
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IN THE NEWS



COP21: FRANCE TO SPEND BILLIONS ON AFRICAN RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

France plans to spend billions of euros in renewable energy and other environmental projects in its former west African colonies and across Africa over the next five years, President François Hollande said on Tuesday.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2016 WILL BE HOSTED IN ANGOLA

The decision of Angola hosting the main international event was taken last Thursday, in Paris, in the ambit of the 21st Conference of the United Nations on Climate Changes (COP21), reflected on an agreement signed between the Angolan Executive and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), reads a communiqué received by ANGOP.

MINISTER OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCES THAT MOROCCO WILL HOST COP22 IN NOV. 2016

Paris – Morocco's delegate-minister for environment, Hakima El Haite, officially announced on Wednesday in Paris that the Moroccan city of Marrakech will host in November 2016 to the upcoming UN conference of parties to the Convention on climate changes (COP 22).

AFRICA: UNEP LAUNCHES ENVIRONMENT AND TRADE HUB TO SUPPORT COUNTRIES IN SDGs IMPLEMENTATION

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) today launched the Environment and Trade Hub, an initiative which will assist countries to use sustainable trade as a vehicle for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



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FIRST JOINT MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAMAKO AND BASEL CONVENTIONS

The First Joint Meeting of National Authorities on the Implementation of the Bamako and Basel Conventions was held in Nairobi on 24 November. The workshop jointly organized by UNEP, the secretariat of Bamako convention and the Secretariat of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm convention brought together over 30 participants drawn from across the Africa, like the rest of the world, is facing the challenge of rapidly changing composition of waste. The waste generation rates are higher as a result of rapid urbanization and economic growth. In developing countries, the organic waste component in municipal solid waste is decreasing and hazardous waste component (such as batteries, expired medicines, mineral oils, paints and varnishes containers, pesticides etc.) is increasing. Some specific waste streams such as E-waste, waste tires, healthcare waste, mercury waste etc are posing serious threat to public health and adverse impact to the environment.

The objective of Bamako convention is to prohibit the import of all hazardous and radioactive wastes into the African continent for any reason, as well as all ocean and inland water dumping or incineration of hazardous wastes. Another key dimension of the convention is the promotion of sound management of waste within the continent. This aspect is of paramount importance to the region.

In her opening remarks, Ms Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, the UNEP Regional Director for Africa, said that, 'a paradigm shift is required to manage municipal solid waste,. This involves the shift away from only managing waste by properly disposing it to reducing negative environmental and public health impacts to converting most of the waste into energy or material resources. The paradigm shift from dealing with waste only as an unwanted by-product to considering it as a resource will help countries in supporting energy and material security as well as in boosting economic activities while at the same time alleviating poverty".



The Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm convention Mr. Rolph Payet committed to support the implementation of Bamako convention. Adding that he is ready to assist countries look into their challenges at national level and assist in setting implementation guidelines. Mr Payet also stressed the importance of national reporting of all conventions as this will enable better coordination of training and empowerment of focal points. He also emphasized the need to set up coordination mechanisms at national level for waste management, reiterating that effective implementation needs practical coordination.

In her Opening speech, Ms Elizabeth Mrema reiterated UNEP's mandate that supports countries in the implementation of Environmental Law; and said that it will continue to place programmes on sound management of chemicals and wastes, and specific regional priorities, at the core of its agenda and looks forward to continuous cooperation with the Parties to the Bamako and Basel conventions.



GOVERNMENTS AGREE TO SET LEGAL LIMITS OF LEAD IN PAINT

Participants agreed all countries in the region should adopt 90 ppm total lead limit for all paints

Government officials and stakeholders from 15 African countries and around the globe gathered at a workshop jointly organized by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 2-4 December to cooperate to phase out the use of lead in paint by 2020.

In his welcome remarks, Mr. Samba Harouna, Head of UNEP Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, stated that lead exposure brings about a tremendous economic loss; pointing to the fact that only 59 countries in the world responded that they have a legal limit to lead in paint. He encouraged countries to join the global efforts of the Lead Paint Alliance, a partnership of governments and stakeholders convened by UNEP and WHO to introduce a legal limit to lead in paint in all countries in the world by 2020. He also emphasized the need for countries to collectively join efforts and resources as countries embark on the implementation of the newly adopted SDGs in relation to Agenda 2063 of the African Union in order to achieve this target.

Mr. Mehari Wondimagegn, Director in the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Ethiopia, announced that his department is now in the process of developing draft regulation for consideration by the Ethiopian Council of Ministries that would establish a 90 parts per million (ppm) standard for decorative paints in Ethiopia. This standard is based on a recommendation from the Ethiopian Standards Agency, which has been in dialogue with the paint industry on this issue.

At the workshop, Ms Angela Bandemehar, Chair of the Advisory Group of the Lead Paint Alliance, presented the Toolkit for Establishing Laws to Control the Use of Lead in Paint, available at UNEP website. The toolkit provides information



on health and environmental impact, alternative paints, challenges for small and medium sized enterprises, etc. It also includes case studies where legal limits were successfully introduced such as Uruguay and the Philippines.

During the workshop, participants reviewed the existing policy and initiatives towards the phasing out of lead paint in African countries. An East Africa Standard applicable to five East African countries are being developed to limit the lead content in decorative paint. Similar initiatives exist in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The participants agreed that efforts are needed in each country to phases out lead paint and set a total lead content limit of 90 ppm. They also agreed that this lead limit should be harmonized within the sub-region [RECs].

The release of lead into the environment poses significant risks to human health and the environment. World Health Organization lists lead exposure as one of the top ten environmental health threats globally. No level of lead exposure is safe for people, and children are especially vulnerable. Paints that contain lead additives pose a risk of lead poisoning, especially for young children. The good news is that lead poisoning from paint is completely preventable.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE



THE SECOND AFRICA-ASIA INTER-REGIONAL EXPERT MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Ensuring Compliance and Enforcement through Partnership

Over 45 participants drawn from Africa, China, South East Asia and Central Europe gathered for the Second Africa-Asia Inter-Regional Expert Meeting on Environmental Enforcement held in Kunming, China.

The main objective of the meeting was to dedicate the cooperation to emerging matters on environmental law enforcement to meet the needs of the member states, and at the same time maintain the original purpose of the cooperation on exchange of good practices. This meeting provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge, share experience through specific case studies on environmental law enforcement from Africa, ASEAN and Central Asia with a focus on (i) integrated enforcement action including integrated environment permits, (ii) how to measure compliance and enforcement actions through indicators especially by the regulatory authorities (measuring their effectiveness in a result based approach), and (iii) how to legally calculate environmental damage and compensation for purposes of securing just and equitable remedies. As these are the main emerging challenges for developing countries (probably also for developed countries) and therefore a UNEP is expected to respond urgently to member states.



In conclusion it was agreed that UNEP leads the process to develop 1) legally based management guidance tool on how to calculate environmental damage and compensation, and 2) a good practice manual on indicators for effectiveness on enforcement actions should be developed to inspire countries in enhancing the enforcement of environmental laws. This will be done through the China-UNEP cooperation; and also look at modalities of implementing the outcomes of the 2nd experts meeting.

POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (PEI)



POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING IN KIGALI

During the past ten years, nine countries in Africa have with support from the joint UNDP-UNEP PEI started examining the interconnections between poverty, environment and development, the so-called poverty-environment nexus, and explored new ways of how to address these challenges through an integrated approach. As a result 12 national policies, 35 sub-national development plans and 47 sectoral policies and plans include Poverty-Environment objectives and targets with budgets allocated for their implementation.

To draw on the collective experiences from the nine countries and further explore how country teams can use poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools to influence national budgeting and planning processes in the context of the SDGs a PEI Africa regional meeting was held in Kigali, Rwanda 26-30th of October 2015. The meeting brought together around 60 participants from Burkina Faso, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania representing ministries of finance, planning, environment and gender as well as UNDP, UNEP (PAGE, SCP, GE) and UN Women.



In the opening remarks, Rwanda's Minister of Natural Resources, Vincent Biruta, highlighted how policymakers, in light of the SDGs, have the responsibility to deliver on sustainable development so that people are lifted out of poverty and that environmental resources are sustainably managed. Biruta said that PEI has proven that these two concepts are not contradictory and showed ways of how it can be addressed by integrating poverty-environment objectives into policies and plans catalyzing change on the ground and that this meeting will be important to map the way forward.

By the end of the meeting countries had shared experiences of poverty-environment mainstreaming in planning and budget processes, mapped out challenges and explored ways forward for PEI Africa in 2016-2017 in light of the SDGs. During the week the new PEI Handbook on 'Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development' was also launched and a field visit to Muyebe Green Village was organized.





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POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (PEI)



GENDER PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Renewable, clean energy and gender equality are preconditions for sustainable development and for tackling climate change. Women’s knowledge, empowerment and collective action are central to finding and building more environmentally sustainable pathways to manage our environment; adapt to climate change; and secure access to sustainable energy.

Gender, environment and climate change are cross-cutting issues that need to be addressed simultaneously to achieve sustainable development goals and to address existing inequalities. Although positive changes are emerging, several challenges remain to integrating gender issues more comprehensively into climate and energy policies in Africa, and to linking such policies more closely to programming and budgeting to ensure implementation of those activities.

Recognizing this challenge the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) and UN Women have collected their experiences in a new working

paper ‘Empowering Women for Sustainable Energy Solutions to address Climate Change.’ The Working Paper draws on the experiences of both organizations and aim to present potential solutions to the implementation challenge of gender-sensitive environment and climate change policies and development programming.

The working paper was first shared during the Global Landscape Forum (GLF) in Paris on December 06th 2015. The event brings thousands of negotiators, world leaders, researchers, civil society leaders, business leaders, practitioners and policymakers concerned with sustainable development together making it the largest, most influential event outside the UNFCCC COP.

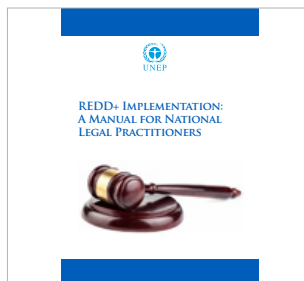
At the GLF, PEI Africa and UN Women hosted a joint exhibition space at the CIFOR organized Gender Pavilion to showcase successful policies and programmatic experiences of gender mainstreaming in climate and environment-related areas. The gender pavillion was well visited by representatives and offered an excellent opportunity for PEI and UN Women to share their experiences of working on and raise awareness about the gender-environment nexus with civil society organizations, academia and policy maker.

PUBLICATIONS



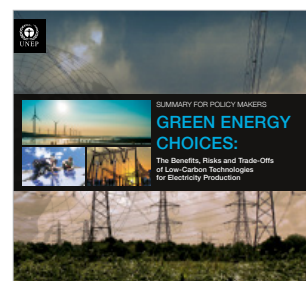
Climate Change and Human Rights

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to human rights of our generation, posing a serious risk to the fundamental rights to life, health, food and an adequate standard of living of individuals and communities across the world. This report aims to support government and private decision makers by assessing the relationship between climate change and human rights law.



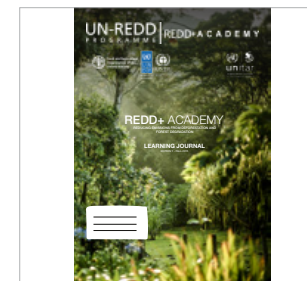
REDD+ Implementation: A Manual for National Legal Practitioners

The purpose of this Manual is to provide legal practitioners in REDD+ countries, particularly partner countries of the UNREDD Programme, with information on assessing national legal frameworks and associated gaps as well as suggestions on options to address key REDD+ legal issues.



Green Energy Choices: The Benefits, Risks and Trade-Offs of Low-Carbon

This summary report highlights key findings from the report of the International Resource Panel: Green Energy Choices: The Benefits, Risks and Trade-Offs of Low-Carbon Technologies for Electricity Production.



REDD+ Academy Learning Journal

The REDD+ Academy is a coordinated REDD+ capacity development initiative led by the UN-REDD Programme and the UNEP Environmental Education and Training Unit, which seeks to match the scale of the global climate change mitigation challenge and enable systematic, focused capacity development to deliver REDD+ on the ground.

UPCOMING EVENTS



- 21-31 JAN 2016**
26th African Union Summit
Addis Ababa
"2016: African Year of Human Rights, with particular focus on the Rights of Women"
- 15-19 FEB 2016**
Open-ended CPR 2
Nairobi
- 3 MAR 2016**
Africa Environment Day



FEEDBACK



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