

Highlights!

Moving the UNEP China-Africa cooperation to greater heights

The Regional Director for Africa led a UNEP-ROA mission to China from 1-8 August 2011. This mission aimed to enhance coherence of the China partnership with UNEP in providing support to Africa; finalize the agreement with MOST and discuss the phase two of the cooperation; promote collaboration with the UNEP –Tongji Institute for Sustainable Development in Shanghai and identify further opportunities to strengthen the capacity of African countries in different areas of environmental management. The mission was also meant to explore new areas of cooperation with the private sector in China in the sector of renewable energies and discuss potential support in promoting solar energy in Africa.

The mission was very successful as evidenced by the important outcomes of the discussions held, the opportunities explored, and the renewed mutual commitment that will help move the UNEP China-Africa cooperation to greater heights through consolidated collaboration in addressing the needs of African countries in different key areas. Meetings were held at a policy level with 4 ministries including the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). Working level meetings were also held with 8 scientific institutions for the second phase project focus on water in Africa; the Tongji University and UNEP/Tongji Institute on Environment for Sustainable Development, the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Science and Technology, SUNTECH Company, MEGA Vision Company and the UNEP Beijing Office and IEMP.



The Africa-China cooperation program, initiated under the supervision of the African Ministerial conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the African Union (AU), is meant to respond directly to the countries' priorities identified by the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and its sub regional action plans.

UNEP engaged with the Ministry of Science and Technology of China (MOST) in a cooperation agreement in November 2008 to build the capacity of African countries in the fields of ecosystem management, disaster reduction, climate change adaptation and renewable energy. The review and evaluation of the achievements of the first phase as well as lessons learned were discussed in a joint meeting in China in July 2010. As a result, MOST and UNEP are launching the second phase of cooperation to build the capacity of the African countries in the area of sustainable management of water resources. In this regard, MOST proposed six project concepts

to address different challenges facing water management in Africa. During this second phase, the profile of the UNEP Africa-China cooperation will be raised and best practices disseminated.

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Activities within the region

Climate Change

African Group of Negotiators meets in preparation for COP 17

A third preparatory meeting for the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) was held in Durban, South Africa from 8-10 August 2011. The meeting was aimed at providing support to the AGN in preparation for both the Climate talks to be held in Panama in October 2011, and the COP 17/CMP7 to be held in Durban in December 2011. The workshop was preceded by a three day meeting of the AGN Interim Bureau held from 5-7 August 2011. The AGN meeting focused on finalizing the draft African Common Position on climate change for presentation to the AMCEN special session scheduled for September 2011. One of the major achievements of this workshop was to provide an opportunity for the AU and AfDB to come together to support AMCEN in its work under climate change, especially the capacity building of the negotiators. Other outcomes of the meetings included an agreement on thematic issues that need further work including areas for immediate capacity building needs and elaboration of draft elements towards a research strategy to support AGN with scientific, technical information and analysis.

After deliberations, the African Group of Negotiators made the following recommendations:

- Partnerships between the agencies that support the AGN need to be fostered at all levels with frequent interactions between the Regional Director and the Heads of Climate Change in those organizations so as to synergize the efforts in supporting the African Negotiators.
- The work under the Research agenda for the AGN should be included in the reporting to AMCEN, including the AMCEN special session on climate change.

The workshops which brought together delegates from forty one countries received funding support from AMCEN through UNEP ROA, AfDB, DFID and the South African Government.

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CC DARE Stimulates knowledge sharing on adaptation actions to address food security

Following the food crisis currently plaguing the Horn of Africa, the Climate Change Adaptation and Development Initiative (CCDARE) conducted an experience-sharing workshop on agriculture and natural resources, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4-6 August 2011. The main objective of the workshop was to

stimulate knowledge sharing on adaptation actions that address food security by countries across different regions of Sub Saharan Africa.

The workshop which brought together representatives from five countries, focused on two main areas: the experience sharing by countries that have successfully implemented agriculture and natural resource projects; and discussions guided by a synthesis/SWOT analysis report on the implementation of lessons on fast tracking adaptation and food security actions.

In reference to food security in sub-Saharan Africa and following the lessons learnt from the CC DARE activities, the meeting made the following recommendations:

- African countries should assist each other in terms of food relief
- Governments should be committed towards the use of early warning systems in implementing climate change adaptation strategies that improve food security in the Sub-Saharan Africa
- Governments should prioritize agriculture on national budget allocations.

The workshop was organized under the leadership of Ethiopian government in collaboration with CC DARE management team alongside other UN agencies, NGOs, Civil Society, research institutions and scholars.

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Disasters and Conflict

Assessment of environmental and public health impacts of oil contamination in Ogoniland



At the request of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) conducted an independent assessment of the environmental and public health impacts of oil contamination in Ogoniland, in the Niger Delta. Following completion of the assessment, UNEP presented the independent scientific assessment report to the President of Nigeria, Honorable Goodluck Jonathan, on 4 August 2011 in Abuja Nigeria.

Titled 'Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland', the report contains UNEP's findings and recommendations. Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director, said the report provided the scientific basis on which a long overdue and concerted environmental restoration of Ogoniland, a kingdom in Nigeria's Niger Delta region, can begin. UNEP hopes that the report and its findings will catalyze cooperation and a response to decades of oil-related environmental challenges and provide for the people of Ogoniland the opportunity for a sustainable future. The report can be accessed on <http://www.unep.org/nigeria/>

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Environment Governance

AEO-3: Working Groups identify case studies to validate policy success.

A meeting for the Lead Authors and Policy Analysis working groups of the Africa Environment Outlook–3 (AEO-3) was held in Kampala, Uganda from 25 -29 July 2011. The main objective of the meeting was to develop the annotated structures for the various chapters and identify some selected case studies to validate policy success.

The selection of case studies was based on various elements including policy implemented, country and period covered by the case study; date of first introduction of the policy to the country concerned; background to the introduction as well as source of information and experience tapped; other policies introduced around the same time, alongside other factors that may have influenced the outcomes; impacts attributable to the policy; evidence that successful implementation has been picked up by other countries for replication; factors that might have impeded implementation and/or transferability of the policy; website or journal article references. Deliberations at the meeting centered on presentations and the proposed outlines for the different chapters by the Authors, with an aim of determining consistency and complementarity of the various issues that may contribute to similar outcomes in the context of health and environment inter-linkages.

The meeting came up with a draft annotated structure for the various thematic chapters with clear policy analysis frameworks and identified a set of case studies for which research will be commissioned.

The meeting which was facilitated by UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) Africa Programme, GRID Arendal and two experts on policy analysis and scenario development was attended by members of the Data, Policy Analysis and Scenario working groups.

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Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production

The Kenya Defense Forces to fabricate improved cooking stoves

UNEP Kenya Country Programme (KCP) demonstrated the use of an improved cooking stove during a consultative meeting with the Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) on 4 July, 2011. The improved cooking stove, commonly called Project Surya, is a collaborative effort between UNEP and The Energy Resource Institute of India (TERI). This initiative aims to mitigate the regional impacts of global warming by reducing atmospheric concentrations of black carbon and methane through replacement of highly polluting cook stoves traditionally employed in rural areas with a clean improved cooking stove.



Project Surya, which originated from India, has successfully been implemented in a pilot phase in Kiawamagira, Dagoretti, to field- test the approach to cleaner cooking technologies. Ever since the cooker was introduced in Kenya, UNEP has been keen to collaborate

with local research and development institutions to fabricate this cooker locally so that it can be used in the villages. UNEP and KDF deliberated on suitable ways of fabricating this improved cooking stove using locally available materials as a way of making the technology affordable and sustainable. At a previous meeting held on 14 April 2010, between UNEP and KDF, the military embraced the idea of taking transformative leadership in the use of renewable energy considering that KDF is a major consumer of energy (fossil and electricity) and natural resources.

The Kenya Armed Forces Technical College (KAFTEC), a military facility that trains all technicians in the Kenya Defense Forces and offers National Technical Diplomas, envisions fabricating this cooking stove in mass for use at affordable prices.

For more information: [ROA - KCP Subsite](#)

Updates from Tanzania

Strengthening partnerships to address environmental challenges

UNEP in Tanzania actively participated in a joint high level retreat organized by the Development Partners Group on Environment (DPG-E) and the Vice President's Office in Tanzania from 16-17 August 2011. The retreat which was also attended by representatives from various sector line ministries, discussed among other issues, the strengthening of the partnership existing between the Government of Tanzania (GoT) and development partners group on the Environment. Priorities were shared and discussed, in light of the environmental challenges facing the country. The development partners indicated the areas they could offer support on environment and climate change in Tanzania, and projected available funding on the same. Government partners are expected to share the initiatives taken to address various challenges in line ministries and provide the required support.

The United Nations made a joint presentation aimed at reflecting the Delivery as One (DaO) approach in presenting the One UN shared plan with the government in the area of Environment and Climate Change for the next 5 years of UNDAF. Some of the key messages at the meeting included the need for strengthened partnerships, prioritization of issues to be addressed, the need for transparency, accountability and a more coordinated response and support from both the government and development partners. As one of the key messages, the GoT expressed its desire for more ownership and trust as it accesses support from development partners in addressing issues of priority to the country and less donor- driven support. The development partners on the other hand indicated their desire to see more ownership and commitment to country priorities and accountability from the government side.

UNEP assists in review of the Tanzanian National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty

UNEP participated in the final review of the MKUKUTA Monitoring Master Plan (The Tanzanian National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty), on 10 August 2011. The strategy incorporates environment and climate change issues under the goal 4 that aims at "Ensuring food and nutrition security, environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation and mitigation". There are about 5 indicators directly related to environment and climate change interventions, with specified responsible institutions and sources of the

defined indicator data. UNEP's participation specifically focused on the level of integration of the environment and climate change- related indicators.

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New Staff Member!



UNEP Regional Office for Africa (ROA) has a new Deputy Director. Mr. Desta Mebratu, an Ethiopian national, recently appointed to this function assumed his new position on 21 July. Mr. Mebratu joined UNEP in August 2003 and worked as the Regional Industry Officer for Africa until July 2008. From August 2008 to July 2011, he worked as Head of the Business and Industry Unit under the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE). Before joining UNEP, Mr. Mebratu lectured Graduate courses at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia and Lund University in Sweden. In addition to lecturing, he also worked as national, regional, and international expert for United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). A chemical engineer by background, Mr. Mebratu holds a PhD in Industrial Environmental Economics and a MBA in International Business.

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Welcome aboard Desta!

Upcoming Events

Sustainable Buildings Policies in Developing Countries (SPOD) kick off meeting: 1-2 September 2011, at the UNEP headquarters, Gigiri Nairobi: The 2-day meeting includes presentations, panel discussions and site visits. The participants of the meeting are drawn from Nairobi and Ouagadougou cities, the two pilot cities of the project. For more information: patrick.mwesigye@unep.org or sheila.karue@unep.org

African Rift Geothermal Development Facility (ARGeo) Steering Committee and High Level Geothermal Meeting: 1-3 September 2011, at the UNEP headquarters, Gigiri Nairobi: The meeting is expected to raise awareness and sensitize high level decision makers about the unique development opportunities that geothermal energy presents and how member countries can benefit from ARGeo's support services, to accelerate the development of their geothermal resources.

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The Fourth Special Session of AMCEN: 12 - 16 September 2011, in Bamako, Mali: The meeting is aimed at providing a platform for African countries to further consolidate and enhance Africa's common negotiating position for the UNFCCC Cop17 to be held in November to December 2011. The special session will also provide an opportunity for Ministers to discuss the Climate Green Fund and Africa's preparations for Rio+20 including the transition towards a Green Economy and the need to strengthen international environmental governance in the context of institutional framework for sustainable development.



For more information: visit the [ROA- AMCEN website](http://ROA-AMCEN.unep.org) or contact david.ombisi@unep.org