



# Africa Environment Link

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## A Growing UNEP Strategic Support to Africa

The Regional Office for Africa is going through an exhilarating period as we embark on implementing the UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS), which addresses major environmental and sustainable development concerns of Africa. The MTS sets out the overall framework of actions of UNEP for the period 2010-2013 in six cross-cutting thematic priorities. These are: Climate Change; Disasters and Conflicts; Ecosystem Management; Environmental Governance; Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste; and Resource Efficiency-Sustainable Consumption and Production. The MTS seeks to address these issues not only at strategic and policy level, but also through programmes and projects on the ground. It is on the basis of these priority areas that UNEP's Programme of Work in Africa will be implemented.

Africa is the focus of considerable international attention. A growing interest is evident as it becomes clear that progress on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed targets is not fully on track in the region. The continent continues to face considerable challenges in, among others, the following areas: climate change, energy crisis, persistent extreme poverty, food insecurity, inadequate health services, political and social crisis linked to governance issues, unsustainable use of natural resources which are the backbone of economic livelihood in the region.

Africa's vast potential is however far from being fully harnessed. The continent contains 45% of global biodiversity and has the second largest area of tropical forests in the world. It has 30%

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of the world mineral resources including 40 % of gold and approximately 65% of world diamond. The region has a huge potential of renewable energy, particularly solar energy - more than 80% of the landscape receive 2000 KWh per square meter per year. Wind energy, geothermal resources and biomass fuel are considerable. Africa has now reached one (1) billion inhabitants. It is a youthful continent of whom 41 per cent are under 15 years of age. Between 2003 and 2008, average economic growth was 5.4%. In 2008, it was over 6%, a rate comparable to and

## A Growing UNEP Strategic Support to ...

even higher than those of many other developing regions.

UNEP's Programme in Africa aims at assisting African governments and major stakeholders in addressing environment challenges and using the available opportunities for sustainable development. In the context of its new direction, UNEP will ensure a better coherence and coordination in the effective delivery of environmental capacity-building and technical support at all levels in response to country needs and priorities. To this end, a UNEP Regional Strategic Framework for Africa (RSFA) has been developed which builds on the MTS, analyses environment and development challenges and opportunities of the region. The RSFA constitutes a guiding framework for the 'Delivering as One UNEP' in Africa bringing increased relevance, improved coherence, enhanced effectiveness and impact in the support of the organization to the continent.

The year 2010 ushers in a new decade with growing concerns about the threat posed by climate change and the continuous intractable challenges of poverty reduction. There are also opportunities as the continent can tap on its own assets and improve on its political, economic and environmental governance. The Regional Office of Africa will continue to improve as it strives to provide the most relevant, timely and effective support to African countries, making environment an important asset for economic growth, health, peace and social stability. □

Mounkaila Goumandakoye  
Director,  
UNEP Regional Office for Africa

## World Environment Ministers Signal Resolve to Realize Sustainable Development

*The 11th Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was held in Bali, Indonesia from 24-26 February 2010 under the theme: "Environment in the multilateral system"*

In the first landmark Declaration issued by ministers of the environment in a decade, governments pledged to step up the global response to the major environmental and sustainability challenges of this generation. The wide-ranging Nusa Dua Declaration, agreed in the closing session of the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, underlines the vital importance of biodiversity, the urgent need to combat climate change and work towards a good outcome in Mexico later in the year and the key opportunities from accelerating a transition to a low-carbon resource-efficient Green Economy.

The Nusa Dua Declaration also highlights the need to improve the overall management of the global environment, accepting that that 'governance architecture' has in many ways become too complex and fragmented.

An important step forward was also made in the areas of chemicals, hazardous wastes and human health. Governments agreed to have more cooperative action by the three relevant treaties--the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions -- as a first step to boosting their delivery within countries. The Declaration, the first by world environment ministers since they met in Malmö, Sweden in 2000, will be transmitted to the UN General Assembly later this year when governments will begin preparations for a landmark conference in Brazil, called Rio plus 20.



Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director – "The ministers responsible for the environment, meeting just over a month after the climate change conference in Copenhagen, have spoken with a clear, united and unequivocal voice."

The main objectives of the special session of the Council/Forum were to facilitate ministerial-level discussions on important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment and to address relevant decisions of its previous sessions.

The Global Ministerial Environment Forum is convened annually to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment, with the Governing Council constituting the forum either in its regular sessions or special sessions.

For more information on the outcomes of the 11th Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Please visit: <http://www.unep.org/gc/gcss-xi/>

# Beyond Copenhagen: Challenges and Opportunities for Africa

By Merlyn Van Voore

*The 15th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Fifth Session of the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COPMOP5) took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 7th – 19th December 2009. Copenhagen was meant to represent the culmination of two years of negotiations which started with the adoption of the Bali Action Plan in December 2007. Africa was highly visible and made considerable impact in spite of the difficulties encountered before and during COP15/COPMOP5.*

On the whole, Africa achieved the continent's objectives of (i) using the common negotiating position developed in 2008 and that was periodically updated during 2009; and (ii) speaking with one voice on many key issues. The specific objectives of maintaining the two negotiating tracks (the AWG-KP and the AWG-LCA); and keeping adaptation and Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) high on the agenda were also achieved.

The second Extraordinary Meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) on Climate Change held on 15 December 2009 at the Bella Centre in Copenhagen was successful and gave the necessary update to the Ministers ahead of the high level segment.

## The Copenhagen Process

During the first week in Copenhagen, wide discussions on two key texts — the Kyoto Protocol track (KP track) and the Long-Term Co-operative Action track (LCA track) — were held by diplomats, negotiators and experts without much progress mainly due to the fact that these texts had no specificities on:

- emission reduction targets for developed countries;
- numbers on financial support for action in developing countries; and
- the legal nature of the agreement.

Other concerns were raised about how the process was being managed, with fears about lack of transparency. By the time Heads of States arrived, negotiators had still not reached agree-

ment on many of the key substantive issues contained in the texts. Danish Prime Minister Mr. Lars Rasmussen, in his capacity as the President of the Conference of the Parties, convened a meeting of some 26 Heads of State and Government on the Copenhagen Accord - which formed the basis for subsequent discussions between Heads of State, Ministers and delegation leaders at the last plenary session.

This last plenary session, which started at 9p.m. on 18 December and spilled over into the afternoon of 19 December 2009, will be remembered for its heated debates and acrimony. Some countries protested vehemently against the process used to draft the Accord, and raised issues about lack of transparency, lack of inclusiveness and argued that the process went against the UN



Photo: UNFCCC, iisd

Delegates at the UNFCCC COP15: Need for urgent global response building on regional priorities



## Key elements of the Copenhagen Accord

- an aspirational goal of limiting global temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius;
- a process for countries to enter their specific mitigation pledges by January 31, 2010;
- broad terms for the reporting and verification of countries' actions;
- a collective commitment by developed countries for \$30 billion in "new and additional" resources in 2010-2012 to help developing countries reduce emissions, preserve forests, and adapt to climate change; and
- a goal of mobilizing \$100 billion a year in public and private finance by 2020 to address developing country needs.

The accord also calls for the establishment of a Copenhagen Green Climate Fund, a High Level Panel to examine ways of meeting the 2020 finance goal, a new Technology Mechanism, and a mechanism to channel incentives for reduced deforestation



*Africa Negotiators for a strong regional common position on climate change*

Photo: UNFCCC, iisd

Charter itself. The actual text of the Copenhagen Accord was therefore not discussed at plenary and the COP/COPMOP decided not to adopt but rather "take note" of the Copenhagen Accord's existence, as a consensus was not reached. Many countries in particular Tuvalu, Venezuela, Sudan, Nicaragua and Bolivia strongly voiced their opposition to the Accord.

The COP15/COPMOP5 agreed to continue negotiating on the amendment of Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol and a new agreement on "long-term cooperative action", to be discussed during the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the COP and the sixth session of the COPMOP, scheduled to be held in Mexico from 29 November to 10 December 2010.

## What does the Accord mean for Africa?

Africa needs to take note of the progress made during Copenhagen and take into account the existence and contents of the Copenhagen Accord. Some of the progress that has been identified with the COP15 process and outcomes include:

- A plan excluded from Kyoto – titled "Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD)" – under which wealthier nations pay countries for preserving their forests made a comeback at Copenhagen.
- For Central Africa in particular, the mention of REDD in the Accord



*Flooding events in Mozambique – Climate variability and change could result in low-lying land being inundated with resultant impacts on human settlement*



*Climate change will aggravate the water stress currently faced by some countries*

**"This was perhaps not the big breakthrough some had hoped for, but neither was it a breakdown which at times seemed a possibility. The litmus test of developed countries' ambitions will in a sense come immediately. If the funds promised in the Accord start flowing swiftly and to the levels announced, then a new international climate change policy may have been born."**

Achim Steiner,  
Executive Director of UNEP  
(reaction to Copenhagen  
Accord)

is of great relevance and provides the optimism on saving the Congo Basin Forest since stopping deforestation is a cheaper way to slow carbon emissions in addition to its role in protecting the ecosystems and other habitat.

- The Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation on to climate change also received prominence. Parties reaffirmed the importance of the Programme – and developing country Parties urged Parties and international organizations to avoid duplication of networks.
- The pledged commitments of funding represents a step forward – but it is not clear how the sums of money will be mobilized and how the funds will ultimately be managed.
- There is a need, in the run up to Mexico, for Africa to work out alternatives and strategies, building on its common position that would encourage more focused leadership of the climate change agenda.

The Accord can be seen as an important political step that can guide the process for developing a binding post-2012 agreement. The Conference also demonstrated unprecedented worldwide attention, an extraordinary mobilization of public opinion and action

and the highest level political engagement from countries.

### Way forward for the UN climate change process in 2010

**31 January 2010 deadline:** The Copenhagen Accord requires countries to put forward their targets and actions by 31 January 2010. Annex 1 parties must submit emissions reduction targets for 2020. Non-Annex 1 parties must submit plans for reductions in emissions compared to "business as usual".

**Next round of climate talks June 2010 (Bonn, Germany):** The next negotiation session is scheduled to take place in Bonn, from 31 May to 11 June 2010.

**COP 16/COPMOP6 – Mexico, 29 November 2010:** The 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties will take place in Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010.

There is an urgent need for trust to be restored in the ongoing negotiations if the climate change talks in Mexico at the end of 2010 is to be successful.

Apart from the decision by COP15/COPMOP5 to note *the Copenhagen Accord*, two important decisions were made by the meeting; that is to continue with the negotiations post Copenhagen along the two tracks



Namibia, Swakopmund, Sossusvlei. Dead tree in parched landscape

Photo: Walter Bibikow/Getty images

(AWG-KP and AWG-LCA). The meeting also adopted the reports submitted by AWG-KP and AWG-LCA. These reports indicated areas of agreement and those where final decisions were outstanding. These decisions and reports are important to Africa and the rest of G77 and China since they are pointers to the negotiations in 2010. □



Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai discusses with delegates

Photo: UNFCCC, iisd



# Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation – REDD — as a Mechanism for Facing Climate Change Challenges in Developing Countries

*By Mohamed Abdel Monem*

The total forest area of the world is about 4 billion hectares, which represents nearly 30 percent of the Earth's landmass. Tropical forests are disappearing at an alarming rate: between 1990 and 2005, the rate of deforestation averaged about 13 million hectares a year, occurring mostly in tropical countries. Africa loses about four million hectares per year due to deforestation.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicated in its 4<sup>th</sup> report that deforestation, accounts for about 17% of global greenhouse emissions. In many developing countries, deforestation, forest degradation, forest fires and slash and burn practices make up the majority of carbon dioxide emissions.

Efforts for facing climate change challenges must therefore come from reducing the use of fossil fuel in industrialized countries and also in developing countries. Planting new trees to sequester carbon will also play an important role. Lowering 20 per cent of emissions related to forests, reduced deforestation and forest degradation may play a significant role in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 13) held in Bali in 2007 produced the Bali Action Plan, a process



*Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa. A Pygmy chops down forest for a garden*

Photo: Randy Olson/Getty Images

for negotiating a new global climate strategy beyond 2012. This plan recognized the importance of forests in dealing with climate change, and the enormous potential advantage that Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) represents. REDD initiative can deliver significant climate change mitigation benefits in addition to other benefits that include protecting the environmental services that forests offer, improving the livelihoods of forest-dwelling communities and clarifying land tenure rights.

Two major global initiatives are underway to help developing countries implement future REDD mechanisms.

**The first of these initiatives is the United Nations REDD Program Fund, UN-REDD (UNDP, FAO, UNEP),** which offers developing countries extensive support on deforestation and forest degradation issues. The program builds capacity, helps design national strategies and tests financing approaches and institutional arrangements to monitor and verify reductions in forest loss. The UN-REDD Initiative is operating in nine countries with three in Africa: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Zambia in addition to Bolivia, Indonesia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, and, Vietnam. Demonstration projects have already been initiated in a number of countries.

The World Bank is coordinating the second global initiative: **the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility**. The FCPF is similar to the UN program however it is larger in scale. It is operating in 29 countries including nine in Africa, namely Cameroon, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania for the continent, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana and Honduras in Latin America, Cambodia Indonesia, Suriname, Thailand, Vanuatu and Vietnam in South East Asia and the Pacific.



These two initiatives coordinate activities when operating in the same country. Both initiatives also have several REDD demonstration activities underway in different countries to better understand how REDD can be implemented and to test the workability of different approaches. The progress and outcomes of these initiatives will help UNFCCC negotiators to decide whether forest-related carbon dioxide emissions can be measured and whether proposed REDD mechanisms can work.

It is estimated that the resources required to halve emissions from the forest sector by 2030 could amount from US\$17 billion to \$33 billion per year.

Costs to reduce emissions from deforestation are made up of the costs of strengthening host countries' capacity to participate to REDD ("readiness"); administration costs; and opportunity costs when forests are not earmarked for timber production or conversion into alternative land uses. REDD is seen as a powerful means to raise

unprecedented financial resources in Annex 1 countries ("carbon finance"). These resources can be raised in various ways, including carbon trading, auctioning of allowances, proceeds from taxation, binding financial contributions, and others. The REDD mechanism negotiated in the run-up to COP15 in Copenhagen, should be in charge of organizing financial transfers from Annex 1 countries to support such emissions reduction efforts in non Annex 1 countries. ▢



*A slashed and burned Baobab forest near Kirindy-Mitea National Park, Madagascar*

Photo: Michael Foy/Getty Images



# The Development of an African Regional Initiative on Green Economy

*By Josephine Bauer*

In a recent report on the challenges of climate change for Africa, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Sir Nicolas Stern have referred to the need to put in place effective policies and creative market measures to mobilize investment for addressing climate change in Africa. As the world is deliberating on possible solutions, the Green Economy Initiative (GEI) emerges as a new green deal to help tackle this major threat.

## The Green Economy Initiative

The GEI was launched at the end of 2008 in order to communicate a global plan for a green industrial revolution to be supported by strong and convincing evidence of income generated, decent jobs created, and poverty reduced through investing in a new generation of assets including environmental infrastructure, clean technology, renewable energy, natural resource-based products and services, waste management, and green cities.

This Initiative will make recommendations for greening national economies, for creating new green jobs and greening existing jobs, and for a just transition from a brown to a green economy for enterprises and workers. The initiative will provide guidance to policymakers and other stakeholders on how to overcome these challenges, highlighting the important role of the government in the march towards a green economy. In addition, the initiative will make and communicate a strong economic case for proactive investments and active labour market policies in such areas as water, forest, soil, and marine resource manage-

ment, which are key components of ecosystem management, so as to pre-empt the environmental causes of conflicts, disasters, and poverty.

The initiative will reinforce the work on environmental governance and the need for a long-term response to global climate change, by showing commitments to and enforcement of UNFCCC and other environmental agreements. The GEI is cross-cutting in the thematic areas of UNEP's Programme of Work for 2010-2011 and its sub-programmes, namely climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, harmful substances and hazardous waste, as well as resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production.

## Opportunities for the African region

African countries recognize the need to fully engage in international environmental agreements including the climate change convention in order to conserve economically important sectors at risk from tourism to agriculture which employs seventy percent of the region's workforce. Responding to the economic, food, fuel, and climate change related challenges in the African region offers an opportunity to address immediate concerns, while at the same time articulating new policies and promoting investment towards green sectors able to generate employment, improve living conditions and launch African economies onto a low carbon, energy and material efficient



Arkady/shutterstock

path of growth and development.

These challenges could be addressed by motivating policy makers to give green investments sufficient space in policies, to demonstrate that investing in these sectors has a better chance to bring about recovery and sustainable growth, save and create jobs, improve the quality of jobs, meet the MDGs with special emphasis on poverty reduction while tackling the most acute environmental problems.

UNEP has been requested for advisory services on green economy by a number of African countries, including Ghana, Egypt, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda and South Africa. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Ministerial Conference on Financing for Development held in Kigali, Rwanda in May 2009, African ministers of the environment and ministers of finance agreed to creating an enabling environment to support the transition towards a green economy and pursuing low carbon growth in Africa.



## African Regional Initiative on Green Economy

In order to respond to these requests, the Regional Office for Africa (ROA) will facilitate the implementation of activities that will lead to the launching of an African Regional Initiative on Green Economy. As a first step, those sectors that are of most interest/importance to African countries will be identified and senior experts from the region, including research institutions and universities which contributed to the Green Economy report will be engaged in the development of a regional Green Economy Initiative. The example of Korea and the East-Asia Initiative could inspire the best course of actions in initiating a regional/sub-regional green economy initiative in Africa. The Regional Office for Africa will liaise with the AU to better engage the relevant ministerial forums in the regional dialogue on green economy in Africa in an inclusive approach that will take into account regional organizations, economic communities and government institutions at the regional and country level.

ROA will also support African countries in their efforts to switch to green economy by providing relevant information and material through UN-DAF, other UN processes and regional forums such as AMCEN, AMCOW, FEMA and others. Information will be provided and distributed to relevant stakeholders on past and ongoing programmes, projects and initiatives that are related to green economy, and the possibility of initiating pilot activities on green economy will be assessed.

The intervention of UNEP Regional Office will build on UNEP wide experiences through its Division of Technology, Industry and Economy, in several activities in Africa, such as developing the capacity of Eastern African countries to promote organic agriculture and the assessment of the impact of trade agreements on biodiversity in African countries. □

# Implementing MEAs in Africa — The African Hub of the EC ACP Programme goes to Work

*By Robert Wabunoha*

**T**he EC ACP MEAs Programme funded by the European Union (EU) to the tune of 21 million euro for a four-year capacity enhancement programme is aimed at addressing capacity needs in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has partnered with the European Union and working with various regional agencies to implement the programme in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific countries. UNEP and the EU are supporting and strengthening three existing regional institutions with environmental mandates to deliver capacity building activities.

UNEP is coordinating and facilitating the programme and has developed partnerships with four institutions, namely, the UNEP Risoe Centre on Energy Climate and Sustainable Development, the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

## *The Africa Hub*

The African Union Commission (AUC), in Addis Ababa, is hosting the African Hub of the Programme. The Hub focuses on strengthening and enhancing the capacities of the 48 ACP African countries, the regional economic communities and related institutions.

The Regional Office for Africa (UNEP) is providing the Africa Hub with substantive support on environmental law and policy aspects and, in certain cases, jointly implement the project activities.

The African Hub has already recruited the programme staff. Sub regional workshops to review existing capacity needs and prioritize those needs are being held. For more information contact Ms. Fatoumata Ndoeye ([fnjallow@yahoo.com](mailto:fnjallow@yahoo.com)). □

# Operationalizing UNEP Med

By Gertrud

UNEP developed the Medium-term Strategy (MTS) 2010-2013, in consultation with the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives, secretariats of UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements and stakeholders from the private sector and civil society. The MTS defines a medium-term vision for UNEP to be : 'The leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment'.

The MTS thus provides a clear, results-based focus for UNEP programmes of work with the identification of six cross-cutting thematic priorities. They are: Climate change; Disasters and conflicts; Ecosystem management; Environmental governance; Harmful substances and hazardous waste and Resource efficiency - sustainable consumption and produc-



Photo: Reuters

tion. Amongst the programmatic results frameworks that constitute the MTS, the Programme of Work (PoW) 2010-2011 details UNEP's focus in the current biennium. Delivery in these thematic areas shall be accomplished by aligning the UNEP Regional Offices to support coherent delivery of a one UNEP-wide Programme of Work with access to expertise through the UNEP Divisions. The six cross-cutting thematic priorities are of particular relevance to Africa.

## Climate change

UNEP's objective is to strengthen the ability of countries to integrate climate change responses into national development processes. While cognizant that countries have common but differentiated responsibilities in contributing to climate change, UNEP will focus its climate change activities in the current biennium on a number of regions, countries, ecosystems and sectors to





# Medium Term Strategy in Africa

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## Disasters and conflict

UNEP intends to minimize environmental threats to human well-being arising from the environmental causes and consequences of conflicts and disasters. Within the existing mandates, UNEP will assist vulnerable or crisis-affected countries and communities by providing environmental expertise, with particular attention to vulnerable human groups, ecosystems (such as lands contaminated by radiation) as well as emergency response and recovery operations at the subregional, national and subnational levels. Additionally, upon request from member states, UNEP will provide early warning on environmental risks, environmental data and expertise to mitigate the possible impacts. Some of UNEP's interventions are aimed at increased investment in combined disaster risk reduction and natural resource management schemes in the countries. This leads to increase to an increase in the percentage of acute environmental crisis identified and mitigated in post-conflict and post-disaster periods. To date, UNEP has responded to crisis situations in more than 25 countries globally, and has a number of ongoing and completed programmes in Africa.

achieve more tangible results. UNEP's work on adaptation and ecosystems will primarily focus on highly vulnerable ecosystems (drylands and low lying coasts) in regions most vulnerable to climate change – Africa, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and megadeltas.

On mitigation finance and technology, UNEP will primarily focus on middle income, emerging and carbon intensive economies where the majority of gains can be realised. UNEP will also assist Least Developing Countries (LDCs) to access finance for appropriate technologies.

UNEP's activities on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and carbon market will focus on developing countries with low CDM penetration, especially in Africa. In the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) programme, land use (including land use change) and forestry activities will be undertaken in response to expressed requests from developing countries, especially those with large tropical forests.

## Ecosystem management

UNEP is encouraging countries to utilize the ecosystem approach to enhance human well-being. Building on UNEP's mandate to improve the scientific understanding of ecosystem functioning, this subprogramme promotes an approach that addresses a whole ecological unit as a single system. At the national and regional level, UNEP will facilitate policies and laws that promote environment for development, emphasize the socio-economics aspects of ecosystem services through payment



for ecosystem services and incorporate biodiversity as a working system for ecosystem functioning. UNEP will primarily work in areas and countries of high biodiversity, high water-stress, those facing recurrent food shortages and transboundary ecosystems. Special emphasis will be on Least Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. Some of the outputs will be initiation and review of regional policies and laws supporting ecosystem management and pilot projects for restoration



of terrestrial ecosystems that balance food provisioning, carbon sequestration and timber/fuelwood services in degraded ecosystems amongst others.

### Environmental governance:

The objective is to ensure environmental governance at the country, regional and global levels is strengthened to address agreed environmental priorities. UNEP will, at all levels, support Governments in establishing, implementing and strengthening the necessary processes, institutions, law, policies and programmes to achieve sustainable development. UNEP will also work with United Nations bodies, international institutions, regional,



sub-regional and national bodies, multilateral environmental agreements, civil societies and the private sector to increase the mainstreaming of the environment into other sectoral processes and policies.

### Harmful substances and hazardous waste:

UNEP's objective is to minimize the impact of harmful substances and hazardous waste on the environment and human beings. This subprogramme

builds on more than 30 years of work in the field of harmful chemicals and cooperation with other international organizations where UNEP brings the environmental component regarding risks associated with harmful substances and hazardous waste.

UNEP's assistance and technology support will focus on developing countries and countries with economies in transition with special attention on Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States when funding is provided under the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals process. UNEP will also support initiatives related to specific chemicals such as mercury, heavy metals, ozone depleting substances and other chemicals of global concern.

### Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production:

UNEP's objective is to ensure natural resources are produced, processed and consumed in a more environmentally sustainable way. The overarching aim of this subprogramme is to detach economic growth from unsustainable resource use and environmental degradation. In support of a shift to sustainable consumption and production, more focus will be put on production in developing countries and consumption in developed countries.

By building capacities to promote production of environmentally sustainable products, this subprogramme will assist Government and the private sector to improve their capacities to design and implement laws, policies and management actions that promote the production of resource efficient and sustainable goods and services. The subprogramme will disseminate research findings and implement demonstration projects to illustrate the benefits of efficient, clean and safe industrial production methods. Africa, comprised largely of least and developing countries, stands to gain greater



access to technology transfer, information and financing for development.

UNEP will work in all these areas with various partners in development – Governments, Regional Economic Commissions, UN entities, civil societies, private enterprises and individuals. The diversity of the partnerships is characterized by the scope of the collective subprogrammes. In particular, UNEP works with the various UN entities under the "Delivering as One": an initiative that increases the UN system's impact on the lives of people in programme countries by delivering more coordinated, coherent, effective and efficient assistance.

The main objectives of "Delivering as One" are to increase the impact of the UN system at country level by increasing national ownership of UN activities, reducing transaction costs generated by UN organizations, and increasing the UN's efficiency and effectiveness. By harnessing expertise from across the UN System and creating synergies between UN organizations, "Delivering as One" will increase the impact of UN operational activities in support of national priorities, and help countries to attain the Millennium Development Goals and other development objectives. □



# UNEP Engaged in Joint Efforts to Save Mali's Lake Faguibine

By Mohamed Abdel-Monem

With 1.24 million square kilometres Mali, one of the largest countries in Africa is also part of the Sahel region that is negatively affected by armed conflicts and humanitarian crises which have strong linkages to climate change impacts.

Climate change and variability has had extensive and profound impacts in West Africa, in particular in the Sahel as it was struck by catastrophic droughts in the 1970s and 1980s. Though there has been a slight improvement since the 1990s, the current rainfall levels are still below the average of the twentieth century and. It is projected that, by the end of the twenty first century, the western Sahel would receive 10-20% less rainfall than in the 1980s-1990s according to IPCC report of 2007.

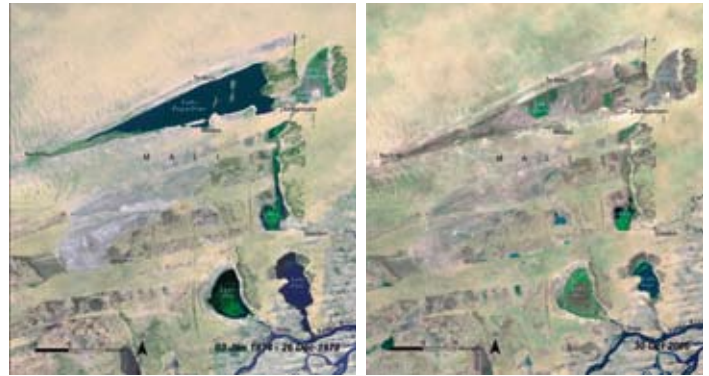
Such impacts are witnessed through the gradual decline of Lake Faguibine, once one of Mali's largest surface water body, since the mid-1970s. The shrinking lake has forced more than 200,000 people, mainly local sedentary farmers, livestock keepers and fishermen, to abandon their traditional livelihoods, which revolved around agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishery. Besides increasing poverty, the decline contributes to the loss of biodiversity in the region taking particular toll on migratory bird species.



UNEP in partnership with other UN agencies (UNDP, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, FAO) in addition to Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF) and Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER) is supporting the Government of Mali through local partners to rehabilitate the Lake Faguibine ecosystem to restore crucial ecosystem services that form the basis for fishery, biodiversity, recession agriculture and eco-tourism.

The project aims to quantify the potential of the Lake Faguibine ecosystem services under varied climate change and human intervention scenarios. It will specifically restore the ecosystems functioning of Lake Faguibine, which was decimated by prolonged drought compounded by poor catchment management. It will also raise awareness on the prevention of conflicts between farmers and livestock keepers, to secure passages for livestock and to improve management of grazing areas. The third specific objective of the project is to strengthen Mali's capacity to engage relevant actors (civil society, private sector and the public) in a national policy dialogue on water and sustainable ecosystem services delivery for human well-being.

The project will engage a wide cross-section of ethnic and social groups around the Lake with emphasis on empowering women in ecosystem management. It thus addresses issues related to HIV/AIDS and malaria as they are likely to increase as hundreds of people return to the Lake, and as increased surface water provides breeding ground



January 1974–October 2006: The drying up of Lake Faguibine  
(Source: UNEP Africa Atlas)

for mosquitoes.

A number of activities have been planned and will include Quantifying the potential of Lake Faguibine ecosystem services; Improving the management of land and the hydrological cycle in order to restore the health of the lake, Dredging over two million cubic meters of sand blocking the water channels that feed the lake, and promoting sustainable land use regimes and discharges from dams on the Niger River; Building in-country capacity and strategic partnerships with key stakeholders to take the project forward; Sensitizing communities (upstream and downstream) on the importance of water flows in the Niger River and in the water channels, and finally Improving knowledge of local stakeholders by working together on priority ecosystem management interventions.

As result of the project, it is expected that livelihoods of about 200,000 mainly nomadic people living in and around the area will improve, in addition to increasing availability of drinking water for humans and livestock and restoration of the lifeline of thousands of migratory water birds. The project also will enhance institutional, organizational and technical capacity to engage local user groups in sustainable natural resource management. ▣

# Sustainable Living: Africa gears towards Sustainable Consumption and Production

**By Patrick Mwesigye**

**A**t the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, governments called for the development of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10-YFP) in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) patterns that will promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems. The 10-YFP is a topic in the clusters of issues that will be discussed during the CSD-18 and CSD-19 cycles in 2010 and 2011.

## Promoting a sustainable consumption and production approach

SCP is a holistic approach to minimizing negative environmental impacts from production and consumption in society and it can be considered as a practical implementation strategy to achieve sustainable development. The main objective of SCP is to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems and the de-coupling of economic growth from environmental degradation. In Africa, the overall aim of reducing poverty while attaining sustainability can be accomplished through actions that are directly relevant to SCP. The challenge is to provide more people with a better quality of life without undermining the natural resource base and destroying the ecosystems on which everybody depends. The implementation of SCP as an integrated approach helps to achieve overall development plans, reduce future economic, environmental and social costs,

strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty. As governments and other actors consider how to manage energy, food and water crises and build a Green Economy, promoting and implementing holistic and integrated policies and actions towards SCP will help to address these crises.

## Broad trends in production and consumption in Africa

Africa faces very different SCP challenges than those faced by developed countries. In much of Africa there is a clear need to address the social pillar of sustainability as a large segment of the population lives in poverty and do not have access to basic needs, such as clean water, energy etc and adequate nutrition levels. The main challenge will have to satisfy the basic needs of the population. Natural resources are the basis for economic and social development in Africa. The poor tend to rely more on the natural resource base for their livelihoods than the rich. Unsustainable production patterns can result in significant social and environmental side effects that undermine the prospects for poverty reduction. And the unsustainable consumption patterns of the consumer class may further limit the "ecological space" available to poor people to meet their basic needs. Policies and actions supporting SCP can serve to bolster poverty reduction efforts and support sustainable long term growth and help to meet the MDGs. There are many opportunities to "leapfrog" towards more SCP patterns before consumption-driven impacts reach the levels observed in developed countries.

## Progress and Achievements

The African 10 Year Framework Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production was launched in May 2006 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The African 10-YFP has a strategic focus of linking SCP with the challenges of meeting basic needs in more sustainable manners and has four thematic areas of focus: *energy, water and sanitation, habitat and sustainable urban development, and industrial development*. A regional institutional focal mechanism, the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) and the Marrakech Taskforce on Cooperation with Africa supported by the Federal Ministry of Environment of Germany have been working with UNEP to implement the African 10 YFP. SCP activities in the region have been strengthened through a number of UNEP-supported activities such as the establishment of National Cleaner production Centres (NCPCs) in 11 African countries (Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe), the promotion of resource efficiency in SMEs, the development of African Eco-labelling Mechanism (AEM), the development of national and local SCP action plans, sustainable consumption and production of plastics, developing capacities for SCP in the Lake Victoria region, sustainable procurement and life cycle assessment workshops, collection of best practices on SCP projects by development agencies and a research study on leapfrogging possibilities for SCP in Africa. ▣





Photo: James Morris/Getty images

People scavenging on rubbish tip, Aswan, Upper Egypt, Egypt

# The UNDP-UNEP Poverty & Environment Initiative (PEI)

By Jonathan Duwyn

The UNDP-UNEP PEI supports governments to:

- Include environmentally sustainable natural resource use as a core objective in development planning

& implementation so that poverty reduction and other economic development objectives are not undermined by the unsustainable use of natural resources.

- Build capacity so that decision-makers know:

- How environmental sustainability contributes to development &
- How to include environmental sustainability in development planning & implementation.

In a nutshell, this is what the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative is all about. For the past few years, this initiative is being implemented in the region as part of global efforts to mainstream environmentally sustainable natural resource use into national development processes.

There are established programmes in seven countries in Africa – Mali, Mau-

ritania, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique (See [www.unpei.org](http://www.unpei.org)). New programmes are starting in Malawi and Burkina Faso, and the PEI is due to commence a programme in Botswana.

As an important step in this particular case, a three day Stakeholder Consultation Workshop was held in Gaborone, 7-9 December 2009 with the view to getting inputs to the development of a comprehensive PEI Botswana Communication and Advocacy Strategy (CAS) for mainstreaming poverty and environment issues in national planning processes. The meeting gathered 20 participants from a cross section of sectors including Finance and Planning, Environment Affairs, Wildlife, Tourism, Forestry, Water, Education, Statistics, Trade and Industry, private sector, University of Botswana and CSOs. As outcomes of these consultations, key stakeholders who need to be influenced, persons who may play the



role of PEI champions and potential partners and tactics were identified in view of the finalization of the strategy by March 2010.

The rationale for the UNDP-UNEP PEI is that poor people are most directly dependent on environmental resources such as land and water and they are the ones who suffer the most when the environment is degraded. For example, soil erosion reduces agricultural productivity and incomes; water pollution causes serious illness and death. That is, environmental sustainability is also an economic issue.

Yet, despite their critical importance, environmental assets such as pastures and forests continue to be degraded at an alarming rate. A significant factor in this continuing degradation is that the links between environment and poverty are not currently adequately reflected in national and sectoral development processes such as National Development Plans or Poverty Reduction Strategic Papers (PRSPs) and consequently they do not receive adequate funding from the government budgets and donors.

Thus, the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative provides support to countries to mainstream environmentally sustainable natural resource use into national and sectoral development processes and budgets. As indicated



Photo: Swiatoslaw Wojtkowiak/Getty Images

*Female and goat scavenging on garbage dump, looking for food and things of value surrounded by thick smoke from burning rubbish*

above, such mainstreaming will ensure that poverty reduction is not undermined by unsustainable use of environmental natural resources. PEI uses economic arguments as the basis for supporting the better integration of environmentally sustainable natural resource use in national and sectoral planning processes, strategies and budgets.

The focus of PEI country programmes is on integrating environment into national and sectoral development processes and budgets and capacity building at the national and sectoral level. While PEI sometimes funds small demonstration projects, the programme does not support on the ground programmes. That is, it does not directly fund, for example, forestry programmes or soil erosion control

programmes. Rather, it is aimed at helping government to integrate environmentally sustainable natural resource use into national and sectoral development plans so that government ministries and donors allocate more resources for sustainable natural resource use.

It is important to stress that the UNDP-UNEP PEI focuses on working with Ministries of Planning/Finance as much or more than it focuses on Ministries of Environment – as it is Planning/Finance and key line Ministries which need to integrate environmental sustainability into their plans and budgets. Lessons from PEI supported countries indicate strongly that it is vital that Finance/Planning is a lead agency for PEI in the country. □



*Integrating environment into national and sectoral development processes, budgets and capacity building*



# DESERTEC: Tapping into Africa's Clean Energy Power House

By Angele Luh-Sy

## The Initiative

On 13 July 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Desertec Industrial Initiative (DII) was signed in Munich, Germany, by over ten major industrial players, making headlines in the news and at the same time, raising issues in the region. The aim of this initiative is to produce sufficient power to meet around 15% to 20 % of Europe's electricity needs by 2050, through the harvesting of renewable sources in North Africa and the Middle East, and a substantial portion of the power needs of the producer countries. The objective is to develop the technical, economic, political, social and ecological framework for carbon-free power generation in the deserts of North Africa. DII will be designed to develop viable investment plans mainly industrial preparations for building a large number of networked solar thermal power plants distributed throughout the Middle East and North Africa region within three years of its establishment. The total cost of the project is estimated at €395 billion.

"Desertec", with its plans to create large scale solar panels across the Sahara desert to help European states reach their emission targets while supplying them and the Maghreb states with energy has understandably, stirred-up general optimism and excitement particularly in the use of renewable power by Europe. What could be Africa and partners' perspective, particularly in view of the ongoing talks on climate change?

## Energy situation in Africa

Africa is endowed with immense solar resources enough to meet all its energy needs, and is definitely a continent to watch. Yet it is estimated that no more than 20 per cent, and in some countries as little as 5 per cent, of the population has direct access to electricity. Power blackout is a regular



scene in cities, towns and villages across the region with negative impact on business productivity and quality of living. Sub-Saharan Africa alone is said to have 570 million people without access to electricity. The continent as a whole is currently the lowest per capita energy consumer in the world, accounting for only 3 percent of the globe's primary energy consumption. Africa also has the highest share of traditional biomass consumption, with about 59 percent of its population still relying on traditional sources of energy such as firewood. Deforestation with the associated land erosion and desertification continue to aggravate as trees are cut down for badly needed firewood. This situation is worse in rural areas. In the coming years, demand, which already outstrips the supply, is expected to rise even higher.

The energy crisis is spreading, making it difficult for African Countries to be competitive in the global market and, unless cutting edge measures are taken, no meaningful development can be achieved. Access to electricity is a prerequisite for economic growth and sustainable livelihoods, and is thus a fundamental ingredient for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It is therefore critical for Africa to address its energy needs as urgently as possible.

## Opportunities

There is enough sunlight falling on Africa's deserts to power not only Africa and Europe but the whole world also. In the Sahara, which is about 9 million square kilometers, the sun is said to shine 4,800 hours per year, providing the potential to generate clean solar power. Therefore, if Africa would harvest just a fraction of solar energy on its deserts and arid Sahel region, it would not only meet its immediate acute energy needs but also have enough energy to trigger new



Three wind turbines used as an alternative source of energy. Malmesbury, Western Cape Province, South Africa

Photo: Neil Overy/Getty images

high level of investment and employment opportunities in the continent. Low-carbon technologies, such as solar energy, are widely held to have positive socio-economic impacts. Figures from Desertec, for example, indicate "240 000 new German jobs" and "2 trillion euros in profits for European companies by 2050." How can Africa benefit from these opportunities?

It is critical that the development needs of the South are taken into account in this planning process, not only in terms of its electricity requirements, but also in terms of its potential to contribute to the project in a manner that can enhance socioeconomic development. Under these conditions, Desertec can become a driving force in the equitable fight against climate change, and can form part of innovative solutions beyond coal, gas and nuclear – both for the North and the South.

**Desertec** raises the profile of the continent's potential for sustainable power generation. The World Solar Congress in Johannesburg in October provided Africa with the opportunity to engage in this debate and prepare a regional response for its inclusion eventually in Desertec and most likely to other likewise projects. Some key researchers are already engaged in this debate and it is essential that intergovernmental and relevant organizations institutions hit the ground running to ensure that Africa and the developing world takes full advantage of such opportunities. This is definitely an Initiative to watch. ▢



## The Africa Carbon Asset Development is launched to Boost the African Market

*ACAD will help attract funding for Energy and Infrastructure Projects*

Africa and its people will feel the brunt of climate change and will need to address its impact in conditions that are already difficult. One of the key challenges the continent faces is in removing investment barriers to low-carbon sustainable development.

Africa has over 120 carbon market projects up and running or in the pipeline, in areas ranging from wind power to forestry schemes. However, the growth in Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects under the Kyoto Protocol remains uneven and in comparison to the rest of the world (close to 4,900 CDM projects are up and running), the Continent is still lagging behind, with the potential for clean and green energy largely under-exploited. According to the findings compiled by the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) Risoe Centre for the opening the just ended 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Carbon Forum, the larger economies such as Egypt and South Africa are still claiming the lion's share, with 32 and 13 projects respectively. The exceptions are Kenya and Uganda. The number of projects up and running, or in the pipeline has jumped from two in 2007, to 15 and 12 respectively today. In comparison, many countries on the Continent such as Zambia; Madagascar; Cameroon and Mali only have one or two. Equatorial Guinea is among several countries, which has none.

It is against this backdrop that the Africa Carbon Asset Development-ACAD- was launched early this month as the first facility dedicated to boosting the African carbon market. ACAD has already awarded its first grants to innovative "green" development projects in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. These include:

- The Lake Turkana Wind Power Project in Kenya, one of the largest renewable energy generation projects on the African continent to have achieved financial closure. ACAD will provide partial payment for validation costs under the Clean Development Mechanism—the U.N. carbon credit scheme; and
- The Lagos Waste Management Authority in Nigeria, which is developing several waste-to-energy sites. ACAD is supporting the costs of engineering and carbon auditing studies required to earn carbon credits.
- Another ACAD beneficiary is the Athi River Mining (ARM) Company Ltd., which operates a cement plant in Kenya and is attempting to reduce coal consumption in a cement plant by using locally available biomass resources, in a bid to improve its environmental footprint.

The Facility is a partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Standard Bank and the German Government's International Climate Initiative, administered by its Federal Environment Ministry. ACAD supports African carbon projects through a combination of technical assistance, grants and preferential access to corporate finance and transactional guidance.

### Africa Highlights

- Projects that harvest methane gas from landfills to fuel electricity generation are, at close to 20 per cent of all projects on the Continent, the most popular.
- These are followed by projects in biomass energy, 15 per cent; hydro-electric including run of river schemes, 10 per cent; reforestation, 14 per cent; fossil fuel switching, eight per cent and wind power, seven per cent.
- It is estimated that based on the current pipeline, the number of CDM projects in Africa could total around 245 by the end of 2012.
- It is also estimated that by 2012, and with the price of carbon at just over \$13 a tone, these could be worth over \$475 million. ▢



# 2010 in the limelight

## 2010 — The International Year of Biodiversity – “Biodiversity is life”

The Year 2010 is a key date in the annals of global biodiversity agenda for several reasons. It marks the date set by the World Summit on Sustainable Development to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity, globally. It was also declared by the UN General Assembly as the “International Year of Biodiversity”. In addition, 2010 marks a new chapter in the global agenda when Heads of States discuss biodiversity during the UN General Assembly session in September 2010, and countries set new targets for biodiversity conservation at the tenth meeting of Conference of Parties (COP-10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010. The International Biodiversity Day, which will be celebrated on 22 May under

the theme “Biodiversity and development” will be one of the milestones in the celebration of this Year.

In Africa, Libreville, Gabon, will host an International Conference from 2-3 June 2010 at the initiative of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the World Conservation Union-IUCN. Themed “Bolstering Biodiversity in Africa: Everyone’s Problem and Heritage”, the Libreville conference will launch the debate on boosting awareness by promoting the introduction of a committee of the pan-African IPBES, the scientific Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services - the equivalent of the IPCC on climate.

The celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity-IYB- will bring



Biodiversity issues at the core of the ecosystem management throughout 2010 and beyond. UNEP’s strategy will centre on creating global awareness and space for conservation action; regaining momentum on conservation action and; ensuring that long term actions related to conservation are clearly articulated, financed and implemented. The year 2010 provides an opportunity to make the linkages between biodiversity, climate change and the MDG agenda more explicit. ▢

## The 2010 deadline for the total phase out of CFCs

The Montreal Protocol has set a time limit for the consumption and production of different ODS. For developed countries, most of the deadlines for total phase-out have been met in the 1990s except for HCFCs, methyl bromide and some essential uses. Developing countries have been given more time to find replacement products and methods, and most have their phase out deadlines fixed between 2010 (for the CFCs and Halons), 2015 (for the Methyl Bromide) and 2030 (for the HCFCs- with a service tail of 2.5% between 2030 and 2040). At the meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol in September 2007, parties decided to accelerate the phase-out of the production of HCFCs in developed countries and to



progressively reduce its consumption in developing countries. The Montreal Protocol required countries to start freeze the consumption of HCFCs by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013. Some countries have already started restricting the importation of HCFCs to enable them meet the 2013 target. ▢

## Ministerial Fora:

*13th Regular Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)*

The 13<sup>th</sup> session will be held in Mali in May 2010. Since its 12<sup>th</sup> session, AMCEN is working on climate change in Africa. This work, known as the “African process for combating climate change” aims to support efforts by AMCEN to implement the continent’s process to achieve a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012. AMCEN’s efforts are also meant to develop a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes and its associated sub regional climate change programmes. The 13<sup>th</sup> session will dwell on the follow-up to the climate decisions made in Copenhagen. Another issue on the agenda of the session will be biodiversity. Therefore, Biodiversity will be one of the focuses

on the upcoming meeting in Mali in June 2010, so that the outcome feeds into the African Union Summit, and UN General Assembly sessions in 2010.

#### *Second Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment*

At their first conference, African ministers of health and ministers of environment convened to explore the nature of, and opportunities offered by, the inter-linkages between their sectors. They adopted the Libreville Declaration. Through this declaration, they committed their countries to establishing a strategic alliance between health and environment as a basis for joint plans of action and requested WHO and UNEP to work with other partners in support of their efforts to address health and environment challenges. They also requested WHO and UNEP to convene the Second Inter-ministerial conference on Health and Environment. The Conference will be held in 2010.

As a follow-up to the Libreville Declaration, a first meeting of partners was held in Windhoek, Namibia from 25 to 27 February 2009. Partners expressed full commitment to the Libreville Declaration. They endorsed and committed to participate in the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance through the Windhoek Statement of Partners.

The second meeting of partners will be held at UNEP, Nairobi, 14–15 April 2010. The proposed objectives of the meeting will be to review the status of implementation of the roadmap; to discuss the role of partners in the Libreville Declaration Implementation Process; and to discuss the content and the arrangements for the Second Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa. ▣

#### *World Water Day — 22 March 2010 — “Communicating Water Quality Challenges and Opportunities”*



World Water Day

2010

Clean Water for a Healthy World

Every year, 1,500 cubic kilometers of wastewater are produced globally. While waste and wastewater can be reused productively for energy and irrigation, it usually is not. In developing countries 80 percent of all waste is being discharged untreated, because of lack of regulations and resources. And population and industrial growth add new sources of pollution and increased demand for clean water to the equation. Human and environmental health, drinking and agricultural water supplies for the present and future are at stake, still water pollution rarely warrants mention as a pressing issue.

The overall goal of the World Water Day on 22 March 2010 campaign is to raise awareness about sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being through addressing the increasing water quality challenges in water management and raise the profile of water quality by encouraging governments, organizations, communities, and individuals around the world to actively engage in proactively addressing water quality e.g. in pollution prevention, clean up and restoration.

UNEP is coordinating the organization of the World Water Day 2010 campaign on behalf of UN-Water and in collaboration with FAO, UNDP, UNECE, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, WHO, and the UN-Water Decade Program on Advocacy and Communication as well as with partner organizations such as International Water Association, World Wide Fund for Nature and World Water Council. ▣

#### *World Environment Day: 5 June 2010*

Rwanda will host the global celebrations for World Environment Day this year. In selecting Kigali to host this global event, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is celebrating progressive governance, which is illustrated by sound environmental policies. Known for the Volcanoes National Park and Kagera National Park, the country is home to some of the world's most valuable mega fauna as well as a huge range of lesser-known diversity in the animal and plant kingdoms. The country also is cited for its pursuit of alternative energy solutions, particularly biogas and charcoal alternatives. Kigali, the capital city, is for its reputation of being one of the cleanest cities in Africa. The country has banned the importation and production of polythene bags, has contributed to the success of the Billion Tree Campaign, and is a key player in advancing the Green Economy Initiative.

The slogan chosen by UNEP, which coordinates the day on 5 June on behalf of the UN system and the peoples of the world for the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), is **“Many Species. One Planet. One Future”**. The day's agenda is to Give a human face to environmental issues; Empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; Promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; Advocate partnership which will ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future. ▣



MANY SPECIES • ONE PLANET • ONE FUTURE  
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY • 5 JUNE 2010



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