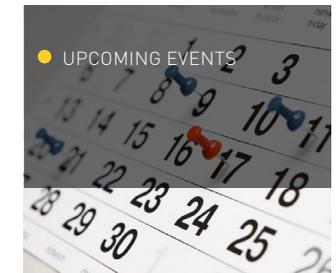




REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA NEWSLETTER

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

JULY-AUG 2016



UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS ETHIOPIA



Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UNEP, recently concluded a two-day visit to Africa's diplomatic capital of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia from August 22-23, where he held consultative meetings with officials of the Government of Ethiopia, heads and representatives of key regional institutions as well as strategic partners in the region.

The ED's visit to Ethiopia is his first mission in Africa since taking office as head of UNEP. In light of the outcomes of the UNEA-2 meetings that were held in May 2016 in Nairobi, the visit was an opportunity for Mr. Solheim to reiterate UNEP's support in the region, and to galvanize the efforts and support from the African Union as well as other partners towards swift action in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

Mr. Solheim met the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn and reiterated UNEP's support to Ethiopia on afforestation through the REDD+ programme. He commended the government of Ethiopia on its commitment in greening the country's economy through investing in renewable energy. He encouraged Ethiopia to share its experiences and best practices on green economy with the rest of Africa.

At a courtesy call with the Chairperson of the African Union, Mme Dlamini Zuma, Mr. Solheim said that UNEP is committed to supporting Africa implement both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, stressing that the

environment is a central theme in both agendas. The talks touched on many issues threatening Africa's development such as air quality, loss of biodiversity, illegal trade in wildlife and conflicts. The leaders exchanged ideas on how to strengthen collaboration through existing mechanisms between UNEP and the AU in these areas, and further agreed that partnerships with the private sector must be enhanced.

Solheim later met with the African Diplomatic Corps and reiterated the same message he had shared with the AU chairperson. He reminded the diplomats that they play a key role of being enablers for progress in the continent, hence urged them to do more to empower governments and businesses to fast-track growth and sustainable development in the continent.

He also held consultations with the Executive Director of UNECA, Dr. Carlos Lopes to explore collaboration between UNEP and ECA on the link between conflicts and environment. Solheim noted that full integration of environment and development is a core focus during his mandate and added that UNEP is keen on supporting the industrialization process in Africa through investments and initiatives that are sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Mr. Solheim also visited the Adama Wind Farm Project, located about an hour's drive from the capital.

UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS COTE D'IVOIRE



Erik Solheim just concluded a two-day visit to Abidjan, a first for a Head of UN Environment in Côte d'Ivoire. The visit provided the opportunity to present the priorities of his mandate and discuss the key environmental challenges constraining the country's development process as it aspires to attain emergence by 2020 and lift many out of poverty.

During this visit, he met with the Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan, and the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Remi Allah-Kouadio. He also helped launch the Integrated Ecosystem Management Project to rehabilitate the Banco National Park within the city of Abidjan. In 2011 as Norway's Minister of Environment and International Development, Erik Solheim witnessed the political upheaval that was disrupting Côte d'Ivoire with dead bodies in the streets and many mourning people. Within 5 years, the changes are impressive.

Under-Secretary-General and UN Environment Executive Director hailed the tremendous changes that have occurred in the country within five years: "Many of those countries that were disrupted are still in crisis. Cote d'Ivoire is not. It's a testament to the will and optimism of Ivorians and to the leadership of President Ouattara that they have put their country back on track. With a steady 8%, the country now boasts one of the strongest growth rates in the world, and is a West African powerhouse".

"I've seen Côte d'Ivoire rapidly develop in the last 5 years. I want to see Côte d'Ivoire continue to build and improve its economy long into the future.

For it to do so, economic development must not come at the expense of the environment. Any development that is unsustainable can only take the country so far. To grow the economy past the short-term, Côte d'Ivoire will need to integrate nature and development in an inclusive way." he added.

The political crisis has generated a lot of social and environmental problems, particularly in the city of Abidjan. The conflict had a dramatic impact both on the process of urbanization and on the infrastructure of Côte d'Ivoire. The population of Abidjan is reported to have doubled between 2002 and 2006 due to large-scale migration from villages and towns.

In a post-conflict environmental assessment report produced by UN Environment that was launched in September 2015, experts recommended that an alternative urban policy is developed to reduce the burden on Abidjan which carrying capacity is overwhelmed.

Top of the challenges include the clean-up of the Abidjan Lagoon, air pollution, deforestation and wildlife conservation, marine erosion and the need to undertake an audit of the mining sector and remediation.

Most of these issues, according to Erik Solheim, can better be tackled through partnerships, bringing together different stakeholders including the UN system, the private sector and development partners under the leadership of the government.

AMCEN BUREAU CONVENES IN EGYPT

The 28th meeting of the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was held in Egypt with the aim of consolidating the work of AMCEN. Four of the five Bureau members namely Egypt, Gabon, Namibia and Niger were in attendance.

The President of AMCEN, H.E. Dr. Khaled Fahmy, extended his appreciation to members present and to the work of the Bureau. Recalling on the numerous declarations and decisions reached by AMCEN in the past, the minister affirmed the centrality of AMCEN in Africa's deliberations to address the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development, the Paris Agreement as well as Africa's Agenda 2063. He emphasized the need for the Bureau to continue to provide necessary guidance in finding solutions to the environment and sustainable development challenges in the continent.

Speaking on behalf of UNEP, Dr. Desta Mebratu, Deputy Regional Director, Regional Office for Africa, said that important milestones were achieved in 2015 which highlighted a significant shift in the development paradigm. African countries had actively contributed to major global processes and clearly demonstrated the ability of the region as a solution provider. He urged the Bureau and AMCEN to maintain their leadership role in the environment agenda and said that UNEP, as host of the Secretariat of AMCEN, is ready to assist as necessary to ensure that AMCEN's decisions are translated into concrete and meaningful actions on the ground.

During the meeting, the Bureau deliberated on a number of issues from the COP21 and UNEA-2 conferences, and the collaboration between AMCEN and the AUC. Africa's participation and contribution during COP21 and UNEA-2 was significant and reaped huge benefits for the continent. These achievements were presented and steered



through AMCEN, which ensured that African member states had a common position on issues and articulated them in one voice. The Bureau reviewed progress on the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), both of which were launched during COP21. The Technical Working Group for AREI chaired by the President of AMCEN and comprising of AUC, NEPAD, AGN, AfDB, UNEP and IRENA met in July to discuss and provide technical recommendations on outstanding issues in the operationalization of AREI.

Morocco will host COP-22 in November 2016 in Marrakech. To this end, the Bureau emphasized the need for Africa to have a working document that summarizes all the issues and the status of the negotiations on outstanding areas to be discussed at COP22. It was agreed that an AMCEN consultative meeting be held in Marrakech before the start of the high-level segment, to brief Ministers on the status of negotiations and consolidate Africa's position on the different agenda items.

Gabon re-iterated its commitment to host the 16th regular session of AMCEN in 2017. The AMCEN Secretariat will propose the most convenient date and follow-up with relevant parties.

AFRICAN RIFT GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT FACILITY (ARGeo)



WHAT IS STEAMING AT ARGeo?

The African Rift Geothermal Development Facility (ARGeo) Project is a Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project being implemented by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). ARGeo was officially launched in November 2010 at the opening session of the Third African Rift Geothermal Conference (ARGeo-C3) in Djibouti. The project aims to catalyze investments and support the development of the largely untapped geothermal resource potential in the Eastern Africa region, with a focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and risks associated with geo-thermal resource exploration. Geothermal energy stands out as one of the most promising and sustainable alternatives for low- cost electricity production to complement hydropower and reduce the growth and dependence on petroleum in the region.

UNEP-ARGeo work is spread across Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. To date, two projects have successfully been completed in Kenya (Silali) and Ethiopia (Tendaho), while surface exploration studies have been conducted in three geothermal prospects in Eritrea (Alid), Tanzania (Ngozi) and Uganda (Kibiro). Plans are underway to pitch these latter projects for funding to potential investors through the AUC-KfW Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility before the end of this year. The UNEP- ARGeo Project has two major components:

1. Regional Networking, Information Systems, Capacity Building, Policy Advice and Awareness Creation.
2. Technical Assistance for Surface Exploration Studies.

These are implemented through multiple approaches such as conducting feasibility studies, skills gap analyses and audits, technical support and guidance to governments (policy, legislative and regulatory) and strengthening the capacity of authorities and professionals in geothermal initiatives.



As part of continued efforts to provide technical support, ARGeo is in the process of setting up and operationalizing the Africa Geothermal Centre of Excellence (AGCE). The center will provide technical expertise in geothermal science and technology education and strategic policy advice to fast-track renewable energy projects in the region, including geothermal resource for power generation and direct use applications.

In addition, UNEP-ARGeo facilitates a biennial geothermal conference to promote regional cooperation, create an information exchange platform on the exploration, development, investment and utilization of the geothermal resources in the continent. The Sixth African Rift Geothermal Conference (ARGeo-C6) in collaboration with UNEP, African Union Commission (AUC) and IGA East Africa Regional Branch (EARB) will be held in Ethiopia in November 2016, and will include main conference sessions, geothermal related short courses and field trips. The conference is sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iceland, KfW, BGR, US Power Africa and other partners. More info about ARGeo-C6 is available [here](#).

ENHANCING INVESTMENTS IN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Africa continues to grapple with environment related health issues which negatively impact on its development. Cancer, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases are often associated with environmental factors. Extreme weather events and disasters, as well as increasing incidents of certain diseases have been a harsh reminder of the critical linkages between health and environment.

In 2008, African Ministers of Environment and of Health, through the Libreville Declaration agreed on a multi-sectoral approach to address health and environment issues in Africa. A Joint Task Team comprising the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO), Africa Development Bank (AfDB) and other partners was established to support in the implementation of the Declaration. Situation analysis and needs assessments (SANAs) to identify knowledge gaps on health and environment linkages were undertaken in African countries, and tools and guidelines developed to support implementation of the Declaration. This led to enhanced dialogue on health and environment matters at policy and technical levels, catalyzing the development of priority inter-sectoral projects at country levels.

Recently, the Joint Task Team met from July 11-15, 2016 in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire, to deliberate on how to consolidate the gains that have been achieved and explore policy, institutional and investment measures required to further reduce environmental threats to human health. The team took stock of past achievements and new expectations, with a view to accelerate implementation of the Libreville Declaration and align it with global agreements. The team considered the opportunities provided by the recent global outcomes, noting that the Libreville Declaration could be a catalyst for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To achieve this, there is still need for political commitment, concerted action and shared responsibility between the health and environment sectors.

The meeting proposed the convening of a high-level event on health and environment in 2017 in Africa titled "Health and Environment Strategic Alliance: A Catalyst for Action Towards the Implementation of SDGs in Africa". The aim is to catalyze action and stimulate policies and investments on the joint contribution of the health and environment sectors towards the realization of SDGs in Africa.

The event is expected to lead to a strategic agenda for increased coverage of health and environment priority interventions; commitment from member states, partners and stakeholders for enhanced policies and actions on health and environment; and a framework for scaling up investments and opportunities for mobilizing resources for health and environment.



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA
NEWSLETTER

IN THE NEWS



UN VOWS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO REALIZE ETHIOPIA'S CARBON FREE TARGET BY 2015

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn met with the recently appointed UN Environment program (UNEP) Executive Director Erik Solheim.



UNEP APPLAUDS ETHIOPIA'S DIVERSIFICATION OF ENERGY SOURCES

Ethiopia's achievement in diversifying energy sources in environmental friendly manner is commendable, according to Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).



ETHIOPIA: PREMIER PLEDGES UNEP CLOSER PARTNERSHIP

UNEP would assist Ethiopia's environment friendly economic growth with a vision to join middle income economies.



POACHING DRIVES HUGE 30% DECLINE IN AFRICA'S SAVANNAH ELEPHANTS

Ambitious Great Elephant Census finds nearly one-third of continent's largest elephants were wiped out between 2007-14, largely due to poaching for ivory.



ORGANISÉE CONFORMÉMENT AUX HAUTES INSTRUCTIONS ROYALES PAR L'ADMINISTRATION DE LA DÉFENSE NATIONALE

La conférence internationale «Défense et changements climatiques» met en exergue les efforts déployés par le Maroc pour honorer ses engagements internationaux.



2ÈME ÉDITION DE LA CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE «DÉFENSE ET CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES»

Les travaux de la deuxième édition de la conférence internationale «Défense et changements climatiques», organisée conformément aux Hautes Instructions Royales par l'Administration de la Défense Nationale du Royaume du Maroc, ont pris fin mercredi soir au centre international des conférences Mohammed VI à Skhirat.



UNEP-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (PEI)



PEI SUPPORTS TANZANIA'S NATIONAL FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN



The Government of Tanzania approved its second National Five Year Development Plan (NFYDP II) 2016/17- 2020/21 on the 7th June 2016. Building on previous experiences and informed by the findings from the PEI district bottleneck studies (2014) and earlier reports, PEI Tanzania, provided technical inputs for how poverty-environment issues can be integrated into the NFYDP II. The PEI Tanzania technical adviser along with UNDP's international economist were the only development partner representatives invited into the drafting team for the NFYDP II, indicating the high value that the Government places on PEI's inputs. In 2015, PEI Tanzania facilitated a multi-stakeholder cross-sector performance and review meeting on natural resources to inform the drafting process.

The NFYDP II reaffirms the government's commitment to achieve economic growth, poverty reduction as well as environmental sustainability. While the nine core objectives of the NYFDP II are centred around inclusive economic growth through industrialization, natural resources management, environment and climate are recognized as key strategic interventions for fostering economic growth, aimed at ensuring the implementation and realization of the FYDP II.

The plan highlights that Tanzania is endowed with rich and diverse natural resources from where it derives its economic and social livelihood and hence, managing such resources sustainably is an imperative.

Interventions to strengthen natural resource, environment and climate management have strong links to poverty reduction and include: enhancing community-based natural resource management systems; promotion of renewable green energy technologies (including biogas); integrating, harmonizing and coordinating environmentally sustainable policies for growth across sectors. Furthermore, the plan articulates the importance of enforcing Strategic Environmental Impact Assessments (SEA/EIAs) to foster environmental sustainability and promote healthy ecosystems, especially in water supply and sanitation services.

PEI provided the technical input and support in developing the NFYDP, particularly to ENR sustainability, which was identified as a strategic issue and important for consideration across sectors; PEI emphasized the need to strengthen enforcement and compliance to environmental standards (e.g. EIAs and SEAs) across sectors. In addition, the district bottleneck studies informed Chapter Six of the NYFDP, including a roadmap its implementation, and on harmonization and integration of policies across sectors.

In his preface to the NFYDP, Tanzania's Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr. Philip Isdor Mpango notes that the objectives of the NFYDP "will only be achieved through...fostering economic growth, reducing economic vulnerability, enhancing forward and backward linkages between and within sectors...creation of decent jobs and ensuring environmental sustainability."



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MALI'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Following the peace accord signed in July 2015, the Government of Mali started to elaborate a Strategic Framework for the Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development (CREDD) 2016-2018. The PEI Mali team has been actively engaged in the drafting process of the plan by providing information, data and briefing notes on the importance of integrating poverty-environment (P-E) linkages into the new development plan.

PEI's inputs have particularly drawn from the experiences of influencing and implementing the "greened" priorities of the previous national plan and the 2015 methodological guide on integrating climate change in national development policies.

The CREDD was approved in April 2016, and it articulates strong P-E linkages across the various priority areas. The overall objective of the CREDD "is to promote inclusive and sustainable development for reducing poverty and inequality in a united and peaceful Mali...to achieve the SDGs...". The first strategic axis of CREDD is promotion of inclusive and sustainable growth with a strong focus on environment and natural resource sectors including agriculture, livestock, fisheries and food security.



The CREDD emphasizes that impacts of climate change (increasing variability of droughts and floods, and desertification etc) requires new sustainable development paths that are beneficial to all, hence advocates for promoting a green economy through sustainable management of natural resources. In addition, it notes that climate change, gender and youth employment are also cross-cutting issues that must be taken into account in development plans.

ECOSYSTEM BASED ADAPTATION FOR FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA ASSEMBLY (EBAFOSA)



EBAFOSA: INNOVATIVELY DELIVERING ON THE SDGs AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Africa continues to face challenges, despite the great strides it has taken to alleviate poverty and improve lives. The continent still has a long way to go to achieve sustainable development. Environment is at the heart of all this development and as such, must be taken into account in the development agenda of the continent in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. The continent must continue to invest in innovative solutions and approaches with the potential to transform lives and which can be implemented at zero or minimal cost.

One way of enhancing sustainability of climate actions is to link them directly to socio-economic priority areas– food security, job creation, entrepreneurial opportunities, macro-economic growth etc. This can be achieved by targeting climate actions at catalytic sectors capable of simultaneously unlocking socio-economic development opportunities and meeting climate objectives. Such an innovative broad approach to climate actions beyond environmental obligation enhances participation of non-state actors including the private sector, academia and ground actors who are critical to mobilizing the means of implementation. Sometimes you do not need to reinvent the wheel, rather, tap into and improve on what

you already know or that which exists. Africa may very well have the solutions to its problems, but the biggest constrain in achieving progress lies in gaps in policy processes, financial resources, technology, synergy in implementation frameworks and so forth. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is helping countries seal these gaps, through an innovative programme, the Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security (EBAFOSA).

EBAFOSA is the first inclusive pan-African framework and platform, an institution with protocols – a constitution and rules of procedure adopted in an inclusive continental process to guiding actions that provide a platform for all stakeholders- including governments and their agencies, the public and sector sectors, education and research institutions, citizens, international and intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, CSOs, CBOs etc to collaborate in a participatory way in developing and implementing policy solutions to upscale EBA-driven agriculture and its value chains to ensure sustainability. It seeks to combat food insecurity, climate change, ecosystems degradation and poverty in Africa using an innovative approach that decentralizes the development and application of policy solutions in the least bureaucratic channel. EBAFOSA provides an optimized channel to implement existing and envisaged grandeur development plans for the continent and strives to ensure impact at the grassroots. Consequently, its principal mandate is to support implementation of the various continental and global blue-prints on food security and sustainable industrialization



[Continued...](#)

ECOSYSTEM BASED ADAPTATION FOR FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA ASSEMBLY (EBAFOSA)



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EBAFOSA: INNOVATIVELY DELIVERING ON THE SDGs AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT

and development, through building on established, on-going progress, as opposed to implementing projects/programmes/initiatives in siloes where aggregate outcomes will be sub-optimal.

To date, EBAFOSA has been established in 40 countries across Africa, and 10 countries have launched national branches to enhance efficiency and ensure synergy in implementation of EBAFOSA at national levels. Notable achievements at country levels include:

- Cameroon has committed to use the EBAFOSA policy framework to mobilize partnerships and deliver a strategic country agenda on “work on climate change & agriculture through working with nature” (SDGs 2, 13 and 17).
- Nigeria has integrated EBAFOSA into the 2015/2016 budget through the Agriculture and Environment pillar of Nigeria’s development blueprint. This will ensure budget allocation for EBA upscaling (SDG 13). Nigeria has also mobilized youth groups to engage in developing an EBA farm to expand reach of EBA site-based actions in Nigeria.

- Kenya, through policy level linkages in the Ministry of Agriculture, has integrated EBA into its Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy (SDGs 2 and 13). EBAFOSA Kenya also included a priority framework to mobilize partnerships in implementing this strategy (SDG 17).
- Mozambique is using project data to facilitate integration of EBA into district, provincial and national food security policies (SDG 2 and 13). Farmers have been trained and sensitized on the benefits of agroforestry. WFP has also pledged to deliver \$40 million worth of a school feeding programme through EBAFOSA.
- Zambia has integrated EBA into the Poverty Reduction Strategy, a national policy document on poverty eradication (SDG 1, 2 and 13). EBA approaches of crop diversification are also being replicated countrywide.

The above progress aligns with UNEP’s programme of work and is evidence of UNEP’s efforts towards increasing the number and percentage of countries it has assisted to integrate ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) and other adaptation approaches into sectorial and national development strategies. By fostering an inclusive approach that leverages the relative strengths at all levels of a diverse pool of stakeholders, EBAFOSA is indeed, delivering on the provisions of the SDGs and Paris Agreement.

DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR



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DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR BOWS OUT OF UNEP

Dr. Desta Mebratu is leaving UNEP at the end of August, after 13 years. He landed in Kenya in August 2003 to take up his first appointment with UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) as the Regional Industry Officer for Africa. He subsequently served as Head of the Business and Industry Unit at UNEP-DTIE in Paris from 2008- 2011. He returned back to Kenya in July 2011 to take up a position at UNEP as Deputy Regional Director, ROA .

Desta holds a BSc in Chemical Engineering from Addis Ababa University, an MSc in Environmental Management and Policy from Lund University and an MBA in International Business from the American University of London. He earned his PhD in Engineering from Lund Institute of Technology in Sweden. His technical expertise is in cleaner production and technology, environmental management systems, resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production and green economy.

Thirteen years in total at UNEP, that's something. In retrospect, what do you consider to be the best achievement ever for the organization? I would say the best achievement is the progress we have made in consolidating the programme portfolio managed by the Regional Office for Africa in general, and in particular, the success we have had in developing

and implementing the largest project portfolio for UNEP on Green Business development through Switch Africa Green.

A decade at ROA is quite a long time. What have been some of your most memorable moments serving in ROA, in terms of UNEP's impact on the ground, in and for Africa?

We have registered tremendous progress and results in the promotion of cleaner production in industries across Africa. In terms of impact on the ground, this has led to significant economic savings and environmental benefits through efficiency improvement and waste prevention/reduction, thus ensuring healthier living and sustainable consumption and production patterns. By the way, this has also contributed to the success of Switch Africa Green in the region.

You have earned a reputation as a quiet, diligent, principled and effective diplomat and manager—traits that have no doubt enabled you navigate and negotiate your way through with people and systems to get things done. How did/do you do it? What's behind your achievements and what motivates you?



Continued...

DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR



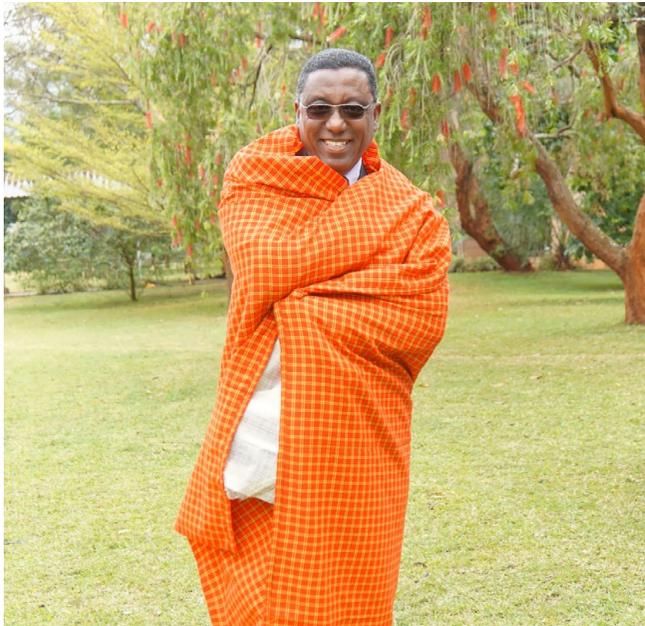
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DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR BOWS OUT OF UNEP

The principal motivation behind my work and modest achievements is my desire to make the best use of my knowledge and expertise in whatever I am engaged in. This, coupled with the ability to listen, stay positive and engage constructively with everyone I interact with, irrespective of status, may have contributed to my successes and the positive rapport I have developed with my colleagues and peers.

Reflecting on your extensive professional experience and technical expertise, and in alignment with UNEP's work, what 3 priority areas do you think ROA should focus on to better serve the African constituents in advancing the environmental agenda as well as achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063?

UNEP in general and ROA in particular have a lot to offer in promoting environmental sustainability in the region and enabling the region achieve Agenda 2030 on SDGs and Agenda 2063, and I think that this can be enhanced through: i) developing regional framework programmes that are more responsive to emerging needs and demands of the countries; ii) promoting a more coherent and coordinated delivery of UNEP's Programme of Work at country levels; and lastly iii) further consolidating partnership engagements with regional organizations, especially the Regional Economic Communities.

The campaign #WildforLife...what's your kindred species?

Rhino

What are you currently reading?

I am reading a novel based on a true story, written in our national language, Amharic. The title translates to "Sunflower" in English. The story is about young revolutionaries who dedicated their life to bring democratic change in the country in the 1970s, and two of the characters in the plot fell in love. In sum, the book is about love, dedication, commitment and sacrifice to your country and your loved ones.

Any regrets? Your worst fears?

In hindsight, I may have a number of things I would have wished to do or handle differently. But, no regrets! My worst fear is our collective failure as humanity to take action today and to hand over a better world to the future generation.



Continued...

DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR



DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR BOWS OUT OF UNEP

What's still on your bucket list?

I have a few things I still want to do but top on my list is to share my experience and knowledge as widely as possible through publishing, teaching and advocating for fundamental transformation. I hope to inspire and mentor young people in whatever way I can because they are the future leaders and innovators with huge potential to make a difference.

What will you miss the most about Kenya?

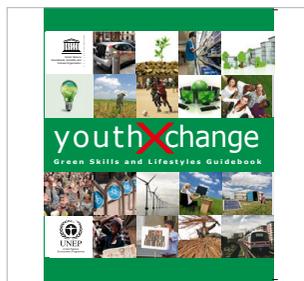
I will miss my scenic drives to the office through the beautiful and lush Karura Forest...it was always refreshing.

Where to from here, what next for Desta?

My home base will be Addis Ababa, Ethiopia but I will be involved in academic, research and development work across the region in the areas I have been working on for over two decades. So...I will still be very much around. Stay tuned!

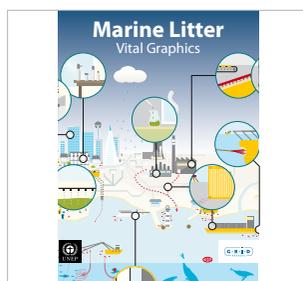
On behalf of ROA, we wish to extend our utmost gratitude to Desta for his friendship, support and dedication in service to UNEP and the African constituents that we serve. We wish him the best in his future endeavours as he embarks on a new chapter in life. God bless you.

PUBLICATIONS



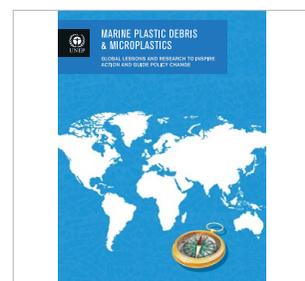
YouthXchange green skills and lifestyles guidebook

The YouthXchange Green Skills and Lifestyles guidebook, which focuses on the challenges, opportunities and good practices related to green economies and societies, is the second in a series of thematic guidebooks. This series is produced for young people and people working with young people, educators, teachers, trainers and youth leaders around the world.



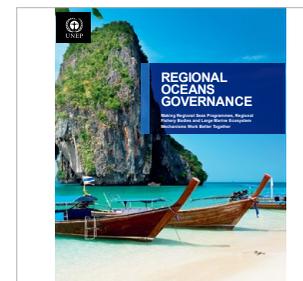
Marine litter: Vital graphics

Marine litter is human-created waste that has been discharged into the coastal or marine environment. Litter sources are located on land, along the coastline or at sea and travel to the ocean through many different pathways.



Marine plastic debris and microplastics: Global lessons and research to inspire action and guide policy change

The global production of plastics in 2014 was 311 million tonnes. It has been estimated that in 2010 alone, between 4.8-12.7 million metric tons of plastic found their way into our oceans. Plastic debris and microplastics is transported by ocean currents across borders. It is found everywhere, even on the remotest shores of uninhabited islands, in the Arctic ice, the deep ocean and in a broad array of marine organisms.



Regional oceans governance: Making regional seas programmes, regional fishery bodies and large marine ecosystem mechanisms work better together

Oceans are of vital importance to the international community, not only for their living and non-living resources and the shipping and other maritime uses they facilitate, but also for the key role they play in the global climate and weather system.

UPCOMING EVENTS



24 SEPT-
5 OCT
2016

The 17th meeting of the
Conference of the Parties to CITES
(CoP17)
Johannesburg, South Africa

10-14
OCT
2016

28th Meeting of the Parties to the
Montreal Protocol
Kigali, Rwanda





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