

GREENROOM REPORT

First Universal Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP

Nairobi, Kenya | 23- 26 June 2014



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Side events	4
<i>Women's Empowerment at the heart of the SDGs by Women's Major Group (Women in Europe for a Common Future - WECF, Global Forest Coalition - GFC, Niger-Delta Women).....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Excess nutrients in the environment - A global challenge for the 21st century by SCOPE/INI</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Sustainable Palm Oil- Generating Global Demand and Raising Market Standards by Government of Indonesia / Great Apes Survival Partnership – UNEP</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Wind and Solar Workshop: A global perspective by ACTIS / Climate Action.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Mainstreaming Poverty Reduction for an Inclusive Green Economy: UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) by UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) and UNEP Green Economy Team</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Innovative environmental education models for the future: A MOOC on Disasters and Ecosystems.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Water-Energy-Food Nexus- A key for Green Economy in the Arab World by Gulf Research Centre</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS)/ Water Program by UNEP</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Sustainable water management models- Preventative solutions to climate change by Aqualogy / Climate Action.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Presentation of Sustainable Development Toolkits.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Involving the grassroots in the management of our environment: What lessons for the SDGs/post 2015 framework? Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD)</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>How will UNEP Live facilitate your work? UNEP/DEWA.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Film- White Gold: Illegal Trade in Wildlife.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Partners in Action by Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Short-lived Climate Pollutants - Health, Food Security, Energy and Climate Benefits by Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Applying principle 10 Globally by UNEP, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), The Access Initiative (TAI), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>BlackBridge- Supporting REDD+ from space by Blackbridge/ Climate Action</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Climate Science for Adaptation Policy by The Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA)</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Climate Change: Technology and you can make a difference by Avaya/ Climate Action.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Solar Energy by Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, Environment Initiative- India.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Future Earth Science, co-producing knowledge for policy by UNEP/DEWA.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Launching of Post Rio+20 South Asia Development Agenda Report by Government of Pakistan in collaboration with South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP).....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Sustainability challenge- Intergenerational Inequalities in the Context of African Structural Transformation by Society for International Development (SID)</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>The Sustainable Development Goals and Business by Business Green Economies Dialogue (and others).....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Eye on Earth project showcase by Abu Dhabi Global Environment Data Initiative (AGEDI)</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Atlas for Environmental Justice.....</i>	<i>23</i>

List of acronyms

ACORD	Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development
AGEDI	Abu Dhabi Global Environment Data Initiative (AGEDI)
CEFIC	European Chemical Industry Council
CIEL	Centre for International Environmental Law
EEB	European Environmental Bureau
EJOLT	Environmental Justice Organisations, Liabilities and Trade
GRASP	Great Apes Survival Partnership
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Association
ICRAF	The World Agroforestry Centre
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
LDC	Least Developed Countries
MGFC	Major Group Facilitating Committee
PEI	Poverty Environment Initiative
PROVIA	Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation
RAED	Northern Africa Arab Network for Environment and Development
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RSPO	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP/ DEPI	UNEP/ Division of Environmental Policy
UNEP/ DEWA	UNEP- Division Of Early Warning Assessment
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WEFC	Women In Europe for a Common Future
WMG	Women's Major Group
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

1. Introduction

The Greenroom is a dedicated space for major groups and stakeholders attending meetings of UNEP governing bodies. The Greenroom is a venue for holding side events, caucus or thematic clusters meetings, and major groups meetings and briefing sessions, etc. This year, the Greenroom was held in conjunction with the First Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA), from Monday 23rd June to Thursday 26th June, 2014.

Various events that took place during the week, including: daily major groups and stakeholders briefings, thematic cluster meetings, ad-hoc meetings, press events, special events and bilateral meetings with government delegations. The daily major groups and stakeholders briefings were facilitated by the Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC).

This report provides an overview of the events that occurred in the Greenroom, and is for information only.

2. Side events

Women's Empowerment at the heart of the SDGs by Women's Major Group (Women in Europe for a Common Future - WECF, Global Forest Coalition - GFC, Niger-Delta Women)

Monday 23 June 2014, 10.00- 10.45am

The event began with a brief introduction to the SDGs by Ms. Sascha Gabizon (WECF Germany and WMG) and Ms. Carmen Capriles (Reacción Climática Bolivia) who also focused on SDGs in relation to climate change. In the ensuing debate, it was highlighted that the biggest problem with the climate change related SDG was the potential overlap with the UNFCCC related objectives as expressed by some governments. It was however emphasized that it is important to formulate such a goal, taking into consideration the necessary collaboration with the UNFCCC. Having a separate goal on climate change is vital, given the current situation that tends to affect marginalized communities including women the most.

Ms. Isis Alvarez (Global Forest Coalition – Colombia) commented on the SDGs as well with a primary focus on ecosystems and biodiversity relating the benefits of SDGs on ecosystem protection and conservation, while Ms. Sascha Gabizon looked at the issue of environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste in the context of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), with a need to move to safer alternatives to replace toxic substances and reduce hazardous waste. Currently, the percentages of toxic waste materials are left for countries to decide on a national basis, resulting in disparities in the handling of toxic waste materials. One main recommendation was to establish national bodies to review and set national standards. However, in LDCs and SIDS where there is less capacity, assistance may be needed to set up such institutions and to enable reporting on their effectiveness. The event concluded by urging women in general to get involved in more activities that promote the Sustainable Development Goals like capacity building within their localities.

Excess nutrients in the environment - A global challenge for the 21st century by SCOPE/INI

Monday 23 June 2014, 11.00- 11.45am

This session focused the concept of nutrient management in the environment. Mr. Patrick Heffer (International Fertilizer Industry Association) discussed existing nutrient programmes in African countries and China. He highlighted base management practices, especially how fertilizers are used and managed by farmers, as well as the challenges encountered in handling them. He stressed the importance of forming partnerships in order to work with organizations to build capacities of farmers. Mr. Nelson Andrade (Coordinator, Caribbean Environment Programme) discussed sources of pollution from nutrients like poor agricultural practices (point sources) and untreated domestic waste water (sewage), and stressed the need for provision of guidelines, tools, methodologies, technologies and best practices for nutrient management. Mr. Kagel Amasse (Institute of Tropical Agriculture) discussed about nutrient balance through prevention of nutrient loss by minimizing erosion. Mr. David Osborne (Director, International Atomic Energy Agency- Marine Environment Laboratory) introduced the impacts of nutrients on the environment. He provided examples of how soil cover aids in nutrient absorption and how easily the nutrients are released into the atmosphere. He explained the role of riparian / wetland vegetation in nutrient release, absorption and recycling. He also commented on fiscal reforms and reiterated the need for an interdisciplinary approach, as well as goals that have specific targets to solve the multi-dimensional nutrient management problems.

Sustainable Palm Oil- Generating Global Demand and Raising Market Standards by Government of Indonesia / Great Apes Survival Partnership – UNEP

Monday 23 June 2014, 12.00- 1.30pm



Photo Courtesy of IISD

The side event was hosted by UNEP's Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP). Mr. Darrel Webber (Secretary General of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil- RSPO), stated that palm oil is "one of the few crops which

bring rural populations out of poverty, if done in an effective way.” Mr. Webber indicated that if palm oil would be taken out of the edible oil equation, the world would need 4 to 10 times more land to grow other crops. Additionally, Dr. Bernice Adiku-Heloo (Deputy Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation in Ghana) explained about palm oil exploitation in Ghana. Ms. Sri Parwati Murwani Budisusanti (Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment of Indonesia) mentioned that standard operating procedures for palm oil production are implemented in her country.

Ms. Elizabeth Clarke, Zoological Society of London, offered solutions to balance biodiversity conservation needs and productivity of palm oil, including strategic spatial planning at the national policy level, multi-stakeholder landscape planning, development of best practice guidance and tools, data analysis techniques through monitoring and management systems and development of a transparency toolkit. In closing, participants shared information about lessons learnt in Asia related to palm oil exploitation which can be passed on to Africa, and the rest of the world in general.

Wind and Solar Workshop: A global perspective by ACTIS / Climate Action

Monday 23 June 2014, 2.00- 2.45pm

Over the last 5 years, wind and solar energy have become mass market technologies across the planet, as they are highly cost competitive and present alternative forms of energy generation. This is particularly evident in emerging markets such as Africa, Asia and America where electricity is a scarce resource and growing middle class populations have an almost insatiable hunger for reliable energy supplies. Meeting the energy requirements of the emerging markets is an investment opportunity.

Wind and solar technologies are attractive for a number of reasons. Utilising the natural resources of a country helps to reduce system price volatility and commodity exposure. Wind and solar technologies are quick and simple to deploy in comparison to conventional forms of energy generation, and they can provide a natural alternative to the system (for example it is windier in the dry season in Central America and this can provide an opportunity to harness wind energy).

ACTIS is an emerging markets investor with US\$6.5bn under management and has been investing in the energy sectors of those markets for the last 12 years. Ms. Lucy Heintz, who heads Renewable Energy for the Actis Energy Fund, highlighted Actis’ experiences investing in wind and solar projects in Honduras, Chile, South Africa and India. She drew attention to relevant themes and issues that the renewable global energy sectors face and are poised to negative impacts in the emerging markets.

Mainstreaming Poverty Reduction for an Inclusive Green Economy: UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) by UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) and UNEP Green Economy Team

Monday 23 June 2014, 3.00-3.45pm



Photo Courtesy of IISD

This session was hosted by the Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI), a joint UNEP-UNDP programme dealing with mainstreaming environmental sustainability into national development and poverty reduction strategies with the ultimate aim of reducing poverty. The panel was chaired by Ms. Mette Wilkie (UNEP – Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation). Mr. Nik Sekhran discussed the creation of decent jobs and social protection, and their interrelated challenges. He provided a possible scenario where workers had to make a choice between putting food on the table and protecting the environment as a result of living in poverty. He called for the transition from a low sustainable economy to a highly sustainable one.

H.E. Salifou Ouedraogo, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development of Burkina Faso stated that an inclusive green economy requires cross-sectoral engagement. Therefore, poverty-environment objectives must be included in national policies, sector plans and budget frameworks. With the support of Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI), poverty-environment objectives have been added in both Burkina Faso's poverty reduction strategy and in its five year development plan.

H.E. Oyun Sanjaasuren (Minister for Environment and Green Development of Mongolia) highlighted how her country's rapid economic growth, is driven by the mining sector at the expense of environmental sustainability. She autoed the example of their Green Development strategy which considers national policy and integrates aspects of climate change adaptation.

Innovative environmental education models for the future: A MOOC on Disasters and Ecosystems

Monday 23 June 2014, 4.00-4.45pm

This session provided an opportunity to introduce the *Massive Open Online Course* funded by UNEP through the

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Global Universities Partnerships on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES), Cologne University of Applied Sciences (CUAS) and Germany. It will be UNEP's first online course on education for sustainable development and looks at how innovation can be used in dealing with ecosystems and disasters such as landslides, and how they can affect wetlands, flood plains, mangroves, saltmarshes and sand dunes. Teaching materials include case studies, field surveys, lecture material and assignments/exams.

The target audience for the courses is students, environment practitioners and leaders. It will deal with disaster reduction, climate change adaptation and resilience, linkages between ecosystem and disaster risk reduction and identifying international agreements, organization and initiatives related to disaster risk reduction. It targets three key areas: utility, skill and ability of an individual.

"What are the possibilities of hand on learning with MOOC?" It shall not eliminate face to face learning but allows sharing of information on a larger scale. The training also has the advantage of being inclusive and accessible to all level of education. The main challenge faced by this course is the lack of awareness of its existence and high drop-out rates by learners.

Water-Energy-Food Nexus- A key for Green Economy in the Arab World by Gulf Research Centre

Monday 23 June 2014, 5.00-5.45pm

This session reviewed a number of projects implemented by different Major Groups Organizations in the Arab World in the areas of water, energy and food. It urged policy makers to take into consideration linkages in the above three sectors to improve sustainability, efficiency and equity, and move towards a green economy. It also demonstrated the need for community participation in local projects.

The Projects include EU-GCC Clean Energy Network (open conference online) and National Community Water Conservation Program (NCWCP). They face problems such as improper use of water and energy, network leakage, low quality devices, poor or no pipelines and infrastructure. Some of the solutions suggested include conservation activities at the national and local level, stakeholders and community participation in decision-making. Additional solutions discussed include good political will, appropriate water kits and development of improved infrastructures in cities such as Suez, Ismailia and Cairo. The Dead Sea is experiencing reduced water levels. The event featured the Down To Earth project that seeks to involve children and youth to raise awareness of the Dead Sea crisis.

Mr. Essam Nada (Northern Africa Arab Network for Environment and Development- RAED) demonstrated a methodology that could be used to make water projects more successful. He drew attention to water ethics, low-cost technology, social and technical research, and stakeholder involvement by contacting youth, religious leaders, students, employees and households.

Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS)/ Water Program by UNEP

Tuesday 24 June 2014, 10.00- 10.45am



Mr. Hartwig Kremer (UNEP - Division of Early Warning and Assessment) moderated the session, which introduced UNEP's water quality monitoring programme and its role in supporting international commitments to improve water management policies. Ms. Mette Wilkie (UNEP - Division of Environmental Policy Implementation) stressed that collaboration within the UN system can address deteriorating water quality. This threatens water ecology, human health, livelihoods and development, including measures such as global monitoring and reporting on the water system, and establishing international water quality guidelines. Ms. Debbie Chapman (University College Cork, Ireland) emphasized the need to establish links with water agencies and universities all over the world. Mr. Kremer introduced the launch of GEMS Water Regional Hubs. The panel responded to queries on the monitoring of ambient water quality, water conflict and the need for interregional hubs. They noted that the trans-boundary nature of water makes it politically sensitive. Ms. Monika MacDevette (UNEP - Division of Early Warning and Assessment) expressed the concern for accurate and reliable data gathering and sharing on water quality, especially standardization of water quality data, water quality modeling and the use of water assessment tools.

Sustainable water management models- Preventative solutions to climate change by Aqualogy / Climate Action

Tuesday 24 June 2014, 11.00- 11.45am



William Brittlebank (Climate Action Programme) hosted a side event focusing on Aqualogy and on the important role of water companies on the implementation of different water security strategies. The company has accumulated a widespread experience that permits it to offer technology and solutions based on research and innovation. Aqualogy offers management practices with efficient and effective criteria, training and education strategies to transfer knowledge and experience to various companies including private businesses with the goal to achieve water security.

Furthermore, their activities are established through sustainable development values, applying Corporate Social Responsibility's (CSR) criteria, measurement mechanisms, communication policies and strict ethical standards in businesses.

The workshop presented two case studies, indicating the important progress in water security and sustainable development that they have represented for the communities of Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) and Oran (Algeria).

Presentation of Sustainable Development Toolkits

Tuesday 24 June 2014, 12.00- 12.45pm



This session focused on the presentation of two new resources for stakeholders in the post-2015 development process, namely the 'Advocacy Toolkit' and the 'Tests of Success for the SDGs'. The 'Advocacy Toolkit' seeks to influence the post-2015 development agenda process. It addresses civil society and other stakeholder organizations and contains relevant information and tools to help develop and implement an effective post-2015 advocacy strategy. The 'Tests of Success for the SDGs' is the second toolkit which is an instrument to help guide and assess the international process to create a new set of global goals to eradicate poverty through sustainable development.

Involving the grassroots in the management of our environment: What lessons for the SDGs/post 2015 framework? Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD)

Tuesday 24 June 2014, 2.00- 2.45pm



This side event looked at the key issues relevant for the development of goals and targets from an African grassroots perspective. The panelists were Ms. Fatou Mbaye (ACORD Livelihood Thematic Manager), Mr. Jackson Kiplagat (Governance Advisor in WWF) and Ms. Getrude Kenyangi Kabusimbi (Support for Women in Agriculture and Development). Ms. Mbaye stated that for her organization, it is vital that any framework related to poverty and sustainable development must be provided by those who experience it on a daily basis. Ms. Kenyangi gave a strong appeal to concentrate on women. She stated that women's access to and control of natural resources is critical for family economic security. In this instance, women have more independence and a strong influence in decision-making in their households and communities. As a result, it contributes to the improvement in the strength and prosperity of societies. In conclusion, involving the grassroots is not an act of charity but a precondition for reducing poverty and solving environment challenges.

How will UNEP Live facilitate your work? UNEP/DEWA

Tuesday 24 June 2014, 3.00- 3.45pm

This event convened key organisations from the scientific and technical community to identify critical data gaps and establish a process to fill them. Ms. Jacqueline McGlade (UNEP Chief Scientist) took the participants through UNEP Live, displaying its many features which are available at different scales - national, regional, global and by theme. She highlighted the work made by 57 countries in providing data. Countries' open data policies enable citizens to access information and improves governance by making data and knowledge available across ministries and sectors. The UNEP Live platform was developed to support assessment processes such as the Global Environment Outlook processes. Some examples of this include the provision of data and knowledge to

all, through the production of dynamic reports in which information will be continually updated by supporting forthcoming SDGs with data and indicators.



Ms. McGlade concluded by saying that UNEP encourages open access in scientific publishing, and the ability to make knowledge accessible in a transparent way will enable progression on many environmental issues. She strongly encouraged countries and organizations to participate in UNEP Live.

Film- White Gold: Illegal Trade in Wildlife

Tuesday 24 June 2014, 5.00- 5.45pm

“Cease illegal trade in wildlife” was the key message of this brief film produced by Arne Glimcher with co-producers Tanya Saunders and Ian Saunders which simultaneously highlighted the need for swift action against illegal trade in wildlife and the repercussions of it. It depicted the various ways in which elephants and rhinos are killed for their tusks in order to make ivory products like jewelry and decorations. This is particularly evident in Asian countries such as China, where they use ivory as a form of status and prestige, thus, the name ‘white gold’. It was noted that in order to completely curb trade in ivory, the demand must be significantly reduced by sensitizing the market on the negative impacts of killing wildlife.

Partners in Action by Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

Wednesday 25 June 2014, 10.00- 10.45am



Ms. Martina Otto (Deputy Head of the Secretariat- Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants -CCAC) moderated the above session. She introduced the work of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), an organization that assists country and non- state partners to take action to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs). Mr. Yunus Arikan (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives- ICLEI) explained the role of ICLEI in the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. Md Raisul Alam Mondal (Ministry of Environment, Bangladesh) mentioned that the SLCP's in his country are from many sources including cook stoves, brick kilns, vehicle emissions, open burning, rice parboiling systems, flooded irrigation in rice fields, municipal waste methods and livestock which release black carbon or methane into the atmosphere. He stressed the need to use improved cooking stoves and brick kilns. An intelligent rice field irrigation method through Drought Assessment Model (DRA's) and Climate Mitigation Crop Model (CM2) would be more energy efficient and will reduce emissions into the atmosphere. Mr. Durwood Zaelke (President of the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development - IGSD) mentioned that the CCAC has developed tools to measure regional benefits.

Ms. Inger Holten (Senior Adviser in the Department for UN, Peace and Humanitarian Affairs of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs) recognized that the public has become increasingly aware of climate change solutions and benefits on the health sector and economy.

Short-lived Climate Pollutants - Health, Food Security, Energy and Climate Benefits by Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

Wednesday 25 June 2014, 11.00- 11.45am



The session on 'Multiple Benefits from Reductions of Short-Lived Climate Pollutants' was also organized by the CCAC. It demonstrated the multiple benefits that can be harnessed, for example, air quality and health, food security, energy access and efficiency, and climate from the reduction of Black Carbon, Methane and Hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs). It presented an opportunity to share experiences from selected CCAC initiatives. CCAC Partners (Bangladesh, Japan, Maldives, Norway, ICLEI, IGSD and UNEP) presented their national action plans their engagement at the local level while focusing on paddy rice systems, cook stoves, brick kilns, municipal waste and HFCs. A new CCAC Campaign 'Clean Air in Every Breath' was also presented in line with the publication launched at UNEA, 'Time to Act', this session demonstrated also the many actions taken and achievements made by the difference partners.

Applying principle 10 Globally by UNEP, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), The Access Initiative (TAI), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Wednesday 25 June 2014, 12.00- 1.30pm

"Applying Principle 10 Globally" was the purpose of this particular event, with a specific focus on the Environmental Democracy Index. Mr. Marcos Orellana, Director of CIEL's Human Rights and Environment Program, chaired the session and introduced the panelists. Mr. Javier Garcia (Ministry of Environment- Chile) described recent milestones in the recognition of Principle 10 in his country. Ms. Tsvetelina Borissova Filipova (Senior Project Manager/Lawyer at Regional Environmental Center -REC- Hungary) introduced the project 'Building bridges between regions'. This scheme is a facilitating cooperation that shares experiences and good

practices among actors involved in the Aarhus Convention and similar processes. Mr. Lalanath de Silva (World Resources Institute- WRI) explained that Environmental Democracy is based on three pillars: information, participation and justice and is essential to the implementation of sustainable development, however many countries lag behind. To achieve sustainable development these rights need to be consistently and reliably measured and publicized. The environmental index is fundamental for an environmental democracy at national level according to the UNEP Bali Guidelines. It includes a web-based platform which helps to identify gaps, highlight good practices, and sharing of data. It is based on the law and practice indicators of the 2010 UNEP Bali Guidelines.



BlackBridge- Supporting REDD+ from space by Blackbridge/ Climate Action

Wednesday 25 June 2014, 2.00- 2.45pm



In this workshop, attendees learnt how BlackBridge's RapidEye satellite imagery supports environmental monitoring programs to assist countries achieve environmental sustainability. Mr. Axel Penndorff (BlackBridge) explained that REDD stands for a countries' effort to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. This involves a number of techniques including MRV (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification), which is the use of a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory to obtain estimates of forest related emissions. UN REDD+ uses satellite images provided by Blackbridge to contribute toward achieving environmental sustainability. BlackBridge's RapidEye constellation has been and will continue to be an asset for the REDD+ initiative.

Climate Science for Adaptation Policy by The Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA)

Wednesday 25 June 2014, 3.00- 3.45pm



Mr. Saleemul Huq (Co-chair of PROVIA Interim Scientific Steering Committee) welcomed the participants. The session was moderated by Mr. Hartwig Kremer (Head of Thematic Environmental Assessment Section UNEP/Division of Early Warning Assessment). Mr. Kremer outlined the role of PROVIA in the global climate service landscape, especially in bridging the gap between Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (VIA) science and the contributing to the social science component of the World Climate Programme. He further noted continuous cooperation with the international research initiatives such as Future Earth research initiative, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change- Working group II (IPCC WGII), the European Commission, and governments such as the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. This cooperation advances policy relevant research to coordinate and facilitate the dissemination and practical application of VIA research for the benefit of

society. He mentioned that one of PROVIA's priorities is promoting young researchers through a Young Scientist Fellowship Programme. Mr. Huq requested Mr. Michel Rentenaar (Deputy Director Climate, Energy, Environment and Water at Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to consider supporting young researchers from developed and developing countries, in order to share their knowledge and experiences at the Conference. Mr. Rentenaar expressed his gratitude to UNEP and PROVIA for its work and for accepting the offer to co-host the Fourth International Adaptation Futures Conference 2016 in Rotterdam with Government of the Netherlands, the European Commission and UNEP PROVIA. Participants engaged in further discussions on identifying global research needs in climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaptation. They provided meaningful insights on the manner through which PROVIA can translate climate science and tailor it to the needs of a wide range of stakeholders.

Climate Change: Technology and you can make a difference by Avaya/ Climate Action

Wednesday 25 June 2014, 4.00- 4.45pm



Keynote speaker Ms. Sarah Broadbent showed AVAYA's communication technology that saves energy use and emissions by 75%. Cloud computing reduces energy carbon emissions per user by 30%. This event demonstrated AVAYA's expertise in implementing new communication technology in various industries and Governments. It is known that ICT has almost 98% ability to influence the world's Green House Gasses emissions. Avaya's equipment has been used to reduce greenhouse gases, real estate costs, save money and increase productivity through improved technology which provides for rapid uptake by employees to value and apply organizational change including the use of the correct system tools, the laid out rules and to enforce and even celebrate them. Specific focus was placed on access to modern energy services and their positive effects to achieve low-carbon energy.

Solar Energy by Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, Environment Initiative- India

Wednesday 25 June, 5.00- 5.45pm

The keynote speaker Monica Carmel Dohr explained the ongoing “India One” solar thermal power plan that is currently being constructed at the Shantivan Campus of Brahma Kumaris headquarters in India. She explained that the project uses 770 newly developed 60m² parabolic dishes and features thermal storage for continuous operation. A video presentation showed how India One generates heat and power for the 20,000 people on the campus and provides a sustainable model for decentralized solar energy generation in India. She further went on to emphasize how the project can be implemented in other parts of the world as a sustainable form of energy.

Future Earth Science, co-producing knowledge for policy by UNEP/DEWA

Thursday 26 June, 10.00- 10.45am



Mr. Hartwig Kremer (UNEP/Division of Early Warning Assessment) chaired the session. He referred to Future Earth as a science-policy-technology interface that builds on existing earth system science, mentioning DIVERSITAS, the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP) and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) as partners of a single umbrella programme. Mr. Cheikh Mbow (ICRAF) stressed the importance for improved interaction among scientists, policymakers and local communities to enable a transition towards sustainability. He also emphasized on Future Earth’s role in promoting the co-design, co-production and co-development of science to support decision making in policies. Mr. Farooq Ullah (ED- Stakeholder Forum) supported the need to move from consultation towards collaboration, where by science shifts from a one-way data collection method to a more collaborative research process based on dialogue. Mr. Arab Hoballah (UNEP’s Division of Technology, Industry and Economics) emphasized the need to decouple economic growth from resource consumption, and requested researchers to provide scientific evidence to support decision makers.

Launching of Post Rio+20 South Asia Development Agenda Report by Government of Pakistan in collaboration with South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

Thursday 26 June, 11.00- 11.45am



This session launched the Post 2015 South Asia Development Agenda Report prepared by the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in collaboration with UNEP and was organized by SACEP in Collaboration with Pakistan and UNEP. The discussion was chaired by the High Commissioner of Pakistan to Kenya, H.E. Mr. Rafiuzzaman Siddiqui. Attendees included dignitaries of SACEP member countries, leading experts from various disciplines and regional institutions. The Post 2015 South Asia Development Agenda Report aimed to showcase the key challenges and the critical analysis in the ways of implementing the Rio+20 outcome and the policy/programme responses in South Asia. It addresses environmental priorities identified in the Rio outcome document titled “The future we want” as well as their linkages to poverty reduction and development. In addition, this report is expected to raise awareness of the key challenges related to applying the Rio +20 and climate change related outcomes.

The launch of the report was supported by Dr. Maryam Niamir- Fuller (Special Advisor to the UNEP Executive Director on Post 2015 Development Agenda and SDGs), Mr. Kaveh Zahedi (UNEP Regional Director of ROAP) and Mr. S.M.D.P. Anura Jayatilake (Director General of SACEP).

Sustainability challenge- Intergenerational Inequalities in the Context of African Structural Transformation by Society for International Development (SID)

Thursday 26 June 2014, 12.00- 12.45pm

Mr. Ali Hersi (Society for International Development- SID) familiarized participants with the challenge of inequalities affecting Africa's economic growth and the path towards sustainability. He highlighted issues raised at the Pan-African Conference on inequalities in the Context of Structural Transformation, hosted in April 2014 in Accra, Ghana.

Irungu Houghton (Society for International Development- SID) referred to Mo Ibrahim's report 'Africa Ahead: The Next 50 Years' that illustrated what Africa could turn into in half a century with a younger work force, more democratic space and greater urbanization. However, he highlighted the possible fracture from resource wars, inequalities and ethnic conflicts. He underlined the discrepancy between a growing GDP and a stagnating industrial base, concealing the scores of people who are not seeing economic growth.

The Sustainable Development Goals and Business by Business Green Economies Dialogue (and others)

Thursday 26 June 2014, 1.00- 2.30pm



Mr. Brian Flannery (Green Economies Dialogue- GED) chaired the session which stressed the importance of UNEP's role towards businesses and the need to catalyze private sector contributions to economic, social and environmental objectives via the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Ms. Martina Otto (CCAC- Climate and Clean Air Coalition) provided the chemical sector as an example of an industry that has become a prime advocate of sustainability. According to her sustainable energy and

utilities may have good business opportunities for stakeholders. Mr. Simon Darlington (Alstom) explained how green infrastructure creates jobs and gave an example of the manufacture of new trains that would create 35,000 job opportunities in South Africa. He detailed his company's role in highlighting gaps in absorption capacity, technology transfer and government policy. Ms. Lena Perenius (Executive Director, International Chemicals Management-CEFIC/European Chemical Industry Council CEFIC) described the role of chemicals in energy efficiency, proving that it is one of the most cost-efficient ways to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and by giving examples of projects that ICCA and CEFIC have carried out.

Eye on Earth project showcase by Abu Dhabi Global Environment Data Initiative (AGEDI)

Thursday 26 June 2014, 3.00- 3.45pm



Mr. Gerard Cunningham (UNEP/DEWA- Division of Early Warning Assessment) received the participants during the Eye on Earth event which was a platform for sharing environmental, social and economic data as well as information and providing access to environmental data for emerging economies in particular. Mr. Derek Gliddon (Environment Agency Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates) described AGEDI (Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative) as an organisation which aims to enhance data collection and data sharing to support planning and decision making on sustainable development. Mr. Lalanath de Silva from the World Resources Institute presented the Access for All Initiative and the Environmental Democracy Index. He identified the role of the Special Initiatives in promoting information access, citizen engagement and access to justice, pointing to benchmarking activities in 54 countries on environmental democracy. Ms. Deborah Chapman (University College Cork, Ireland) presented the Eye on Water Security Special Initiative and global monitoring of freshwater resources, indicating that where water is scarce, security is important stressing collaboration between the Water Security Special Initiative and the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) Water Initiative, she emphasized the need for local, national and regional data, and for sharing it at the global level. Mr. Damon

Stanwell-Smith (UNEP/WCMC- World Conservation Monitoring Center) presented the Eye on Oceans and Blue Carbon Special Initiatives, highlighting the Abu Dhabi Blue Carbon Demonstration Project, which uses spatial data mapping and monitoring to identify specific attributes of blue carbon habitats. He mentioned the Blue Carbon project's potential usefulness for future carbon financing. Mr. Pablo Fuentenebro (UNEP/DEPI) presented the Eye on Environmental Education Special Initiative and the Global University Partnership for Environmental Sustainability (GUPES).

Atlas for Environmental Justice

Thursday 26 June 2014, 4.00- 4.45pm



Mr. Jeremy Wates (European Environmental Bureau- EEB) explained that the Atlas for Environmental Justice is an EU-funded EJOLT (Environmental Justice Organisations, Liabilities and Trade) project that illustrates how ecological conflicts are increasing around the world, driven by material demands fed primarily by the rich and middle class subsections of the global population. The poor, marginalized and indigenous communities are highly affected because they do not have the political power to ensure their access to environmental justice and health.

Ms. Serah Munguti (Nature Kenya) gave an interesting overview of the conflict that local communities had with a large scale paper factory which was to be built near the Tana River Delta, Kenya. The construction of the paper factory would require the inhabitants of the area to be displaced in order to create space for the paper factory as well as for the felling of trees for paper production. Ms. Leida Rijnhout (EEB) introduced the Atlas for Environmental Justice which showcases and highlights disturbing trends, such as continuing corporate impunity for environmental crimes. Furthermore 80% of the cases entailed a loss of livelihood. Amidst the stories of environmental devastation, political repression and persecution of activists, there are, however, also many cases of environmental justice victories that can be found. Where court cases were won, intended projects were

cancelled and in specific instances, the commons were reclaimed.