



Opening session of the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, 30 January 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia @AUC

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- Joint Meeting of the Africa English speaking and French speaking Networks of Ozone Officers
- Seventh AU-ECA Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance-CAMEF
- EU-AU Summit; UNEP/AMCEN Bureau NEPAD meeting

Illicit Wildlife and Timber Trafficking: A Threat to Development, Peace and Security in Africa

Mounkaila Goumandakoye, UNEP Regional Director and Representative for Africa



Elephants: the endangered species @google images

- In February 2014: London Summit on illegal wildlife trade is organized. During the same period, the African Union requested UNEP to engage with the Commission and increase awareness on the issue and assist in working with various partners in finding the best solutions to curb the trend in illegal trade of timber and wildlife. The Assistant Secretary General and UNEP Deputy Executive Director will have a working session with AUC on March 11.

Destruction of ivory stockpiles has taken place recently in different places of the world: China, Gabon, France, USA, Kenya, Philippines. There is now wide recognition that illicit wildlife and timber has economic, social and environmental impacts. Illegal timber trade is valued at USD 30 – 100 billion/ year, while illegal wildlife trade amounts to 15-20 billion USD per year. An elephant is killed in Africa every 20 minutes. These illegal activities have far reaching consequences beyond the locus delicti of the crimes: aggravation of poverty by impoverishing forest/wildlife communities and the nations, biodiversity

In 2013 and early this year we have seen an increased awareness and high political commitment to curb the scourge of illicit wildlife and timber trafficking:

- In May 2013, A Marrakech Declaration on a 10 point Action plan to combat illicit wildlife trafficking was adopted by the African Development Bank and WWF.
- In September 2013 on the sideline of the UN General Assembly in New York, a High-level Panel Discussion on "Poaching and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking – A multidimensional crime and a growing challenge to the international community" took place co-chaired by Gabon and Germany.
- In December 2013: Africa Elephant Summit took place in Gaborone and a Roundtable on the fight against elephant poaching and the trafficking of ivory and other protected species was convened in Paris during the Summit on Peace and Security.



ivory stockpiles @google images



logging of timber @google images

loss, increase in environmental disaster such as flooding and contribution to climate change, increased threat to domestic and international security by criminal gangs including linkages with terrorism and global illegal trade, social distress as many park rangers have lost their lives in the line of duty (a joint report by Interpol and UNEP indicated in 2010 that 190 rangers were killed in the past 15 years in the Virunga National Park alone).

Governments not only in Africa but also in Asia and around the world, UN Agencies and various partners need to work hand in hand to address the issue of illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber through various measures related to policy reform, strengthening of legal framework, addressing corruption and money laundering, effective enforcement and many other measures that are necessary.

African Heads of State Reaffirm Resolve to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation

The 22nd Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) held on 30th and 31st January, in Addis Ababa under the theme "Agriculture and Food Security". Leaders reaffirmed their determination to stem the tide of desertification and land degradation on the continent.

The Summit commended the AUC for the efforts in enhancing Africa's visibility in COP. 11/UNCCD and renewed its commitment to the 'Namibian Declaration' to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD in Africa in order to address land degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss and effects of drought, and to promote sustainable development on the continent.

In the declaration signed by Heads of state and governments, they endorsed the establishment of an African Working Group on Desertification and Sustainable Land Management. With the significant negative impacts of desertification on arable land on the continent, this pan-continental group will be charged with exploring ways of combatting desertification through sustainable land management policies. The Heads of State requested that the Commission reviews and strengthens the existing African Coordination Mechanism in order to facilitate multilateral action, especially as desertification which is often a transnational phenomenon such as in the Sahel.

In a bid to fast-track Africa's adaptation mechanism, the leaders requested the AU Commission to rationalize and strengthen its specialized units, in particular the Semi-Arid Food Grains Research and Development (SAFGRAD) and the Climate Change and Desertification Unit (CCDU), for an effective and vigorous provision of the necessary platform for guidance, experience sharing and coordination among the existing African Centres of Excellence on Desertification

The AU leaders also pledged to increase support to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Members States in collaboration with Partners to review the Regional Action Programme to combat desertification in Africa and align it to the UNCCD Ten Year Strategy which phases out in 2018.

The Assembly also adopted the Common African Position on the Post 2015 Development Agenda and requested the High Level Committee on the post 2015 Development Agenda to meet as soon as possible to streamline the document and formulate strategy for advocacy, negotiation and forging alliances. The meeting is being held in Ndjamena, Chad this February. The Assembly endorsed the articulation of the African development goals consistent with the existing continental frameworks and to serve as milestones for tracking and monitoring progress towards Agenda 2063 currently in the making

With regard to Africa's strategic partnerships, the Assembly welcomed the offer made by the Republic of Cameroon to host the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Ministerial meeting in May 2014 and welcomed the adoption of the principle of rotation in hosting the TICAD- V follow up mechanisms. The AUC Chairperson was requested to undertake consultations with Member States with a view to identifying the host for TICAD VI Summit to be



Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma presides a session
Photo@AUC; flickr.com



President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia with the President of AfDB during a press briefing at the AU Photo@AUC; flickr.com

held in Africa in 2018.

On the report of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) on NEPAD, the Assembly reinforced the critical need for financial investments and leveraging public-private sector partnerships and in particular welcomed the Africa 50 investment vehicle by the African development Bank to mobilize adequate funds for infrastructure developments.

The Assembly decided that the 23rd session of the AU Assembly will be held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea from 26-27 June, 2014 this year, preceded by meetings of the PRC and the Executive Council from 21-21 June and 23-24 June respectively.



DSG of the United Nations, Jan Eliasson with UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of ECA, Carlos Lopez
Photo@AUC; flickr.com



AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture Mrs. Rhoda Peace Tumsime, AUC Directorate of Communication Mrs. Habiba Mejri Cheikh, and the CEO of NEPAD, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki
Photo@AUC; flickr.com

Environmental Pillar at the Heart of Africa's Post-2015 Development Planning- UNEP Deputy Executive

Director Meets with Top African Officials on SDGs Process and African Common Position

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Deputy Executive Director Ibrahim Thiaw met with top African leaders in Addis Ababa among them President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, and Chair of the African Union's High-Level Committee on the Post-2015 Agenda. He reiterated UNEP's commitment to support the integration of the environmental pillar of sustainable development and the inclusive Green Economy in development planning as the AU prepares to launch the African Common Position on the Post-2015 development agenda.

In his discussions with President Sirleaf, Mr. Thiaw highlighted UNEP's efforts to embed environmental sustainability into the post-2015 development agenda and into the rapidly developing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). President Johnson Sirleaf shared the view that the environmental pillar would be a critical component of the SDGs, and as such, it would be prominently reflected in the African Common Position. As a direct follow-up to the discussions, UNEP will take a scoping mission to Liberia by April 2014, with the aim of developing a formal cooperation agreement that would enhance the institutional capacity of the West African nation, in close partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency.



President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, UNEP Deputy Executive Director Ibrahim Thiaw, UNEP Regional Director for Africa, Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye

Similarly, Mr. Thiaw's meeting with Ethiopian Environment and Forest Minister Belete Tefere, centred on a UNEP proposal to develop a cooperation framework to support Ethiopia's Climate Resilient and Green Economy Strategy, which was introduced in 2011 to build Ethiopia's green economy. Through the proposed cooperation framework, UNEP would further bolster these efforts and help bring inclusive, green strategies to the forefront of Ethiopia's economic development.

Mr. Thiaw and delegation also composed of UNEP Regional Director for Africa, Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye had the opportunity to also meet with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Executive Secretary Dr. Carlos Lopes; the African Union Commission Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, Mrs. Elham M.A. Ibrahim; the African Union Commission Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture Mrs. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime; the Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), Mr. Babatunde Osotimehin; the Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki; and the Ambassador of Mauritania to Ethiopia H.E. Mr. Hamadi Meimou.

Dr. Lopes of the UNECA stressed that, if nothing was done to modernize Africa's agricultural sector, agriculture would not contribute more than 1.26 per cent of the continent's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2063. Mr. Thiaw agreed that there is a need to industrialize differently and build on green economy through sustainable consumption and production models in Africa.

Other issues discussed included youth unemployment, an all-pervasive challenge and one which must be linked to a modernized agricultural sector according Mr. Thiaw, as well as the importance of energy and infrastructure sectors, which would be crucial drivers of Africa's economic transformation. Outlining his vision for new and exciting development opportunities that would emerge from green investments, he proposed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UNEP and the African Union Commission on sustainable energy, among other collaborative efforts.

AU Executive Council Adopts Gaborone Declaration on Climate Change and Africa's Development

The 24th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union assembling African Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted the Gaborone Declaration on Climate change and Africa's Development on January 28th, 2014. Ahead of the 22nd AU Summit, African ministers endorsed the outcomes of the 5th special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held in October 2013 in the Botswana capital, Gaborone. These outcomes refer to the Gaborone Declaration, as well as decisions key messages and recommendations related to climate change, the development of regional flagship programmes to implement the outcomes of Rio+20 in Africa, and Africa's engagement with the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).

In line with provisions of the Gaborone Declaration, the Executive Council reaffirmed the African Common Position on climate change as the basis for negotiations by African States on strengthening the international climate change regime. They also reiterated that the African common position will be continuously backed by new findings, including the best available scientific, economic and technical information. In addition, they mandated the African Group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with African Union Permanent Missions in Addis Ababa, Geneva and New York and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, to prepare and advance a common strategy for Africa's engagement with the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) on Environment and sustainable development matters.

The meeting called on the Executive Director of UNEP to continue supporting AMCEN in the advancement of its responsibilities as the regional ministerial forum on environment matters.



The Executive Council of the AU Photo@AUC; flickr.com

UNEP Helps Lesotho Prepare 2013 State of Environment and Outlook Report

A UNEP-UNDP facilitated workshop aimed at equipping the local professionals with the techniques of environmental reporting was held from 12 to 18 January in Maseru, Lesotho. The training facilitated by the Africa Regional Coordinator of UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment (UNEP DEWA) aimed to arrive at the definition and adoption of a framework for the Lesotho State of the Environment and Outlook Report for 2013 (LSEOR).

The objective of the training was to map the scope, structure and annotate the outline of the report in the light of the on-going move to transition to the on-line, live state of environment reporting system. Through a participatory and capacity development format adopted by the UNEP expert, the training revisited and sought to learn from experiences of developing SOERs from other countries in the Africa region. Other areas covered during the four-day workshop included comparative review of environmental assessment approaches, policy analysis, Identification of emerging issues, data collection and indicator development.

After the training, the Director of the Environment of Lesotho, Lineo Mdee thanked UNEP and UNDP for their technical assistance and urged continued cooperation in developing a SOER for the African State. Mr. Mdee also expressed his government's readiness to participate in the Africa Environment Information Network (AfricaEIN). A national focal point had been appointed to this effect. The Lesotho State of the Environment and Outlook Report 2013 is planned for release in December 2014.

UNEP has made true on its commitment to assist countries prepare State of the Environment and Outlook Reports.

Fifth African Rift Geothermal Conference to Show Case Milestones in Improving Africa's Access to Sustainable Energy

Preparations towards ARGeo Biennial Geothermal conference (ARGeo-C5) to be held in Arusha, Tanzania, from 27 October-2 November 2014 kicked off with the meeting organized by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals in collaboration with UNEP and key stakeholders in Tanzania on 20-21 February 2014. The meeting discussed practical tasks and steps to be undertaken in the lead up to ARGeo-C5. Accordingly, roles and responsibilities of the Government of Tanzania in organizing this conference were agreed upon, and a roadmap was developed.

ARGeo-C5 will highlight best practices from the projects under the Regional Networking, information systems, policy advice and awareness creation. The conference will also provide a platform for deliberations on how to scale up geothermal energy development in East Africa and improve access to energy in support of the UN Sustainable Energy for ALL initiative launched in 2012.

Implementation Strategies for Chemicals and Waste Conventions

In light of enhancing national cooperation and coordination in the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Bamako conventions, workshops were organized in collaboration with partners in Guinea-Conakry and Guinea-Bissau from the 11th to 12th and 17th to 18th December 2013 respectively.

UNEP Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) expert Abdouraman Bary stressed the importance of establishing intra-governmental coordination mechanisms for the MEAs. The workshop was aimed at encouraging the participation of all stakeholders in the crafting of national coordination strategies.

Officials and experts drawn from public and private sector organizations, civil society, business and the country focal point officials gathered in Conakry, to take stock of the current state of affairs and to chart a path forward towards the effective implementation of Chemicals and Waste Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) by:

- Identifying potential participants in the national implementation and coordination effort,
- Examining the coordination instruments that could be put in place, and key elements and stages of the implementation of a national coordination plan.
- Deliberating on approaches to the collection, sharing and dissemination of information in the implementation of the four MEA Conventions.

Participants at the Guinea-Bissau workshop also brainstormed on the ways of enhancing existing national coordination mechanisms. Amongst obstacles to the effective implementation of a national coordination mechanism for the MEAs, participants cited the lack of political will, low public awareness, the lack of competent staff, exclusion of civil society actors and technological deficiencies.

The workshop ended with proposals for the establishment of a national agency to oversee the management of chemicals. Other proposals included adapting institutional and legal arrangements to facilitate the implementation of the conventions, the setting up of a national action plan for the implementation of the four MEAs, the facilitation of information gathering, exchange and dissemination mechanisms amongst others. Participants also solicited technical assistance from UNEP in the establishment of the national coordination scheme for the implementation of the MEAs, and in the training of competent staff.

UNEP-UNIDO Mission Talks Resource Efficient Cleaner Production in Rwanda

Rwanda's effort in moving towards a green economy was recently bolstered by a joint UNEP-UNIDO participation in a national forum on the development of a strategic plan for the Rwanda Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Centre (RRECPC). UNEP Regional Resource Efficiency Coordinator, attended the 3rd edition of the event organized by the Rwanda Ministry of Trade and Industry (MINICOM) with the assistance of UNEP and UNIDO.

The one day consultative forum attended by close to one hundred delegates from industry, academia, development organizations and UN agencies sought to share knowledge and experiences in resource efficient cleaner production in Rwanda, a concept that is steadily taking root in the country thanks to joint ventures between the Rwandan government and international partners such as UNEP and UNIDO.

The Director General at MINICOM in charge of Industry and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, announced that UNEP had funded the consultancy to develop Rwanda's strategic plan and strengthen the RRECPC. On his part, the RRECPC Coordinator announced that firms that had participated in the Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production process since its inception in 2010 had recorded potential savings of up to USD 700 000. The gathering concluded with a pledge from UNEP through its Regional Resource Efficiency Coordinator, to continue assisting the Rwanda government, business and industry in the implementation of resource-efficient cleaner production strategies as the country transitions towards a greener economy.

On the sidelines of the forum the UNEP expert also met with the Rwanda Environment Management Authority officials. During this meeting conversations were centered on Rwanda's completion of its Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) programme, and the implementation of two identified projects within the SCP programme namely in energy consumption and sustainable sanitation in rural areas.

UNDP-UNEP POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

PEI Africa Takes Stock of Achievements and Charts the Way for Effective Implementation of Next Phase

In Africa, the joint UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) has since 2005 supported nine country-led efforts to mainstream poverty and environment (P-E) linkages into national and sub-national development planning, from policymaking to budgeting, implementation and monitoring. At the end of the PEI Africa Scale-Up phase (December 2013) P-E related objectives and targets had been successfully included in 15 national policies and subnational development plans in all nine countries as well as in 22 sectoral policies and plans in eight countries. A further six countries reported an increase in public resource allocation to P-E mainstreaming activities.



participants of the PEI regional meeting

In 2014 PEI Africa is launching the next phase support for poverty-environment mainstreaming with an enhanced focus on poverty, gender and the influencing of budgets and sectors. To kick-start this phase PEI Africa organized a regional meeting in Nairobi from 19-21 February 2014. The main objective of the meeting was to share experi-

ences and lessons learned from the previous phase and establish a common understanding of how to support and deliver P-E mainstreaming in the Africa region for the period 2014 to 2017.

The meeting provided a platform for Ms. Matilde Mordt, Officer in Charge, UNDP Environment and Energy Group, to recognize the milestones achieved so far, saying that *PEI is a model; not only for the two organizations that are partnering in the initiative, but also for other partners, including countries outside PEI and donors. PEI is leading the way in how to address the challenges, and in developing tools and methodologies that can be replicated beyond the programme itself.*

Mr. Desta Mebratu, Deputy Regional Director, UNEP-Regional Office Africa, put the experiences and lessons learned from PEI Africa in connecting poverty and environment issues are providing important into perspective, in the context of the post 2015 development agenda. He further recommended that the next phase of PEI strengthens synergies between PEI and other initiatives such as the Green Economy as well as broadening the partnership between UNEP and UNDP.

With participants representing government and UNDP offices from Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania as well as global and regional UNDP and UNEP officials, the meeting provided an excellent opportunity to reflect on how to best meet the implementation challenge in the next phase 2014-2017 based on the lessons learned from the scale-up phase. Some of the topics covered during the meeting were: Economic tools and approaches; Natural wealth valuation and national systems of accounts; Poverty, gender and equity; Tracking changes, using outputs and sustaining impacts; and strengthening programme synergies.

Each PEI country team presented a country action plan of how to better tackle the implementation challenge in their country context, building on the discussions and recommendations of the meeting as well as lessons learned from the past.

<http://www.unpei.org/events/pei-africa-holds-regional-meeting-to-discuss-the-implementation-challenge>



Session in progress at PEI regional meeting

UNEP-China-Africa Cooperation: New Water-Saving Technique to Double Yield in Kenya Dry-land

During an evaluation meeting of the UNEP-China-Africa Cooperation in Nairobi it was noted that an experimental project aimed at conserving water for agriculture in dry lands in Kenya has resulted in doubled crop outputs. The scheme which is part of the Kenya-UNEP-China dry land water-saving Agriculture project, aims at introducing rainwater-harvesting methods in arid and semi-arid areas, a practice that has successfully been employed in China. Commenting on the experimental project, Dr. Nguluu of the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) said the new technique which consists of placing plastic sheets in the farms to retain rainwater, had resulted in double yields of maize despite little rainfall. He noted that the micro-field rainwater harvesting technique is effective at retaining moisture and that farmers are eager to adopt the new technique on their farms due to the noticeable success of the trials. Professor Yuocai Xiong of Lanzhou University in China who is co-leading the pilot project with KARI acknowledged the success of the Kenya pilot project, noting that the maize cobs produced through the technique were significantly bigger than those that were grown without.

The Kenya pilot project has been operational since 2011. It involves five Kenyan universities and has trained about twenty Kenyan postgraduate students in the technique according to Prof Xiong. During the evaluation meeting, the UNEP Regional Ecosystem Management Coordinator who also doubles as Co-chair of the evaluation committee, Mohamed Abdel-Monem lauded the project as another good example of the potential of South-South Cooperation to deliver tangible benefits. He however underscored that despite the promising results, a comprehensive assessment of the socio-economic and environmental impact of this technique needs to be undertaken before its adoption in the broader African context. The Kenya project is part of the wider China-UNEP-Africa Cooperation Program on Water Resource Action which has been operational since 2008 and aims at building African capacities in water management.

The meeting concluded with a call by the Chairman of the Evaluation Committee, Prof Musimba of the South Eastern Kenya University for a review of the project report before it is formally presented to the Government of Kenya for consideration



The project evaluation meeting held at UNEP, Nairobi

London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade Takes Bold Steps to Stamp out Illicit Poaching

In light of the growing public outrage over the rampant killing of wildlife for commercial purposes, Heads of states and governments from 46 countries and representatives from international and regional organizations gathered in London in mid-February to seek ways of halting the decimation of wildlife species through illicit poaching.

World leaders gathered for the landmark conference sought to send a clear message that the international community is determined to halt the cruel destruction of a part of "humanity" as Prince Charles put it in his address at the conference. The London Declaration urges practical steps to end the illegal trade in rhino horn, tiger parts and elephant tusks that contributes to criminal activity worth more than US\$19 billion (14 billion euros) each year, and also looks at the issue of organized crime and national security.

Addressing the conference, UN Assistant-Secretary-General and UNEP Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw termed the destruction of species and their attendant 'ill-effects on habitats, communities and on peace and security. Faced with the urgency of this challenge, the international community must take action that is swift but that also take into account the diverse socio-economic, legal and market dynamics across range, transit and consumer states.

The UNEP Executive also cautioned that there is no "one size fits all" answer to the crisis, noting that solutions would have to be multi-pronged ranging from "strengthening law enforcement, building adequate human and financial capacity, raising public awareness, and fighting collusive corruption, to supporting national legislation and the overriding need to curb demand for wildlife products that are illegally sourced or unsustainably harvested". These short-term measures however would have to be complemented by more farsighted solutions that incorporate natural resource management and sustainable economic development, especially in the most affected areas such as Africa, Mr Thiaw said.

The illegal wildlife trade which is worth USD20 billion annually, resulted in 22,000 African elephants killed for their ivory in 2012 and 1,004 rhinoceros in 2013, according to WWF. Faced with this massive slaughter of wildlife on the continent, African leaders used the London platform to renew calls for more stringent international measures to combat poaching. For Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba, the time of inaction in the face of the massacre of "Bantou totems" is over. The Gabonese President called for the "vicious cycle" to be broken in his address to the conference. Similar calls were made by Presidents Seretse Khama of Botswana, Idriss Deby Itno of Chad and Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania. They announced a separate action plan to protect elephants now estimated at less than 500,000 across Africa, from several million in the mid-1900s. Gabon specifically will utilize forensic DNA techniques from UK genetic and forensic expertise from the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and TRACE Wildlife Forensic Network scientists based in Edinburgh to track elephants.

"Sustainable solutions for a global crisis" UNEP Climate Change Expert Prescribes Ecosystem-Based Approach to Food Security

With global population figures projected to outpace food production by 2050, a high-level conference gathered experts and high-profile actors in the agro-industry in London on 13th February to deliberate on pathways towards producing adequate food for humankind's present and future generations. The high-level conference convened by *The Economist* as part of its yearly "Feeding the World" forums, sought to explore "how to accelerate progress in coordinating efforts to tackle the planet's food security crisis". As issues such as climate change and other forms of land degradation disrupt agricultural production around the world, food shortages already threatening parts of the world become more acute and put into question whether the current trajectory can enable humanity to feed itself in the coming decades.

Furthermore, as sustainability becomes a major building block of the post 2015 agenda, incorporating sustainability into production systems such as agriculture becomes of paramount importance. It is against this backdrop that the experts gathered in London to review current practices in both national and international food security policies, their linkages to aspects such as climate change, economic development, and the role of technology amongst others. Participating in the conference, the Africa Regional Climate Change Head and Coordinator Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Food Security noted that in Africa, tackling food security has led to policies that emphasize the production of and access to food. This strategy he said neglects production and post-consumption losses which usually entails inattention to ecosystem services on which food production critically depends.

For the UNEP expert, effective food security strategies start with policies that prioritize ecosystems and investments in ecosystem restoration because degraded ecosystems seriously jeopardize food production. He pointed to UNEP-supported work in Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia, Burkina Faso & Togo which had improved food production by focusing on improving ecosystem services to agriculture in these countries, adding that ensuring healthy ecosystems should be paramount in crafting food security policies because ecosystem services and biodiversity secure the foundation of food production systems.

Also present at the London meeting were other speakers such as World Food Program Executive Director Ertharin Cousin, United Nations Special Representative on Food Security and Nutrition David Nabarro, US State Department Acting Special Representative for Global Food Security Jonathan Shrier and African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture Tumusiime Rhoda Peace. This year's Feeding the World conference held under the theme "Sustainable solutions for a global crisis".



The Conference was called at the behest of Prince Charles (Centre)

photo @ Foreign & Commonwealth Office

3

March

Africa Environment Day/Wangari Maathai Day

Theme: "Combating Desertification in Africa: Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Food Security."
contact: angele.luh@unep.org, Mohamed.Abdel-Monem@unep.org



18-21

March

UNDG Meeting-West, Central, East and Southern

Performance evaluation of Regional Coordinator's RC's, defining priorities and operational procedures including support to country teams.
contact: Mounkaila.Goumandakoye@unep.org



17-21

March

11th COP of Abidjan Convention

Theme: Promoting Blue Growth in Africa, towards sustainable management of marine Resources.
contact: abou.bamba@unep.org

19-21

March

10th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform Meeting (CAADP PP)

The CAADP Partnership Platform is an annual continental forum that brings together CAADP stakeholders to dialogue on progress of implementation and build consensus on specific actions to be undertaken to advance Africa's agriculture development agenda. *contact:* [Addis Ababa office](#)



24-28

March

Joint Meeting of the Africa English-Speaking and French-Speaking Networks of Ozone Officers

contact: patrick.salifu@unep.org

27

March-

1 April

Seventh AU-ECA Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance-CAMEF

The meeting will be held back to back with a high level meeting of the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism in support of the African Union and its NEPAD agency with regard to Agenda 2063. *contact:* [Addis Ababa office](#)

1-3

April

EU-AU Summit; UNEP/AMCEN Bureau NEPAD meeting

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