



## Activities in the Region

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**Supporting sustainable construction practices in developing countries**

**Using small scale Ecosystem-based Adaptation approaches to address climate change and food security**

### Cape Verde Vulnerability to Climate Change Chronicled in Landmark Assessment



Ministers and government representatives from Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), Angola and countries in the Sahel Region as well as Ms. Amina Mohamed - UNEP Deputy Executive Director, and Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye - Regional Director, UNEP ROA, came together for the launch of The Cape Verde Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Report - Summary for Policy Makers, on 21 February 2012 in Nairobi Kenya, in the margins of the Twelfth special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The summary report which was launched by the Minister for rural development of Cape Verde Ms Eva Ortet, looks at how climate change, Population growth, and development choices could shape and impact vital sectors such as water resources, tourism and agriculture, and how in turn, the changing environment is likely to affect the people of Cape Verde.

The main Findings and key concerns outlined in the report show Cape Verde's dual vulnerability to climate change, both as a small island developing State- with 80% of its population living in the coastal zone, and as an arid country in the Sahel region; the extreme scarcity of water resources with pressures increasing and the rise in the occurrence of extreme events. . The report also shows the importance of the service sector which has been the main engine of growth in Cape Verde, but is vulnerable to climate change.

Some of the policy options for action include: Increasing water use efficiency; Developing and implementing Climate change adaptation programmes focusing on poor and vulnerable populations; reducing vulnerabilities in coastal zones and making climate change an integral part of development planning.

The study was funded under the One UN Fund in Cape Verde and was led by the Government of Cape Verde, with support from the United Nations Country Team, The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Enda Tiers Monde.

For more information contact: [Samba.Harouna@unep.org](mailto:Samba.Harouna@unep.org)

### Africa Launch of 'UN International Year of Sustainable Energy for All'

In December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, recognizing that access to modern affordable energy services in developing countries is essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development.



Africa's roll out of this initiative was officially marked at a side event held on 21 February 2012, in the margins of the Twelfth special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in Nairobi Kenya.

The event which was organized by UNEP DTIE with assistance from ROA's resource efficiency team, presented an opportunity to leverage this new momentum in eliminating Africa's greatest challenges with access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy. The session was specifically aimed at identifying opportunities and challenges in the gradual transition to a sustainable energy society; discussing the needed enabling environment; and making policy-focused recommendations related to 2012 and the longer term -initiative, as well as in the context of global processes including Rio+20.

For more information contact: [Meseret.Zemedkun@unep.org](mailto:Meseret.Zemedkun@unep.org)

### UNEP and World Environment Ministers Pay Tribute to John Michuki, Environment Minister of Kenya

UNEP and world Ministers of Environment gathering in Nairobi for UNEP Governing Council and Global Ministerial Forum joined the people of Kenya in mourning the death of Honorable John Michuki, Minister for Environment of the Republic of Kenya. The Environment Minister succumbed to a heart attack on February 21, 2012 at the Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya.



In his capacity as Minister of Environment, Mr. Michuki provided Kenya Africa and the international community with a powerful voice in addressing sustainability challenges. He has left a legacy of accomplishments among them an understanding and action towards realizing Kenya's vision of restoring and rehabilitating the Mau forest complex, championing climate change at key UN fora and relentless support for the strengthening of UNEP at its headquarters in Nairobi. UNEP expresses its deep appreciation to John Michuki for his support, guidance and unfailing support to our institution and work.

## **African Heads of State join in the celebration of UNEP's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

An official luncheon to mark UNEP's presence in Africa for the last 40 years was held in the margins of the 18th African Union



Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya, host of the luncheon, acknowledged UNEP's immense achievements in its 40 years as global leader on issues of climate change, biodiversity conservation and chemical waste management and called for the strengthening and transformation of UNEP.

The AU summit which took place from 23-30 January 2012 was convened under the theme: "Boosting Intra-African Trade." It essentially provided a platform for African Heads of State and Government to discuss the policies of

the Union, and encouraged building partnerships among member states and regions so as to facilitate integration of trade agendas and policies. Participants at the summit also deliberated and decided on topics related to the environment and the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

The meeting was attended by more than 33 African Heads of State and Government; over 20 Heads of Delegation including Ministers of Foreign Affairs from most of the AU member states; Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission; Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye - Regional Director, Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, Director General UNON and many Heads of UN agencies.

For more information contact: [Mounkaila.Goumandakoye@unep.org](mailto:Mounkaila.Goumandakoye@unep.org)

## **Preparing the United Republic of Tanzania to host the 14<sup>th</sup> session of AMCEN**

At its 13<sup>th</sup> regular session in June 2010 in Bamako, Mali, was African ministers decided that Tanzania would host the 14<sup>th</sup> session of AMCEN in 2012. As host, the government of Tanzania is expected to fulfill a number of obligations to ensure the success of the meeting. In this regard the AMCEN Secretariat based at UNEP's Regional Office for Africa (ROA) undertook a working mission to Tanzania from 14-15 February 2012 in order to initiate consultations with government officials of Tanzania. Main issues on the agenda included the date, venue, theme, budget, resource mobilization as well as the preparation of the Host Country Agreement, among other issues.

It was proposed that the 14<sup>th</sup> session of AMCEN be held from 10 to 14 September 2012 in Arusha, Tanzania. The AMCEN meeting coming soon after the Rio+20 summit will be important in providing guidance with respect to the implementation of its outcomes. It was therefore proposed that the 14<sup>th</sup> session of AMCEN be held under the theme: "Africa's roadmap towards transition to Green Economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development".

In addition, an estimated budget for the convening of the meeting was prepared and initial consultations held with potential partners such as DFID and the World Bank on behalf of the Development Partners Group- Environment (DPG-E) based in Tanzania. A draft Host Country Agreement between UNEP as Secretariat of AMCEN and Tanzania was finalized ready for clearance and eventual signing. A detailed work plan for the tasks to be undertaken before the actual meeting was also developed.

The mission concluded with the understanding that the key recommendations of this mission would be presented to the Bureau of AMCEN for approval and adoption as soon as possible in order to allow preparations for the 14<sup>th</sup> session to proceed as envisaged.

For more information contact: [david.ombisi@unep.org](mailto:david.ombisi@unep.org)

## ROA strengthens cooperation with South Sudan

The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended over two decades of devastating civil war with Sudan and the recent independence have marked the emergence of the Republic South Sudan as a new country. South Sudan is looking forward to the sustainable management of its abundant natural resources. The country however faces a number of key challenges including several critical environmental issues, such as land degradation, deforestation and the impacts of climate change which are threat to South Sudan's prospects for long-term peace, food security and sustainable development. South Sudan would like to address these challenges in partnership with UNEP.

Against this background, UNEP ROA is actively cooperating with the country in the areas of wildlife conservation, environmental protection through capacity building and environmental governance.

A joint meeting between ROA, the ministry of Wildlife conservation and tourism and the ministry of environment of South Sudan was held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012. This joint consultation was organized to enhance cooperation between UNEP and South Sudan in the fields of wild life conservation and environmental protection as a follow-up on the last meeting in April 2011 between the two partners. The minister in charge of the environment, undersecretaries from the two ministries and Mr. Mounkaila, the director of ROA attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the progress made since the last meeting despite difficult post-conflict situation in the country and chart the way forward. The Ministers highlighted the main progress made as well as key issues to be addressed in the future. Several new issues were raised such as the establishment of wildlife service for regular monitoring and survey, support in solid waste management and waste water treatment, especially in the establishment of sewerage systems in cities, control of water, air and soil pollution caused by oil companies.

For more information contact: [Mohamed.Abdel-Monem@unep.org](mailto:Mohamed.Abdel-Monem@unep.org)

## Supporting education for sustainable consumption in Tanzania



Tanzania's preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) to take place in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 provide an opportunity to reflect and firm up the country's engagement as far as issues of sustainable development and specifically sustainable production and consumption are concerned.

With support from UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, the Vice President's Office in collaboration with

National Environment Management Council (NEMC) organized a national roundtable discussion on Education for Sustainable Consumption (ESC), from 2 – 3 February 2012 in Dar es Salaam. The discussion was aimed at developing best approaches and tools to advance ESC in Tanzania.

The meeting which brought together participants from NEMC, various education institutes, and NGOs, agreed to further tap into the expertise of the Ministry of Education, on cross cutting issues through a technical working group. The group is composed of the ministry coordinators responsible for the cross-cutting issues, representatives from departments and institutes as well as development partners.

For more information contact: [clara.makenya@unep.org](mailto:clara.makenya@unep.org)

### Promoting Green Economy Modeling in South Africa

In an effort to address green economy towards a resource efficient, low-carbon and pro employment growth path, a green economy modeling workshop was held on 1 February, 2012 in Pretoria South Africa. The workshop aimed at demonstrating that two decades of greening the economy across key focus areas can drive economic growth and lead to future prosperity and job creation, while at the same time addressing social inequalities and environmental challenges. This can be achieved by 2030.

The Department of Environmental Affairs, in partnership with UNEP, recently announced that it will develop a green economy model, working together with the Millennium Institute and the Sustainability Institute. The modeling effort is envisioned to incorporate detailed sectorial models into an integrated structure that generates more coherent and realistic scenarios of what is likely to occur throughout a green economy that enables integrated economic growth, and protection of the natural ecosystem. The model will include lessons from the scenarios work on Long Term Mitigation Scenarios (LTMS), carbon tax, and others. It will focus on national key sectors in line with the green economy areas outlined in the UNEP Green Economy Report. One of the major outcomes of the workshop was identification of focus areas which include: green buildings; sustainable transport and infrastructure; clean energy; resource conservation and management; sustainable waste management practices; agriculture, food production and forestry; water management and sustainable consumption and production.

In essence the model will be based on the Threshold 21 model of the Millennium Institute but tailored for the South African context through support of the Sustainability Institute. Based on the outcomes of the workshop, the project team has commenced data collection and preparation of a first model in readiness for the refinement and finalization of the Green Economy modeling report in March 2012.

For more information contact: [Cecilia.Njenga@unep.org](mailto:Cecilia.Njenga@unep.org)

### Supporting sustainable construction practices in developing countries

The Nairobi Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for the Sustainable Building Policies in Developing Countries (SPoD) project, held a working retreat from 7- 9 February 2012 at the KCB Leadership Centre in Karen, Nairobi. The main objective of the retreat was to provide a platform where all TAG members would be present to address and discuss tasks outlined in the SPoD Project briefs prepared by the Central European University (CEU). During the meeting, participants discussed the local situation review, field test design methodology and policy review with the aid of guidelines prepared by CEU.

Outcomes of the meeting include: a consensus that the team will be holding periodic retreats to achieve optimum results for the next project activities; members would compile the retreat report for submission to CEU; and need to address mechanisms through which the project outputs will penetrate into the government. UNEP-DTIE and ROA also agreed that a similar working retreat will be organized with Ouagadougou TAG to enable members provide concrete information to assist CEU in finalizing the design of SPoD tools. The next phase for the project is the 'training of the trainers' workshop' whose date will be determined once the beta version of the Quick Scan Tool is available.

For more information contact: [patrick.mwesigye@unep.org](mailto:patrick.mwesigye@unep.org) or [sheila.karue@unep.org](mailto:sheila.karue@unep.org)

### Using small scale Ecosystem-based Adaptation approaches to address climate change and food security

Mozambique is among eleven countries funded by the Climate Change and Development-Adapting by Reducing Vulnerability (CC DARE) programme. One of the projects amongst those implemented in Mozambique, is a national project on crab and fish farming, aimed at enhancing the contribution of seafood productivity in addressing food security and poverty alleviation. Following successful completion of this project, the local government of Xai Xai has set up a District Development Fund to support the community in starting fish and crab farming projects. The outcomes of this project have helped the College of Marine Science to develop a fish and shrimp farming in the same area. Also as a result of this project ecosystem-based adaptation practices have been introduced and implemented leading to: established fish ponds, crab growth cages, assessed species for farming, trained persons in fish and crab farming including local family members who are beneficiaries.

With an expected increase in human population to 9 billion by 2050, there will be a need to draw from other sources of food productivity such as seascapes in addressing the additional food supply. The case study from Mozambique showcases intensive crab production to supplement food productivity, and also addressing poverty through alternative livelihood.

For more information contact: [Richard.Munang@unep.org](mailto:Richard.Munang@unep.org) or [Johnson.Nkem@undp.org](mailto:Johnson.Nkem@undp.org)

## Upcoming Events

**Wangari Maathai day in conjunction with Africa Environment Day: To be celebrated during the week of**

**3 – 10 March 2012**

For more information contact: [Angele..Luh@unep.org](mailto:Angele..Luh@unep.org)