

## Highlights!

### UNEP Launches Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Process in Cape Verde

The Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment process for Cape Verde was launched at an inception workshop held in Praia, from 18-19 April 2011. The Climate change vulnerability study is meant to equip national decisions makers with a science and evidence based tool that will inform and influence key policy debates and developments, to ensure that climate change issues and their linkages to sustainable development are fully integrated into national planning processes. It is expected that this process will help the Government of Cape Verde to take adequate climate change adaption measures as well as appropriate mitigation options in a bid to deliver sustainable economic growth and development.

The two-day meeting gathered relevant national partners from different sectors and UN agencies participating/involved in the Cape Verde Joint Programme through the Sub-programme 5. The participants discussed the priority sectors and identified tourism, water, and agriculture among the top priority sectors that are likely to be strongly impacted by climate change. They also selected the geographical focus where the three-month vulnerability assessment will be conducted. These include the Islands of Sal, BoaVista, and Santo Antão. They discussed also the establishment of a communication and outreach group that will develop and implement an overall outreach strategy throughout the implementation phase of the project; identify and document good practices and lessons learned on outreach and engagement. The outline of the outreach strategy was also discussed. It is expected that the end of product of this process be linked to the Durban Process.

The project on the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for Cape Verde is among the various projects that UNEP is implementing under the ONE UN Programme in Cape Verde.

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### UNEP Backs Gabon's Efforts towards a Green Economy

UNEP fielded a three-day scoping mission to Libreville from 6-8 April 2011 with the view to discuss with relevant stakeholders to identify Gabon's core areas and priorities in the transition to the Green economy development model, that would also form the basis for the country's input to the green economy debate towards the Rio+20 meeting to be held in May 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

UNEP mission was specifically meant to carry out broad consultations with key a wide range of stakeholders as initial step in assisting Gabon to identify and explore opportunities to develop a green economy in the country. The mission was also to examine the feasibility of a program of economic valuation of biodiversity in the country and updating the system of national accounts to take into account the value and the degradation of biodiversity and ecosystem services; and further assist the country to develop a national programme on green economy that would lead to the identification of specific priority areas based on feasibility and macroeconomic studies. Criteria to identify priority areas for a green economy programme will include among others the effects in terms of job creation, potential for growth and environmental gains (sustainable use of natural capital etc.)

UNEP mission was a response to a pressing request by the Minister of Housing, Urbanism, Ecology and Sustainable Development, to support the country in its efforts to meet the challenge of making Gabon a pioneer in the green economy in Africa through the “Green Gabon”, one of the three pillars of the Country’s new vision “l’Avenir en confiance”, or “the future in confidence”.

The successful discussions held in Libreville with key stakeholders and potential partners gave a clear indication of a number of avenues that would enable Gabon and UNEP to move forward effectively and methodically on the Green economy and the overall collaboration between the two parties on environmental sustainability. UNEP's support to Gabon gained a new momentum last year with its well-appreciated support toward the organization of the First Pan-African Conference on Biodiversity and Poverty eradication.

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## Activities within the region

### UNEP’s support to Southern Sudan

**UNEP has engaged with the Government of South Sudan in consolidated consultations aimed at providing institutional support in the field of environmental management.**

UNEP-ROA met with South Sudan’s Minister for Wild Life Conservation and Tourism H.E Mr. Abdalla Albert Ofuher, on 11 April 2011 at the UNEP headquarters in Gigiri, Nairobi. The objective of the meeting was to identify areas of UNEP’s support to Sudan and modalities of collaboration as they start their development planning process. As a follow-up of the consultations ROA in collaboration with other UNEP Divisions will prepare a country support programme. This is in line with ROA’s strategy to respond to countries specific needs in the area of environment.

Southern Sudan is expected to become an independent state on 9 July 2011. The country is emerging from 3 decades of war and needs a multi-faceted international assistance in order to set up its institutions.

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### United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) meeting

The ROA Regional Director attended and participated in the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Working Group Coordinators meeting which was held in Johannesburg from 15-16 March 2011. The meeting discussed and approved the UNDG ESA work plan 2011, which is aligned to the UNDG Strategic Priorities and which reflects the contributions of the working groups to the regional priorities.

In order to enhance Working Groups’ collaboration in support of the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), the meeting agreed on enhanced working methods for a coordinated approach to supporting UNCTs. There are several working groups and UNEP chairs the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Cluster whose 8 members comprise of WFP, UN Women, UNISDR, WHO, UNESCO, UNDP, ILO and UNDP. This is a newly formed cluster within the UNDG Africa.

During this mission, the Regional Director also had a meeting with Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, the CEO of NEPAD. The meeting forged an agreement to finalize the review of the NEPAD Environment action plan and set up a platform of partners to support the implementation of the environment action plan. This enhances ROA’s increased commitment to work with NEPAD as a framework for sustainable development in Africa.

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### **The RIO+20 process hits another milestone: Workshop on Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development**

Addis Ababa hosted a workshop on Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development from 14-16 February 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the initiative of UNECA, with the participation of UNEP through the Regional Director for Africa and the UNEP Addis Office. The workshop was aimed at examining and adequately defining the institutional framework for sustainable development in Africa, taking into account existing institutions at regional and sub-regional levels. Institutions, policies and strategies for sustainable development at national level were also examined, considering the extent to which such institutions incorporate key requirements of sustainable development, including balanced and integrated development, and intra and inter-generational equity issues.

The workshop provided an opportunity to further disseminate the findings of two ECA-led studies on National Councils for Sustainable Development and National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs) and to obtain relevant updates from selected agencies and countries. The intention was to promote experience sharing and knowledge networking with a view to enhancing the learning and implementation process. The workshop outputs informed the Africa report on institutional frameworks for sustainable development, within the context of the regional preparatory process for Rio+20.

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## **Climate Change**

### **AMCEN: the African Union Commission (AUC) holds consultations to address AMCEN specific issues and the roadmap to Durban**

The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) Secretariat held a working session with the African Union Commission (AUC) from 15 to 17 March 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The objective of the meeting was to discuss a number of AMCEN related issues including the consolidation of the AMCEN roadmap towards United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP17 as well as the finalization of the terms of reference for the working group on the revision of the AMCEN constitution.

Outcomes of the meeting included a draft Terms of Reference for the working group on the revision of the AMCEN constitution; an AUC decision on the report of the 13<sup>th</sup> session of AMCEN, endorsing the recommendation to convene an African Summit on the Green Economy or make it a Summit theme to facilitate the mobilization of green technology investments. The decision also requested the Commission in collaboration with the AMCEN Secretariat to formalize the role of AMCEN as the Ministerial Body for Environment under the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment. Other issues discussed during the meeting included holding of the First Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention (COP1); the Africa Environment Day (AED) and regional celebrations for World Environment Day (WED). These will be discussed during the AMCEN regular sessions with the view to developing a roster of member states to host AED as well as the regional celebrations for WED taking into consideration regional rotation. The proposal is to have 2 countries to host AED and 2 countries to host WED identified at every regular session of AMCEN.

The AUC has planned a number of activities aimed at contributing towards UNFCCC COP17, including, the proposed African ministerial conference on Climate change. These activities will be harmonized with the AMCEN roadmap to maximize the outcomes of the overall process.

### Preparatory meeting for the African Group of negotiators on climate change

A 3-day preparatory meeting for the African Group of negotiators was held from 25-27 March 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The main aim of the meeting was to provide a platform for the African negotiators to review the outcomes of Cancun and undertake an analysis of the issues that were left unresolved in Cancun. The meeting also aimed at helping the African negotiators update the African Common position and prepare for the negotiation session in Bangkok from 3 to 8 April 2011.

Outcomes of the meeting included:

- Reports from the group coordinators and resource persons on thematic issues under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) and the Kyoto Protocol and reviewing the group position as was in Cancun;
- Identification of thematic issues that need further work including areas for immediate capacity building needs;
- Recommendations to the group of negotiators on the various thematic issues that need further consideration by the group.

The workshop was opened by Hon. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of South Africa and chaired by Mr. Tosi Mpanu Mpanu. The AMCEN Secretariat read a special message from the AMCEN President and Minister of Environment and Sanitation of Mali, H.E. Prof. Tiemoko Sangare. The meeting was supported by the AMCEN Secretariat, UNEP/ROA, DFID and the South African Government and had a good representation from all the African regional blocks.

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## Disasters and Conflict

### UNEP and UNISDR partner towards disaster risk reduction



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) signed a letter of agreement aimed at providing a framework of cooperation and understanding that will facilitate collaboration between the two parties to further their shared goals and objectives with regards to reduction of the impacts of disasters, especially those aggravated by environmental factors and with severe environmental consequences.

In the letter of agreement which was signed on 19 April 2011 at the UNEP headquarters in Gigiri Nairobi, both UNEP and UNISDR agreed to the following preliminary overarching themes:

- implementation of UNEP's Strategic Framework on environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, mitigation and response;
- implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015 aimed at building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters as well as the Africa Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action 2005-2015;
- linkages between disaster risk reduction and environmental management.

The two institutions are intending to start implementing the Agreement by developing a costed work plan that will provide detailed activities that are in the interests of both parties.

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### **Strengthening environmental aspects of emergency response and preparedness**

The Post Conflict Disasters Management Branch (PCDMB) benefited from the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the UNEP Governing Council (GC) / Ministerial Forum held from 21-24 February 2011 in Nairobi Kenya, in terms of the proposals and decisions that resulted. This included the Swiss government's proposed decision on "Strengthening International Cooperation on the environmental aspects of emergency response and preparedness", the adoption of the 2012-2013 Programme of Work and the GC decision requesting the Executive Director, in collaboration with the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, to undertake a gap analysis and coordination study on international actors response to crisis. A grant of USD 300,000 was provided by the Swiss government for this.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) prepares its Post conflict environmental assessment.**

A two-day intensive meeting was in early March in Geneva, to discuss the "Zero draft" on the forthcoming report of the DR Congo Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment (PCEA). Besides the meeting, the National Committee for Water and Sanitation organised a three-day event titled "Water Issues in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Challenges and Opportunities." The event marked the World Water Day 2011.

On the 10 April 2011 a BBC film documentary on DRC was aired on national television. The film focused on the core findings of UNEP's forth coming DRC - PCEA report.

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## **Ecosystem Management**

### **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**



UNEP-ROA participated in the fourth session of the Governing Body (GB-4) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) which was held in Bali, Indonesia from 14 to 18 March 2011.

The GB-4 meeting successfully adopted nine resolutions including procedures and mechanisms on compliance; consensus on the long-standing item of the financial rules of the Governing Body; and program of work and budget for the 2012-2013 biennium with a modest budget increase. The adopted resolutions also involved a number of items including farmers' rights, sustainable use, cooperation with other organizations, and implementation of the funding strategy. The Funding Strategy constitutes a basis for resource mobilization for the Benefit-Sharing Fund (BSF) by the Treaty Secretariat and the contracting parties, with a target of mobilizing \$116 million by December 2014. The BSF has developed a dozen projects and raised US\$10 million to assist farmers in developing countries to conserve crop diversity and to grow crops that adapt to weather extremes and other threats to food security. Some of the projects the BSF is currently financing include: millet projects in Kenya and Senegal and wheat project in Tanzania.

Twenty two African parties participated in GB-4: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, as well as SADC Plant Genetic Resources Unit.

### **Conference on Biodiversity, Food Security and Climate Change**

A High-level Ministerial Conference on Biodiversity, Food Security and Climate Change was held on 11 March 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. The Conference, which was organized by the Government of Indonesia in collaboration with the Secretariat of ITPGRFA, adopted the Bali Ministerial Declaration designed to steer the International Treaty's future course to address food insecurity, biodiversity loss and climate change. In their Declaration, ministers and senior officials also recognized that climate change poses a serious risk to plant genetic resources that are essential as raw material for crop genetic improvement.

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### **Inter-Agency Collaboration: Building and strengthening partnerships**

UNEP-ROA held a working session with the UNESCO Regional office in Nairobi to discuss the potential joint project entitled "Environmental and Health Impacts of Abandoned Mines in sub-Saharan Africa," which UNESCO is planning to implement in collaboration with UNEP; and areas of collaboration within the broader cooperation framework between the two agencies.

ROA expressed interest to engage in the development and implementation of the Environmental and Health Impacts project, as it has strong linkage with the Africa Environment Outlook-3 (AEO 3) process which focuses on Health and Environment. Other areas of cooperation that were discussed included Climate Change adaptation in relation to water resources through AMCEN; water governance (peaceful and sustainable management of water resources); Eco-hydrology (link to UNEP's Ecosystem management program) and Disasters (droughts and flood monitoring and forecasting).

### **MOU between UNEP and the African Forest Forum (AFF)**

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between UNEP and the African Forest Forum (AFF) was discussed and finalized in the month of April. The MOU aims at promoting and maintaining closer links between the AFF and UNEP in the fields of natural resources and environment. The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework of cooperation and understanding and to facilitate collaboration between the Parties to further their shared goals and objectives with regards to the conservation, protection, and support of nature and natural resources. This will enhance the socio-economic wellbeing of Africa's people and also improve environment stability.

### **Implementation of the UNEP-WFP MOU**

In the spirit of ONE UN agenda, a consultation meeting was organized to discuss the implementation modalities of the signed MOU between UNEP and the World Food Programme (WFP). The purpose of the MOU is to develop a partnership that supports the strengthening of disaster preparedness and resilience to climate change in Africa. The joint actions for this partnership include strengthening capacity and increasing people's livelihoods by reducing climate induced poverty.

### **Support programme between UNEP and the China Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)**

A working session was organized between ROA staff and a team from the, Shanxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Shanxi Agricultural Comprehensive Development Office who visited UNEP headquarter during the month of April 2011. Discussions revolved around the implementation of the joint project titled "Drought Early Warning Systems and Adaptation to Drought" in Morocco, Libya and Zambia, in the framework of the ongoing cooperative program between the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and UNEP. The discussions focused on the project achievements; exchange of views and exploration of potential opportunities for future cooperation in the next phase of the UNEP/MOST support program to Africa.

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## Environment Governance

### Development of the East African Community Transboundary Ecosystems Bill

UNEP ROA is providing substantive technical support in the development of an East African Community Transboundary Ecosystems Management Bill (EAC TB). The objective of the Bill is to provide a legal framework that will effectively streamline the management of trans-boundary ecosystems with a view to enhancing the quality of the environment and also ensure sustainable utilization of shared natural resources in the East African Community region.

The Bill which makes provision for institutionalization of trans-boundary environmental impact assessment procedures, public participation, and adoption of common environmental standards and exchange of information, among others, will provide for the management and regulation of transboundary ecosystems.

The Bill was made in pursuance to the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community in Articles 111 and 112 which jointly compel the Partner States to cooperate in all issues of environment and natural resources management. It is hoped that by the end of 2011, the Bill will have come into law. The development of the bill is supported under the EU ACP MEAs programme.

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### Enhancing parliamentarian's capacity to address environmental issues and climate change

UNEP- ROA, in partnership with the Parliamentary Centre of Ghana organized a three day training workshop from 28 February – 3 March 2011 in Ghana. The workshop was aimed at assisting Parliamentarians from four African countries (Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia) to better understand issues surrounding environment and climate change. The specific objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of the selected African Parliaments and to enhance their oversight role in relation to environmental issues in the budget process of their respective countries as well as in environmental governance and management. The parliamentarians, who were mostly from the climate change select committees, had an opportunity to interact with experts from UNEP and



share information on best practices for addressing environmental issues.

A Memorandum of Understanding, which outlines areas of cooperation, is being formulated and will be followed by a joint action plan and a funding proposal.

### Poverty and Environment: Assessing progress and mapping future action in Botswana

UNEP-ROA participated in a Workshop on Environmental Mainstreaming and Sustainable Development in Gaborone, Botswana from 13-15 April 2011. The workshop focused on capacity building and tools for poverty-environmental mainstreaming into development planning processes. The participants were introduced to various categories of mainstreaming tools for application in development planning, environmental management, and sustainable development.



The meeting which was organized by PEI Botswana in cooperation with MFDP, DEA/MEWT, UNESCO, Harare and IIED-London, brought together government representatives from various ministries and departments, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning officials as well as officials from Department of Environmental Affairs/ Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism and related sister departments. UNESCO Zimbabwe provided a specific input into the workshop programme introducing the Man-And-Biosphere programme, which constitutes a planning tool for environmental mainstreaming.

A PEI Botswana Technical Committee meeting was also held on 14 April 2011 in Gaborone. The main purpose of the meeting was to review the 2011 first quarter progress and strategize on the focus of the activities for the remaining part of the year.

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### **Malawi Biosafety Bill 2011**

UNEP ROA is also providing substantive support in the revision of the Malawi Biosafety laws. At the end of February a national consensus building workshop for the Malawi Bio Safety Bill 2011 was held in Lilongwe, Malawi. The Bill is aimed at regulating the safe development, application, use, handling, export and import of genetically modified organisms and their products.

The Act is expected to be applicable in the following areas: all activities aimed at researching, development, importation, exportation and use of genetically modified organisms; the import, export, contained use, release or placing on the market of any genetically modified organism that is likely to have adverse effect on human health, the environment, the economy, national security or social norms and values; any activity involving biological and molecular engineering technologies that may be declared by the Bio safety Board to constitute potentially harmful undertakings; all measures aimed at minimizing the impact of biotechnological processes on national security, human health, animals, plants and the environment.

More consultative meetings for various stakeholders are expected to continue to be held before the bill is taken to Parliament for enactment.

### **Integrated coastal management in the Indian Ocean**

The Legal and Technical Working Group (LTWG4) Meeting for the preparation of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol to the Amended Nairobi Convention was held from 14-16 April 2011 in Balacava, Mauritius. The meeting was organized by UNEP, Nairobi Convention Secretariat, the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the European Union (EU ReCoMaP funding) and the Regional Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Coastal Zones of the Countries of the Indian Ocean (RECOMAP).

The objective of the meeting was to review the draft of the ICZM Protocol developed after taking into consideration the inputs from the 3<sup>rd</sup> LTWG Meeting that was held in February 2011 in Seychelles. It was agreed that more national input and consultations were needed before the next meeting to be held in August, 2011 in Arusha, Tanzania.

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### **GEO-5 Africa Chapter Author's meeting**

UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) hosted the First Global Environment Outlook (GEO-5) Africa Chapter Author's meeting from 16-18 March 2011 in Nairobi Kenya. The meeting aimed at developing a better understanding of the GEO-5 part II methodology by analyzing selected policies using case studies from



Africa, as well as applying qualitative and quantitative indicators. The meeting also intended to remind authors of the overall storyline and how the African chapter fits into it; discuss draft contributions by lead authors and offer guidance; identify emerging lessons, key challenges and opportunities for Africa in meeting globally agreed goals and targets.

The meeting was a follow up to the first GEO 5 production and authors' meeting held in Cairo Egypt in November 2010.

### **Launch of the Africa Water Atlas in South Africa**

UNEP presented the Africa Water Atlas at a side event in Cape Town, South Africa, as part of the celebrations of the World Water Week held from 22-25 March 2011.



The Africa Water Atlas which was released on 25 November 2010 during the 3rd Africa Water Week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This Atlas is a visual account of Africa's endowment and use of water resources, revealed through 224 maps and 104 satellite images as well as some 500 graphics and hundreds of compelling photographs. Its visual elements vividly illustrate a succinct narrative describing and analyzing Africa's water issues and exemplifying them through the use of case studies. It compiles information about water in Africa and its role in the economy and development, health, food security, transboundary cooperation, capacity building and environmental change into one comprehensive and accessible volume.

The Atlas profiles every African country in terms of water availability, withdrawals, irrigation and other uses. With such data, policy and decision makers are equipped with a handy document to guide them on the formulation of regulations and guidelines towards environmental sustainability and water security.

All the materials in the Atlas are non-copyrighted and available for free use as long as the Atlas is acknowledged as the source. Individual satellite images and other graphics can be downloaded from [www.na.unep.net/atlas](http://www.na.unep.net/atlas)

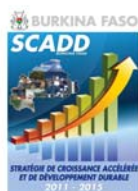
UNEP undertook the production of this Atlas at the request of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and in cooperation with the African Union, European Union, United States State Department, United States Geological Survey and other collaborators.

### **Africa Environment Outlook-3 (AEO-3) Process: Authors meet in South Africa.**

A production and authors' meeting for the AEO-3 was held from 28 - 31 March 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The objective of the chapter authors meeting was to discuss the process and modalities of compiling and analyzing the relevant information for the various chapters as identified by the Core Working Group which met in Alexandria, Egypt in June 2010. The meeting agreed on the following areas to form the basis for the content of the document: climate change, air quality, biodiversity and forests, freshwater and sanitation, oceans and seas, land and urbanization, as well as chemicals and wastes. A table detailing a breakdown of the thematic clusters as well as the priority issues identified at the meeting will be prepared and shared with the Core Team members for review and comments. This will then be forwarded to the Collaborating Centres in the sub-regions to begin the work of preparing their inputs to the report. The Collaborating Centres will manage the sub-regional inputs covering all the thematic clusters.

The objective of AEO-3 is to provide a comprehensive, reliable and scientifically credible, policy-relevant and legitimate up-to-date assessment and outlook on the interaction between environment and health and its implications on human wellbeing.

## Burkina Faso - Revised Poverty Reduction Strategy released



With strong technical support from the PEI Burkina Faso country team, the Government of Burkina Faso released a revised Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP) in March 2011 (“Strategie de Croissance acceleree et de developpement 2011-2015”). Poverty-environmental principles have been successfully mainstreamed into all pillars of the revised PRSP and environment has been incorporated as a cross-cutting issue on development matters.

### New environment unit for Burkina Faso

In March 2011, The Ministry of Economy and Finance in Burkina Faso released a new directive that calls for the inclusion and set up of an environment unit as part of the organizational structure of the Ministry. This institutional change is expected to improve understanding and awareness of environment-poverty linkages among policy-maker in charge of economic development and planning.

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## Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production

### Marrakech Process Progress Report: Refining the Global Agenda for Sustainable Consumption and Production

UNEP-ROA RE/SCP Unit provided input to the section on the Marrakech Task Force on Cooperation with Africa. The report summarises the key outcomes of the Marrakech Process by providing a review on the efforts made by the seven Marrakech Task Forces, as well as efforts made at the regional and national level.

The review includes 23 concrete case studies and snapshots representing projects supported by the Marrakech Process from across the world. For the African region, the case studies on the African Eco-labelling Mechanism and the Mauritius Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) action plans are featured, and as snapshots the SCP clubs in Tanzania as well as the development of the local SCP programme in Cairo, Egypt. The section also provides an overview of the other activities of the Task Force. The report will be available on the Marrakech Process website: <http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/> and will also be presented at the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-19).

### Policy making on industry-environment relationship

An experts meeting to review policies and regulations on environmental protection in industries was held from 18-20 April 2011 in Kigali, Rwanda. UNEP-ROA participated in the meeting which was aimed at discussing existing policies, environmental regulations, standards, directives and strategies, and their relevance to industrial processes and investments at national level.

The experts identified gaps and measures that require harmonisation at regional level, and developed a draft plan of action for mainstreaming sustainability in industrial development in the region, to guide policy making on industry-environment relationship. The output is expected to provide further input towards the finalisation of the industrialisation policy and strategy of the East African Community (EAC).

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## Workshops on sustainable development for Africa

A workshop on **Institutional and Strategic Frameworks for Sustainable Development in Africa** was held from 7-9 March 2011. The main objective of the workshop was to examine and adequately define institutional frameworks, taking into account existing institutions at regional and sub-regional levels. It also aimed at examining institutions, policies and strategies for sustainable development at national level, considering the extent to which such institutions incorporate key requirements for sustainable development, including balanced and integrated development.

A **Regional Workshop on Environmental Indicators, Statistics and Accounts** was held from 7-9 March 2011 was also held in parallel with the above-mentioned workshop. The workshop was aimed at training staff of the national statistical offices (NSOs) and environment ministries of member States on the concepts of environment statistics, and the system of environmental and economic accounting as well as to agree on a core set of environmental indicators for national, sub-regional and regional reporting. The workshop encouraged participants to share their country experiences in environment data collection, compilation and dissemination, and to establish a network of environmental statisticians among the countries as recommended by the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD.



Participants made a number of recommendations related to following areas:

**Advocacy:** Need to create awareness of the high level decision makers on the importance of environment statistics and indicators for monitoring national sustainable development and other policies and programmes; **Coordination:** need to develop and strengthen collaboration mechanisms between the various stakeholders involved in environment statistics data collection and sharing; **Data harmonization:** Need to adopt available international statistical standard methodologies in data collection, compilation, and dissemination of environment statistics an; **Resource allocation** to support environmental statistics programmes; **Core indicators:** Need to include indicators on mining in the proposed core list of indicators. UNSD, ECA, UNEP and AfDB will prepare methodology sheets for the indicators as appropriate; **Training:** Regional statistical training centres, universities and other specialized training centres should include in their curriculum environment statistics and accounts programmes and train the necessary manpower in the area; and **Capacity building:** AfDB, ECA, and UNEP will work closely together along with other development partners to provide technical assistance and capacity building to the national statistical offices and other related line ministries in countries.

A **workshop on Sustainable Development Indicator Framework for Africa** was held from 10 – 11 March 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop was aimed at providing the participants with a platform to conduct a thorough review of the proposed sustainable development indicators framework and compendium of indicators, considering the need for a well framed and robust analysis and Africa's priorities and specificities.

The workshop brought together policy makers, experts from African regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as various UN agencies, and provided the participants with an opportunity to share views and propose recommendations on the way forward towards systematically measuring and tracking progress on sustainable development in the region, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa process (SDRA).

UNEP – DEWA team participated in the three workshops that were organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in partnership with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), African Union Commission (AUC), and African Development Bank (AfDB).

### Environmental Statistics workshop

UNEP contributed towards a regional workshop on environment statistics and MDGs which was held in Dakar, Senegal from 1 – 2 April 2011. The main objective of the workshop was to collect data on MDG 7 Indicators, as well discuss data quality, the use of methodology sheets on a set of indicators, and procedures for data collection of environment statistics.

The specific objectives of the meeting focused on three major areas: Validation of Environment Statistical data presented by Member States participants; adoption plans for the compilation of the Regional Environment Statistics Compendium; and production of quality Environment Statistics data and regional aggregate for monitoring the MDGs. The meeting was organised by the ECOWAS commission.

### GEO-5 Africa Chapter Author's meeting

UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) hosted the First Global Environment Outlook (GEO-5) Africa Chapter Author's meeting from 16-18 March 2011 in Nairobi Kenya. The meeting aimed at developing a better understanding of the GEO-5 part II methodology by analyzing selected policies using case studies from Africa, as well as applying qualitative and quantitative indicators. The meeting also intended to remind authors of the overall storyline and how the African chapter fits into it; discuss draft contributions by lead authors and offer guidance; identify emerging lessons, key challenges and opportunities for Africa in meeting globally agreed goals and targets.

The meeting was a follow up to the first GEO 5 production and authors' meeting held in Cairo Egypt in November 2010.

### Launch of the Africa Water Atlas in South Africa

UNEP presented the Africa Water Atlas at a side event in Cape Town, South Africa, as part of the celebrations of the World Water Week held from 22-25 March 2011.



The Africa Water Atlas which was released on 25 November 2010 during the 3rd Africa Water Week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This Atlas is a visual account of Africa's endowment and use of water resources, revealed through 224 maps and 104 satellite images as well as some 500 graphics and hundreds of compelling photographs. Its visual elements vividly illustrate a succinct narrative describing and analyzing Africa's water issues and exemplifying

them through the use of case studies. It compiles information about water in Africa and its role in the economy and development, health, food security, transboundary cooperation, capacity building and environmental change into one comprehensive and accessible volume. The Atlas profiles every African country in terms of water availability, withdrawals, irrigation and other uses. With such data, policy and decision makers are equipped with a handy document to guide them on the formulation of regulations and guidelines towards environmental sustainability and water security.

All the materials in the Atlas are non-copyrighted and available for free use as long as the Atlas is acknowledged as the source. Individual satellite images and other graphics can be downloaded from [www.na.unep.net/atlas](http://www.na.unep.net/atlas)

UNEP undertook the production of this Atlas at the request of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and in cooperation with the African Union, European Union, United States State Department, United States Geological Survey and other collaborators.

### **Africa Environment Outlook–3 (AEO-3) Process: Authors meeting South Africa.**

A production and authors' meeting for the AEO-3 was held from 28 - 31 March 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The objective of the chapter authors meeting was to discuss the process and modalities of compiling and analyzing the relevant information for the various chapters as identified by the Core Working Group which met in Alexandria, Egypt in June 2010. The meeting agreed on the following areas to form the basis for the content of the document: climate change, air quality, biodiversity and forests, freshwater and sanitation, oceans and seas, land and urbanization, as well as chemicals and wastes. A table detailing a breakdown of the thematic clusters as well as the priority issues identified at the meeting will be prepared and shared with the Core Team members for review and comments. This will then be forwarded to the Collaborating Centres in the sub-regions to begin the work of preparing their inputs to the report. The Collaborating Centres will manage the sub-regional inputs covering all the thematic clusters.

The objective of AEO-3 is to provide a comprehensive, reliable and scientifically credible, policy-relevant and legitimate up-to-date assessment and outlook on the interaction between environment and health and its implications on human wellbeing

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### **Updates from South Africa**

#### **UNEP and SEED host Symposium on Green Economy and SEED Awards Ceremony**

UNEP and the SEED Partners hosted a high-level Symposium on the Green Economy and local entrepreneurship on 15 April 2011 in Pretoria, South Africa. The symposium was addressed by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Achim Steiner, whose keynote address looked at ways of accelerating the transition to a Green Economy and the contribution of entrepreneurs in developing countries. Enouk Godongwana, South Africa's Deputy Minister for Economic Development mentioned in his speech, that South Africa's New Growth Path states a target of 300 000 new jobs to be created in the Green Economy by 2020"

The SEED Initiative, hosted by UNEP, is a global partnership for action on sustainable development and the green economy. It was established in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. SEED supports innovative, small-scale and locally driven entrepreneurs around the globe who integrate social and environmental benefits into their business model.

A South African female-run business which makes a hand-held laundry device that saves water, and a bamboo bicycle project from Ghana, are among the global winners of the SEED Awards. SEED's corporate Awards Sponsor, Hisense provided generous support for the event.

#### **South Africa UN Task Team established for COP17**

COP17 will be held in Durban, South Africa in November/December, 2011. Realizing the urgent and important role of the UN in supporting Government and other stakeholders in the preparations for COP17, the UN Resident Coordinator has established a South Africa UN Task Team made up of five thematic groups. UNEP is leading the thematic group on Briefings and capacity building and actively participating in the thematic group on communications led by UNIC. Other thematic groups include legacy (ILO), Side-Events (UNIDO) and logistics and protocol (UNDP). The task team meets once a month and the thematic groups meet more frequently based on the need. The communications team is developing a CoP17 calendar of events which includes monthly briefings with

key stakeholders: private sector, youth and women, as well as representatives of African Embassies in South Africa and CSO's.

### **World Water Day 2011**

UNEP was involved in the organization of a World Water Day side event on Water and green Growth held on 20 March, 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa. The side event which was organized by the Korean Government and the World Water Council (WWC), examined the role that water plays in green growth. UNEP presented highlights from the Green Economy Report in a presentation dubbed "Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication" –Lessons from the UNEP.

At the side event, the WWC in cooperation with the Korean Ministry of Land Transport & Maritime Affairs, the Korean Presidential Committee on Green Growth, and K-Water kicked off a research project on Water and Green Growth.

This side event initiated a debate on the role that water plays in green growth from a variety of perspectives, highlighting examples of success and failures to integrate water into green growth strategies. The outcomes of the side-event will help to determine the scope of research required for Phase 1 of the project, to identify practical solutions in different areas of key concern for policy makers working towards green growth. Initial findings will be further reported at the World Water Week to be held in Stockholm, Sweden in August 2011. A summary report will be published for the 6th World Water Forum to be held in Marseilles, France in March 2012. The ultimate objective is to provide a forum that can offer solutions and commitments to tackling key global water challenges, including those relating to green growth.

### **UNEP-GEF Kalahari Namib project**



A Regional Inception Workshop for the UNEP GEF Kalahari Namib project on "Enhancing Decision-making through Interactive Environmental Learning and Action in Molopo-Nossob River Basin in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa" was held from 22 – 23 March 2011 in Pretoria, South Africa. The main objectives of the Project Inception Meeting were to clarify and agree on Project Management arrangements; clarify the project implementation arrangements/modalities including roles and responsibilities; agree on implementation arrangements at the Regional level; and agree on

capturing/recording of co-finance.

During the meeting, a process for identifying gaps in the baseline studies carried out during the project preparation phase, as well as a framework for sharing experiences and lessons from Regional Initiatives in the project area, were put in place. The participating countries also prepared national action plans.

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### **New Staff Member!**



Ms Sheila Karue joined UNEP-ROA in April as a UNV for the project on Sustainable Buildings Policies in Developing Countries (SPOD). Sheila will be working in the Resource Efficiency/Sustainable Consumption and Production (RE/SCP) unit of ROA. She will assist in the



implementation of the project in two pilot cities: Nairobi, Kenya and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The SPOD project builds on the work done jointly by the Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (SBCI) and the Finland-led Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Buildings and Construction, and will be closely coordinated with UNEP's and UN Habitat's common work on sustainable urban development. The project aims to assist governments at national and local levels, and in particular in developing countries, to develop policy tools in support of mainstreaming sustainable construction and building approaches, resulting in reduced carbon footprint from buildings. The project will undertake activities on a quick scan tool, policy building blocks, field tests and a dissemination strategy of the outputs.

Sheila will be based in Nairobi, Kenya; her email address is [sheila.karue@unep.org](mailto:sheila.karue@unep.org). Extension: 3101.  
Welcome aboard Sheila!

## Upcoming Events

### **19th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-19)**

**2-13 May 2011, New York, USA.**

The Marrakech Task Force on Cooperation with Africa which is coordinated by the RE/SCP Unit will be presented during the relevant meetings and sessions, especially during the sessions on the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP.

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### **Engineers International Conference:**

**11-13 May 2011, Nairobi, Kenya.**

To be held under the theme 'Engineering Better Countries and Cities for Better Living'. For more information contact: [patrick.mwesigye@unep.org](mailto:patrick.mwesigye@unep.org). Or [Josephine.Bauer@unep.org](mailto:Josephine.Bauer@unep.org)

### **Summit of the Three Tropical Forest Basins (Amazon, Congo, Borneo-Mekong)**

**31 May – 3 June, -Brazzaville, Congo**

As an important milestone in the celebration of the International Year of Forests, the Republic of Congo will be organizing the Summit of the Three tropical forest Basins in Brazzaville. The overall objective of the summit is to facilitate the establishment of South-South and North-South cooperation in view of the sustainable management of forest ecosystems in the basins of Amazon, Congo and Mekong-Borneo, to ensure their full contribution to poverty reduction and sustainable development of countries in the global context of addressing climate change.

The three tropical forest basins of the Amazon, Congo and Borneo- Mekong account for 80% of the world's tropical forests and are home to two thirds of terrestrial biodiversity while providing livelihood to more than one billion people. As part of the Summit, the government of Congo will be hosting the regional celebrations for WED, in support of the UN International Year of Forests.