



## Highlights!

### World's Three Main Forest Regions Strengthen Co-operation at Brazzaville Summit

Heads of State and Government of the Tropical Forest Ecosystems of Amazonia, Congo and - South East Asia have strengthened co-operation on the sustainable use of forest resources to achieve national economic growth, at a major summit, which was held in Brazzaville on 3 June 2011. The summit, which brought together about 500 representatives from 32 countries from the world's main forest regions for the first time was hosted by the government of the Republic of the Congo, with support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other UN agencies.

Delegates adopted a joint declaration to work together to improve the sustainable management of tropical forests. The declaration addresses issues such as biodiversity, climate change, national development and deforestation in the context of the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban in December 2010 and next year's UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil (known as Rio+20). The heads of State and government affirm their commitment to put in place enabling mechanisms that would position the forest sector as a key tool for the transition towards a low-carbon, resource efficient green economy, sustainable development and poverty reduction in their countries.

The leaders of the three tropical forest basins stressed the need for adequate, reliable and sustainable financing to allow their countries to meet the challenges of sustainable forest management and other forest-related commitments. They recommended new public-private and civil society partnerships, as well as multilateral co-operation, to facilitate investments to strengthen forest-related sectors in their countries. Particularly, they called for concrete steps on how to move forward international financing instruments such as the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD+) initiative and secure the phase 3 funding that tropical forest basin countries critically need.

The Brazzaville Declaration, which recommends that forests be considered as a priority area at next year's Rio +20 conference, is the first step in longer-term co-operation on forests between countries of the three major tropical forests basins and other countries worldwide. A co-operation agreement is expected to be adopted in Rio next year.

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### Celebrating Forests on World Environment Day

The government of Congo hosted the regional celebrations for World Environment Day this year alongside the First Summit on Tropical Forest Ecosystems of Amazonia and Congo Basins and South East, in support of the United Nations International Year of Forests. Activities ranged from clean ups to discussion forums, including TV shows on key environmental challenges and opportunities, in relation to this year's theme: **"Forests: Nature at your service"**.

In Kenya, World Environment Day (WED) was marked by a series of green marathons and an international conference organized by various groups and organizations. In Kakamega for instance, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) hosted the "Save the Kakamega Tropical Forest Marathon and 10Km Road Race" on 5 June 2011. The purpose was to nurture talent in sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity. This marathon was in line with this year's WED theme, Forests: Nature at your service, which underscored the intrinsic link between livelihoods and human well-being and the health of forests and forest ecosystems.

For more information: [http://www.unep.org/roa/Portals/137/Docs/pdf/KCP/WED\\_2011.pdf](http://www.unep.org/roa/Portals/137/Docs/pdf/KCP/WED_2011.pdf)

### **Fourteen-year-old Kenyan wins Painting Competition on the Environment**

UNEP selected Monica Adhiambo Arego of the Limuru Girls High School in Kenya, as the top regional winner of this year's International competition on the Environment. Her painting was selected by a jury composed of representatives from UNEP and Bayer, two of the main organizers of the Children competition, out of 1072 entries received by the Regional Office from thirteen countries around Africa. Her painting illustrated the importance of forests in Africa: how forests, through their vital functions as a cross-sectoral service utility, are a key component of the environment and a source of livelihood for diverse biodiversity species. Monica's view on forests conservation is that it should start with individual efforts, as we are all responsible for the ecosystems.

This year's painting competition attracted 606,996 entries from 99 countries. The global winners will be announced at the Tunza International Children's Conference in Bandung, Indonesia from 26 – 30 September 2011. As a regional winner, Monica will receive a cash prize of US\$ 1000 as well as an all-expenses-paid trip to the Tunza International Children Conference in Indonesia. This annual competition is jointly organized by UNEP, the Japan-based Foundation for Global Peace and Environment (FGPE), Bayer and Nikon.

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## **Activities within the region**

### **Exploring Integrated Approaches to Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change**

Climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters have direct impacts on the livelihoods of people. To address linkages between these three areas and mainstream them in country programming, the UN Development Group (UNDG) *Task Team on Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Rio+20*, in collaboration with several partners, organized a regional workshop for the African and Arab regions from 20-24 June 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop brought together 33 participants from 18 UN Country Teams who are embarking on the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) roll-out process. It is the first in a series of three regional workshops scheduled in 2011 which will also cover Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.



Given that several UN Country Teams in Africa have recently embarked on developing new UNDAFs, working in collaboration with partner governments and stakeholders, the workshop was aimed at enabling participants to identify opportunities/entry points and tools for mainstreaming environmental sustainability (ES), climate change (CC) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in these processes but also how to influence national processes. The content of the workshop was focused on three interrelated UNDG guidance notes:

- “Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into the CCA and UNDAF” (2009);
- “Mainstreaming Environmental Sustainability in Country Analysis and the UNDAF” (2009); and

- “Integrating Climate Change Considerations in the Country Analysis and the UNDAF” (2010).

Participants were familiarized with entry points and tools on mainstreaming these issues in each and every UNDAF step. This was done through working groups and experience sharing. The experience sharing sessions allowed the participants to gather advice from their peers. UNCT representatives presented opportunities and challenges in their UNDAF development processes and gathered feedback and advice from participants. Good practices that were identified through the discussions include: the need to align UNDAF priorities with national development challenges; focusing on areas where the UN has a comparative advantage; and leveraging expertise from other specialized agencies in the area of CC, ES and DRR.

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## Climate Change

### Strengthening support towards Climate Change response measures

The East African Community climate change strategy validation workshop was held in Bujumbura, Burundi from 11-24 May 2011. The main objective of the workshop was to review the Draft EAC Climate Change Strategy with the aim of improving it and ensuring it is consistent with the EAC Climate Change Policy. The workshop specifically considered the following issues:

- Structure, format and the content of the draft EAC Climate Change strategy
- Proposed climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, programmes, projects and best practices
- Proposed climate change governance structures at the Partner State and regional level including existing policies, strategies, plans, and the existing and proposed legal institutional framework.
- Climate change capacity and recourse in terms of financial resource, technology, research and development, education, training and public awareness required to implement the strategy.

During the meeting, the EAC Climate Change Coordinator presented a background paper highlighting the process leading to the development of the draft EAC Climate Change Strategy. UNEP was encouraged to take the opportunity offered to support the EAC process to develop a Climate Change strategy that is backed by sound science. In consultation with other UN organizations, it was recommended that UNEP works with the EAC secretariat on a programme based on the strategy of support to the EAC that will include institutional capacity development of the newly established climate change unit.

The workshop which was convened by the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat with support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) brought together climate change stakeholders from the EAC Partner States of Burundi, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. Other participants included Climate Change experts, development partners, representatives of UN agencies and civil society.

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### Linking population growth to Global Climate change

The African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) in collaboration with the National Coordination Agency for Population and Development (NCAPD) organized a symposium titled “Population Footprints” from 25-26 May 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting themed “Kenya’s



Population, Health, and Environment within the Context of Global Climate Change”, was aimed at highlighting the links between population dynamics and the Global Carrying Capacity. This discussion evolved from the argument that rapid population growth will lead to over consumption, lowered human capital, climate change, migration and eventually a strain on the natural ecosystem.

UNEP ROA assisted in preparations of the meeting, and made presentation on the impact of Climate Change on Health and the Urban Environment, and Global Responses to Climate Change.

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### **Interfaith Dialogue on Climate Change**

The Pan African Interfaith Group on Climate Justice and Sustainable Peace in Africa convened a Conference of Parties (COP) in Nairobi Kenya on 6 June 2011. The main objective of the meeting was to draft an Interfaith Position Paper for Durban. Discussions at the meeting focused on Climate Change and Africa’s preparedness for Durban. The African Union (AU) Strategy on Climate Change was also presented and discussed at the meeting.

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## **Disasters and Conflict**

### **Sierra Leone clean-up**

An environmental and public health hazard for the residents of Sierra Leone’s capital, Freetown, has been contained following the successful removal of 93 barrels of toxic waste from a former oil refinery site on the city’s outskirts. With technical assistance and funding from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Environment Protection Agency of Sierra Leone (EPA-SL) has supervised the clean-up of almost 12,000 litres, or 19 metric tonnes, of the dangerous and highly toxic substance, *tetra-ethyl lead (TEL)*. The EPA-SL is a key partner and beneficiary of UNEP’s expertise in a joint technical assistance programme known as *Programme 21: Environmental Cooperation for Peace building* in Sierra Leone.

The liquid TEL recovered from the site is being transported to the United Kingdom for further treatment while the drums and recovered sludges are being decontaminated to mitigate the potential risks and hazards for the local population. The EPA-SL, INNOSPEC and UNEP have cooperated to make the site as safe as possible.

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### **Launch of UN Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**

UNEP participated in the launch of the UN Africa Inter-Agency Group on Disaster Risk Reduction in June and signed up as a member. The purpose of the UN Africa Inter-agency Group is:

- To share information about DRR initiatives and programmes in Africa
- Promote coordination and cooperation for DRR
- Work in a complementary agenda for DRR feeding into the Africa Programme of Action to Implement the Regional Strategy for DRR 2006-2015
- Develop recommendation, Terms of Reference of the Group and the way forward

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## Ecosystem Management

### UNEP's Freshwater Programme: Performance Review and Strategic Planning

As part of a review of its 2007 Water Policy and Strategy (WPS), UNEP is assessing implementation experience across its portfolio of projects involving freshwater with a view to defining a more operational strategy for its freshwater activities. The Strategy will also reflect the thematic priorities set out in the UNEP Medium Term Strategy and the need to move towards a more results-oriented approach.

A workshop for the UNEP Interdivisional Water Group (IDWG) and the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) was held in Nairobi, from 6-8 June 2011. The objectives of the meeting were to articulate a shared understanding on UNEP's work on freshwater, achieved results and lessons learnt from implementing the UNEP WPS; to have consensus on main ideas and recommendations for UNEP's strategic approach in freshwater; and engagement of IDWG members in developing the new UNEP freshwater operational strategy. A discussion paper was prepared and circulated in advance of the Workshop to provide a backdrop to the discussions and main issues to address.

The Workshop was the first step in the process that will lead to an operational strategy for freshwater covering the next two biennial programmes up to 2015. Linked to this, the strategy will provide valuable input into designing the next phase of the programme for the UNEP-DHI Centre (UDC) on Water and the Environment. Participants at the workshop included members of the Inter-Divisional Water Group (IDWG) and the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG). The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for UNEP staff working on water to engage in substantive discussions on the future operational strategy in order to give a more targeted and focused perspective to UNEP's work on freshwater within the Medium Term Strategy (MTS).

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### Integrating Biodiversity into National policies and planning processes

A capacity building workshop to review and update the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for West Africa was held from the 22 – 26 May 2011 in Dakar, Senegal. (NBSAPs are the national implementation mechanisms of the Convention on Biological Diversity.) The workshop which was one in a series of sub-regional workshops on updating the NBSAPs in 2011 and 2012, had three main objectives:



- To assist West African countries in reviewing, revising and implementing their NBSAPs, while giving consideration to how these can serve as an effective tool for mainstreaming biodiversity into broader national policies;
- Facilitate active learning opportunities and peer-to-peer exchanges for national focal points and persons in charge of implementing and revising NBSAPs;
- Integrate the values of biodiversity into relevant national and local policies, programs and planning processes.

Ms Kamar Yousuf who represented UNEP-ROA, made a presentation on synergies and cooperation among biodiversity related MEAs, which stressed the links between NBSAPs and other biodiversity conventions, as well as the need to collaborate at local, national and regional levels to implement the Aichi Targets of the Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020. Participants were also informed of the UNEP-GEF umbrella project for enabling activities and how to access these funds, in view of funding for the review of NBSAPs

The capacity building workshop brought together representatives from 16 West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote D'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The participants discussed the next steps required in revising of NBSAPs and also identified the needs and opportunities for strengthened technical and scientific cooperation at sub-regional and regional levels. A similar workshop for East African Countries to review and update the NBSAPs was held in Kigali, Rwanda from 27-30 June 2011.

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## Environment Governance

### Empowering Africa to better understand Green Economy

A briefing session on Green Economy was held in Nairobi on 8 June 2011. The meeting which was requested by the Africa Diplomatic Corps (ADCs) based in Nairobi, had Experts on Green Economy from both UNEP and UNHABITAT giving insights on issues ranging from Political context and UN Green Economy Road Map; current UN System-Wide Initiatives; urban patterns for Sustainable Development; Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI), and efforts toward a Green Economy in Africa.

Issues discussed at the meeting included: Understanding Green Economy; Capacity Building of communities to understand Green Economy; Progress of Africa Summit on Green Economy; Study on Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction through the auspices of the Africa Ministers Conference on Environment; Common Africa position on Green Economy; Clarification on lead UN-Agency on Green Economy; RIO+20 and Pertinent issues affecting the Africa Continent.

The meeting, co-hosted by UNEP and UNHABITAT was attended by the Africa Regional Directors of both UNEP (Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye) and UNHABITAT (Mr. Alioune Badiane), and brought together 43 participants from the Africa Diplomatic Corps (ADCs), UN-HABITAT and UNEP. The next meeting will provide an opportunity for the ADCs to brief both UNEP and UN-HABITAT on their countries perception and uptake of the Green Economy Initiative.

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### Enhancing parliamentarian's capacity to address environmental issues

As part of the UNEP/ ROA and Parliamentary Centre continued collaboration, a second workshop on Environment and Climate change was held in Nairobi Kenya from 7-9 June 2011. The workshop which was aimed at assisting Parliamentarians to better understand issues surrounding environment and climate change, brought together 30 Legislators from seven African Countries (Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Senegal, Tanzania and Zambia). The parliamentarians most of whom were from the climate change select committees, discussed the major causes and effects of environmental degradation and climate change in their respective countries and their role the in policy formulation and environmental protection.



UNEP/ ROA represented by Gertrude Ngenda and Roy Kanai, made presentations on Environmental Sustainability, Green Economy, Climate Change and the Road to Rio+20, as well as a briefing on the various area of engagement with UNEP. The legislators admitted that issues of environment in general and Climate Change in particular have not been given the necessary attention that they require inspite of the challenges they pose to development in Africa.

One of the highest points of the engagement with the parliamentarians was a visit to the Geothermal Power Plant at Olkaria, Naivasha on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2011. The field visit offered the MPs a practical example of how nations can embark on a development path that is progressive, cost effective and environmentally friendly. With an output of 151 MW, the geothermal plant contributes to 12% of Kenya's total energy, and efforts are underway to increase its contribution to about 50% . MPs were highly impressed and motivated to challenge their home governments to take similar initiatives



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### **UNEP and the Republic of Congo Reinforce Cooperation on Environmental Management**

UNEP ROA team, led by the Regional Director for Africa met with senior officials at the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and the Environment in Brazzaville to consolidate their collaboration. Over the years, UNEP has been providing support to Congo to build its capacity to address environmental and sustainable development issues.

Recently in June 2010, the Minister of Sustainable Development of Forest Economy and Environment of Congo requested UNEP's further assistance on the revision of the National Environmental Action Plan developed and adopted in 1994-1996, to oversee the management of the environment in the medium and long term. UNEP is also expected to provide assist in the amendment of the draft new law on environmental protection, to accommodate new topics, such as the fight against climate change, biosafety, payment for environmental services (carbon market, debt conversion nature etc.). The third area of support is the integrated environmental assessment, with a specific emphasis on data collection and processing and the preparation of national report on integrated environmental assessment.

The meeting took stock of the achievements so far and agreed on concrete steps to be taken for the immediate future and a medium term.

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### **Launch of the Africa Water Atlas in New York**

UNEP presented the Africa Water Atlas at a side event in New York, as part of the UN Africa Day celebrations held on 25 May 2011. Mr. Charles Sebukeera who represented UNEP, undertook strategic engagement with the African Diplomats to enhance the outreach of the Africa Water Atlas. The Africa Water Atlas which was first released on 25 November 2010 is a visual account of Africa's endowment and use of water resources.



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.

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### **AEO-3: Working Groups discuss policies and scenarios**

A meeting for the Data, Policy analysis and Scenarios working groups of the Africa Environment Outlook–3 (AEO-3), was held in Kampala, Uganda from 8 -10 June 2011. The aim of the meeting was to develop the annotated structure of part III of the AEO-3 report, focusing on policies and scenarios.



Deliberations at the meeting included discussion and adoption of the terms of reference as well as operational modalities for the working groups. Presentations were made on relevant background information including conceptual and analytical framework, proposed structure of AEO-3 and proposed tasks and responsibilities of the different working groups. There were also presentations on policy guidelines and approaches to identifying policies.

The outcomes of the meeting included:

1. Well-defined procedures and milestones for providing technical backstopping to the AEO-3 process by the two working groups;
2. Annotated structures for the chapters on policy analysis and scenarios;
3. A clear division of labour among the various members of each working group and definition of the roles of collaborating centres.

The meeting which was facilitated by DEWA Africa programme, GRID Arendal and two experts on policy and scenario development, was attended by members of the Data, Policy analysis and Scenario working groups.

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## **Harmful Substances and Hazardous waste**

### **UNEP Launches Ozone Africa Media Award for 2011**

As part of its efforts to strengthen the capacity of African Journalists to report on issues related to the phase out of Ozone depleting substances, UNEP Regional Office for Africa (UNEP-ROA) launched the 2011 Ozone Africa Media Award on 27 June 2011. The announcement was made in Bamako, Mali during the thematic workshop on compliance with CFC phase out and preparation of Hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Phase out Management Plans (HPMP) in French speaking North and West Africa. The meeting which was initiated by the UNEP Ozone Compliance Assistance Programme was held from 27-30 June 2011.

The Ozone Africa Media Award, which was established in 2010, encourages highest standards of excellence in environmental and scientific reporting, focusing on how ozone issues are addressed in Africa. It places emphasis on compelling stories with a human face, showing how the consequences of a global environmental issue can affect us and how we as individuals can be part of the solution. The best examples of journalistic practice in the coverage of Ozone issues in Africa in print, audio-visual and electronic media will be awarded, bearing in mind the specific conditions in which the work is carried out. The competition will run through to 10 September 2011 and the winners will be announced on the International Day for Ozone preservation on 16 September. Applications will be accepted through the online application form on the [UNEP/ ROA website](http://www.unep.org/roa).

The objective of the thematic workshop on compliance with CFC phase out and preparation of HCFC Phase out Management Plans was to assess the compliance status of African countries towards plans for total phase out of ODS, and come up with recommendations on the implementation of Montreal Protocol activities and the way to address challenges faced by Ozone Officers including issues related to awareness and public participation.

The workshop brought together Ozone Officers from 13 countries in North and West Africa alongside journalists from 11 countries and representatives of the implementing agencies of the Multilateral Fund for the implementation of the Montreal protocol on the phase out of the Ozone depleting substances (ODS).

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### **Africa accelerates efforts towards HCFC phase-out**

Delegates from several English speaking African countries met in Victoria, Seychelles from 20-23 June 2011 for the 17th ozone depleting substances officers' (ODS) network conference. The meeting discussed among other issues, the planning for the final phase of the Montreal Protocol, opportunities for enhancing the South-South cooperation and technology options for avoiding the use of Hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) which have high global warming potential as well as replacing or enhancing the energy efficiency for air conditioning systems.

African countries are currently embarking on the ambitious plan to phase out HCFCs. Through a campaign called "Ozone2Climate" it is expected that Africa will get maximum climate benefit from HCFC phase out. The countries have resolved to continue their commitment towards the Ozone Layer Protection. Having phased out nearly 25,000 tones of CFCs and other important Ozone Depleting Chemicals ahead of the time stipulated in the Montreal Protocol, and having erased the annual carbon footprints of more than 60 million tones equivalent of carbon dioxide, the continent is now beginning a new journey. The resounding message at this meeting was that while UNEP OzonAction with other Implementing Agencies play the catalytic role, the real hard work and dedication has been from the National Ozone Units of the African countries.

The meeting brought together representatives from 24 African countries alongside the Seychelles Minister for Health Dr Erna Athanasius, the Head of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) OzonAction- Rajendra Shende, the representative from the Ozone Secretariat Gilbert Bankobeza and senior regional coordinator of the Ozone Compliance Assistance Programme in Africa Jeremy Bazye.

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## **Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production**

### **Sustainable Buildings Policies in Developing Countries (SPOD) Project**

A national stakeholder de-briefing meeting for Sustainable Buildings Policies in Developing Countries (SPOD) was held in Nairobi on 7 June 2011. The main objective of the meeting was to present all the key stakeholders in Nairobi with the emerging issues from the consultative meetings which had been held with individual stakeholders in May 2011. The debriefing meeting was also held in order to create a forum where the Technical Advisory Group would be formed.

The meeting discussed various issues related to SPOD, including: use of the quick scan tool to assess existing policies related to the building sector, formulation of the policy building blocks and the need for an action plan on how policies being formulated can be achieved on existing buildings; involvement of SPOD project in implementation of the proposed

open plan policy for Government offices; awareness creation campaigns geared towards behaviour change; energy saving measures and Kenya's development needs in view of achieving vision 2030; cost of implementation and the need for a formal agreement between UNEP and the respective stakeholders who are public institutions with an obligation under performance contracting to document and report on activities they are engaged in. It was also pointed out that efforts must be made to ensure that SPOD project does not remain un-implemented as has been the case with various government policies.

UNEP ROA's Patrick Mwesigye made a presentation on the SPOD project and the draft work plan. The stakeholders were also briefed on the Small Scale Funding Agreements (SSFA's), which would be prepared for each institution based on the roles they will be assigned as per the work plan. It was agreed that the institutions represented at the debriefing meeting constitute the technical advisory group, with the Ministry of Public Works taking up the secretariat role as the lead institution.

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## New Staff Member!



Ms. Meseret Teklemariam Zemedkun, an Ethiopian national joined UNEP - Regional Office for Africa in May 2011 as the Project Manager of the African Rift Geothermal Development Facility (ARGeo) based in Nairobi.

Meseret has worked for the African Union Commission (AUC) as a Senior Geothermal Expert. She has also been an International Geothermal Consultant and was closely involved in different international assignments with the evolution of the RGP. In this important work for supporting regional geothermal development programs she undertook the definition of the regional institutional arrangements and the identification of capacity gaps to develop geothermal energy resource in East African Countries. She also prepared a "Road Map" and "Action Plan" for the harmonization of the interventions of various potential partners in the region.

Meseret worked for over 20 years in the Geological Survey of Ethiopia. She has extensive experience, interacting at professional levels with international organizations, including UNIDO, UNEP and IAEA. She was also involved in supporting the definition of the content of the World Bank/UNEP program called ARGeo. She has also worked as a visiting researcher in various international institutions in countries such as USA and Italy. Meseret was also a "Review Editor" in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC)'s for the 4<sup>th</sup> Special Report on Renewable Energy Resources and Climate Change Mitigation. She was a member of the Board of Directors of International Geothermal Association (IGA) in 2000-2006, and again for the period 2010-2013.

She holds a Ph.D. in Earth Sciences-Geothermic, and has undergone basic geothermal trainings in the United Nations University-Geothermal Training Program, Iceland and International School of Geothermics, Italy. Her professional focus has been development, implementation and coordination of regional projects using her extensive knowledge and experience in geothermal science and engineering.

Meseret will be based in Nairobi Kenya; her email address is [meseret.teklemariam@unep.org](mailto:meseret.teklemariam@unep.org) Telephone: 7625634.

Welcome aboard Meseret!

## Upcoming Events

### Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production

**SPOD Technical Advisory Group Meeting (TAG): 12 July 2011.** During the TAG meeting the detailed work plan will be reviewed and the mandate of each stakeholder outlined. The budget will also be discussed. The outcome of the mission to Burkina Faso (27 June 2011- 1 July 2011) as well as the details for the kick-off meeting will be discussed.

**Kick-off meeting: 22 August 2011 (tentative date):** The kick-off meeting will be held in Nairobi. Stakeholders from Nairobi and Burkina Faso will be present. Other relevant stakeholders such as surveyors, professional associations, project managers, contractors and NGOs will be involved. This will give input to the SPOD project from a diverse range of sources.

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### Delivery as One

**UNDG Regional Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean: 11-15 July 2011 Panamá,**

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