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RÉSEAU DES JOURNALISTES
AFRICAINS SPÉCIALISÉS SUR
LE DÉVELOPPEMENT
DURABLE ET LE
CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE

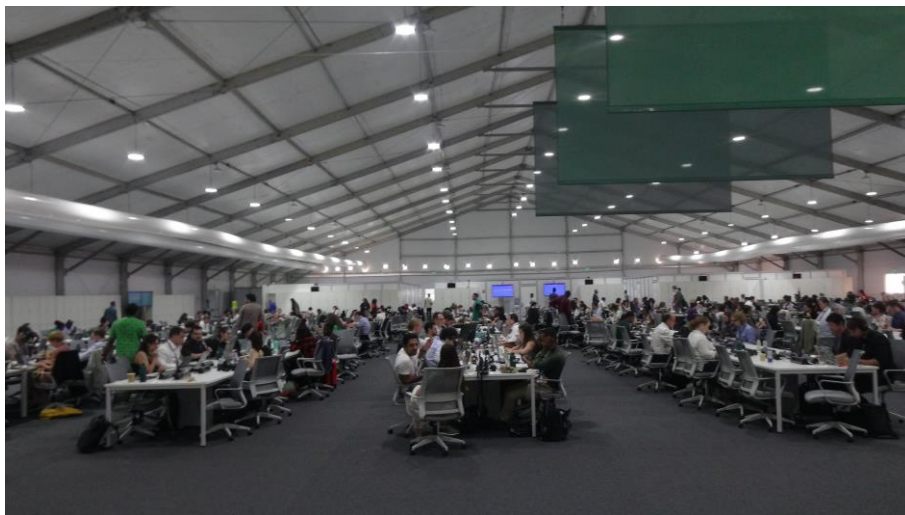
Février 2024



AFRICA 21



Revue de presse
Réseau des journalistes africains
Spécialisés sur le développement durable
et le changement climatique
Février 2024



Références : Accord de Paris, ACEA, ACEF, AfDB, Africa 50, Agenda 2063, AGIA-PD, African Energy Bank, African Export-Import Bank, AU, AUDA-NEPAD, Banque Mondiale, BAD, CCAC, CDB, CEDEAO, CEA-ONU, CIF, CoM2024, Comhafat, COP 15, COP 28, CUA, DAF, EU, FAO, FEM, G7, GAVI, GBF, Greenpeace Africa, GWMO 2024, IUCN, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Malabo Montpellier Panel, OECD, OMM, OMS, PNUE, Powershift Africa, Ramsar Convention, UN Decade on ecosystem restoration, UNEA 6, UNEP, UA, UNESCO, World Bank Group, ZELECAF.

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Radio Parakou

Ernest Agbota (Bénin) ; Problématique de la migration climatique en Afrique de l'Ouest ; Radio Parakou/ORTB, février 2024.

Pour écouter le reportage : <https://soundcloud.com/venance-tossoukpe/problematique-de-la-migration-climatique-en-afrique-de-louest>

Tag : Banque Mondiale.

L'Afrique de l'Ouest est une région particulièrement vulnérable aux effets du changement climatique. La sécheresse, les inondations, l'élévation du niveau de la mer et la dégradation des terres agricoles menacent les moyens de subsistance de millions de personnes et les contraignent à migrer. Migration climatique en Afrique de l'Ouest, quels défis et quelles solutions?

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Sarah Natoolo (Uganda) ; African Development Bank curcular ; Uganda Broadcasting Corporation, 1st Feb 2024.

To listen the report :

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mOlxLdYknzoZv2rZgcayhoU26yUbfFaF/view>

Afrik 21

Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Liberia : une campagne d'évaluation des stocks halieutiques, pour une pêche durable ; Afrik 21, 1 février 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/liberia-une-campagne-devaluation-des-stocks-halieutiques-pour-une-peche-durable/>

Tag : Comhafat



Une campagne de prospection scientifique, a été lancée le 26 janvier 2024 au port de pêche de Monrovia, la capitale du Liberia. L'initiative coordonnée par la Conférence ministérielle sur la coopération halieutique entre les États africains riverains de l'Océan Atlantique (Comhafat), consiste à évaluer les stocks halieutiques de la Zone économique exclusive (ZEE) du Liberia, dans l'optique d'une pêche durable.

Le port de pêche de Monrovia a abrité le 26 janvier 2024, la cérémonie de lancement de la campagne d'évaluation des stocks halieutiques, dans la Zone économique exclusive du Liberia. La mission se déroulera jusqu'au 9 février 2024, à bord du bateau de recherche scientifique marocain Hassan Al Marrakchi, long de 48 mètres et pesant 1238 tonnes. Le navire est doté de laboratoires multifonctions, en acoustique, océanographie, hydrographie et en biologie marine permettant de réaliser une campagne écosystémique, intégrant l'ensemble des composantes de l'écosystème marin.

L'équipe d'expédition est constituée de 31 personnes dont 11 scientifiques et 20 membres de l'équipage. Elle a pour mission d'évaluer l'abondance des stocks de petits pélagiques et benthiques ainsi que l'étude océanographique et environnementale de la Zone économique exclusive (ZEE) libérienne, en vue d'une gestion durable des ressources halieutiques par le Liberia.

Un projet coordonné par la Comhafat

Le projet soutenu par le Royaume du Maroc est coordonné par la Conférence ministérielle sur la coopération halieutique entre les États africains riverains de l'Océan Atlantique (Comhafat). Cette mission « vise une coopération effective et active entre les États membres pour une préservation des ressources halieutiques et un développement durable des pêcheries dans nos régions. Dans ces conditions, nos politiques ne peuvent se bâtir que par une recherche halieutique efficace et dynamique. », explique Sidi Touré, le ministre ivoirien des Ressources animales et halieutiques et président en exercice de la Comhafat.

L'organisation regroupe 22 pays allant du Maroc jusqu'à la Namibie. Créée en 1989, elle a pour objectifs de promouvoir la coopération en matière d'aménagement et de développement des pêches, développer, coordonner et harmoniser les efforts et les capacités des États membres en vue de préserver, exploiter, mettre en valeur et commercialiser les ressources halieutiques.

VertTogo

Hector Nammangue (Togo) ; Au Togo, 3000 motos électriques en circulation ; Vert Togo, 1^{er} février 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://vert-togo.tg/au-togo-3000-motos-electriques/>

Tag : PNUE, FEM.



7

La directrice de l'environnement au ministère togolais de l'Environnement et des Ressources forestières, Mme Méry Yaou, a récemment affirmé que le Togo compte actuellement 3000 motos électriques en circulation.

Cette déclaration s'inscrit dans le cadre d'un programme de mobilité verte mis en place par le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement (PNUE), visant à promouvoir les véhicules électriques et à réduire l'impact environnemental des transports au Togo.

En effet, le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE) et le Fonds pour l'environnement mondial (FEM) aident les gouvernements de 41 pays dont le Togo à accélérer l'adoption de la mobilité électronique dans le cadre du Programme mondial de mobilité électronique.

Dans cette optique, Mme Méry Yaou, directrice de l'environnement au ministère togolais de l'Environnement et des Ressources forestières, a annoncé que 3000 motos électriques sont actuellement en circulation dans le pays.

« Il y a déjà près de 3 000 motos électriques en circulation au Togo, donc à partir du Togo, je pense que le marché va s'étendre à toute la région », explique Yaou.

Les recherches montrent que le passage aux véhicules électriques à deux et trois roues pourrait potentiellement réduire entre 500 et 600 tonnes d'émissions de dioxyde de carbone chaque année.

Cette mesure contribue à réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre et améliore la qualité de l'air, en comparaison avec les motos traditionnelles à moteur à combustion.

La mise en place de ce parc de motos électriques s'inscrit dans le cadre d'un programme plus vaste mis en œuvre par le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement (PNUE), visant à promouvoir la mobilité verte au Togo.

Ce programme comprend des mesures incitatives, telles que des subventions pour l'achat de véhicules électriques, des infrastructures de charge, et des campagnes de sensibilisation auprès des populations. L'objectif est de faire du Togo un leader en matière de mobilité verte en Afrique de l'Ouest, en encourageant la transition vers des technologies moins polluantes et plus durables.

Réduction des émissions

Le monde doit réduire ses émissions de gaz à effet de serre de plus de 40 % d'ici 2030 pour maintenir le réchauffement en dessous de 1,5°C et éviter les pires impacts du changement climatique. Les combustibles fossiles, notamment le pétrole, le charbon et le gaz, sont

responsables de près de 90 pour cent des émissions de dioxyde de carbone. Les experts estiment qu'il est urgent de se tourner vers des sources d'énergie alternatives.

La directrice de la Division de l'industrie et de l'économie du PNUE, Sheila Aggarwal-Khan, affirme qu'il est essentiel que les pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire participent à une transition mondiale vers une mobilité électrique à zéro émission – pour atteindre les objectifs de l'Accord de Paris sur le climat et réduire la pollution atmosphérique.

« Les véhicules à deux et trois roues jouant un rôle important dans les économies locales, l'Afrique a le potentiel de dépasser la voie de la mobilité conventionnelle en passant directement aux véhicules électriques », déclare Aggarwal-Khan. « Le Togo montre comment une combinaison d'initiatives du secteur privé et de soutien gouvernemental peut accélérer l'introduction d'une mobilité électrique qui répond aux besoins du marché local, de bas en haut. »

Le transport alimenté par batterie est plus propre que le transport à base de combustibles fossiles, mais il a son propre coût. Les batteries au lithium-ion dépendent de l'extraction de minéraux, en particulier du lithium et du cobalt, tandis qu'une mise au rebut inappropriée des batteries peut nuire à l'environnement.

Parallèlement aux travaux visant à accélérer l'adoption des véhicules électriques au Togo et dans le monde, le PNUE intensifie ses efforts pour développer une économie circulaire pour les batteries des véhicules électriques. En promouvant la conception innovante de batteries et en augmentant le recyclage dans l'industrie des batteries, les pays peuvent réduire le besoin de matières premières vierges.



Sharon Ambani (Kenya) ; Unprecedented Butterfly migration paints January skies in Kenya ; Story Spotlight, 2 February, 2024.

To access the article : <https://storyspotlight.co.ke/unprecedented-butterfly-migration-paints-january-skies-in-kenya>



The brown-veined white butterfly sucking nectar from a flower

If you have been observant for the past few weeks, you might have noticed beautiful living canvases of vibrant colours created by the delicate motion of swarms of butterflies from one landscape to another. Unlike prior dormant, sunny, dry Januarys that we are used to, the unusual surge of these flamboyant insects delivers a visual treat and a sign of a flourishing environment.

Historically, in Kenya, the onset of the butterfly season usually occurs just after the long and short rainy seasons. However, this year is different. Their early occurrence in January in various parts of the country, especially in Nairobi, has left not only butterfly enthusiasts and scientists but also residents in awe.

Kenyans have gone on social media to express their wonder at the unprecedented natural phenomenon, with some going a little further to share some scientific knowledge they got from perusing the internet.

Dominic Rotich, for instance, posted on Facebook about seeing white butterflies in the sky.

"BUTTERFLY MIGRATION. Have you seen them in your compound or anywhere you are??" was captioned in a post Rotich made on Friday, 1st February 2024.

Many share his interest, including the Butso community elders from Kakamega County of Western Kenya.

According to Isaac Litali, they are used to seeing butterflies starting from April to June as they culturally signify the abundance of food.

"We normally see butterflies in abundance when we start harvesting beans. This signifies hope and celebration of farmers' efforts to produce food during planting when rain is abundant," says Litali.

"However, we are surprised to see butterflies in January. January is usually hot and dry. I believe this unique occurrence might have been brought by the rain experienced in the region for the last two months," he added.

While culturally, the onset of butterflies brings joy, Litali warns that having too many butterflies may signify the coming of misfortune in the community. He hopes that this will not escalate to any tragedy.

In addition to grasping the cultural perspectives, I also sought a scientific explanation to shed light on the unexpected surge in butterfly activity during this time of the year.

True to Litali's words, Entomologists attribute the abundance of butterflies to a combination of favourable conditions created by the just-experienced rainy season.

Kenya has recorded extraordinarily high rainfall across various parts of the country for the last three months. The Kenya Meteorological Department had predicted above-average rainfall with the possibility of the El Nino phenomenon.

Dr. Subramanian Sevgan, a Principal Scientist at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe), connects butterflies' early occurrence to these unusual weather patterns.

"Temperature and weather patterns play a critical role in the occurrence of biological processes, in this case, the seasonal survival of butterflies. Butterflies emerge during the warm season as they depend on external factors like the sun for warmth because they are cold-blooded. The rain also plays a role in their emergence. Rain supports the abundant growth of specific vegetation (nectar plants), which butterflies feed on. The rains also promote the growth of host plants for butterfly larvae, hence providing breeding sites for the butterflies and moths," says Dr. Sevgan.

He says the surprising emergence and migration of butterflies in January in Kenya may be because of the El Nino phenomenon observed this year.

"We have experienced rain in January as a result of stronger El Nino due to climate change. The conducive environment provided by the richness of biodiversity supported by the rainy season and the complex interaction of various ecological factors explains why we are witnessing the increase of butterflies at this time of the year," he states.

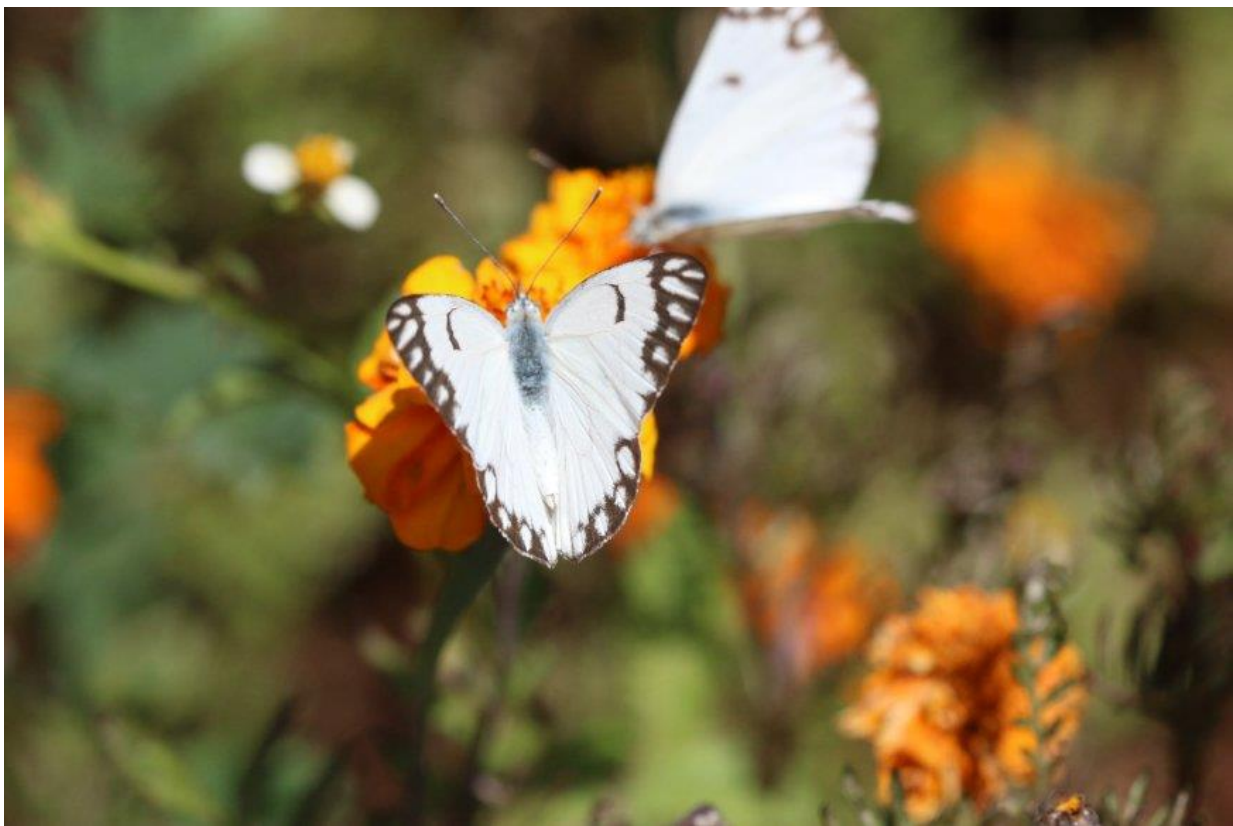
Dr Sevgan has also noted that an outstanding butterfly species, the brown-veined white butterfly (*Belenois aurota*), has been identified in various parts of the region, including Narok, Kitui, Kakamega, Nairobi, and Eldoret. The larvae of these butterflies breed on plants belonging to the caper family in the order Brassicales, related to mustards.



"It is a species widely known for its admirable seasonal migratory behavior, like the wildebeest migration in Masai Mara, and studied in South Africa. In Kenya, their migration has been

observed earlier in Mara and Eldoret, but rarely have I observed them in large numbers in Nairobi like I have seen them this time," he says.

An article done in 2022 by Jeniffer Fitchett, a Professor of Physical Geography at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, indicates that the phenological butterfly migration, commonly known as The Great Little White Butterfly Migration, consists of about 80,000 to 155,000 butterflies per hour that migrate through hundreds of kilometers from South Africa's Kalahari region to Mozambique in response to the search of food and moisture. However, not all butterflies survive the migration.



The article, however, states that the occurrence pattern of seasonal migration is interfered with by climate change as recent migrations suggest earlier onset than anticipated.

"Across the world, phenological events are occurring increasingly earlier because of climate change. The temperatures that used to signal the onset of spring for plants and animals are now occurring earlier in most parts of the world. Simultaneously, the timing and amount of precipitation are changing, too.

The Great Little White Butterfly Migration usually takes place between December and mid-January. Their November arrival this year (2022) is earlier than any of the dates in our record.

The reason for the advance in timing relates to complex relationships with climate," states the article.

While numerous studies document the migration of this butterfly species in the southern part of the continent, more needs to be documented on their migratory behaviour and what triggers them in East Africa.

"The presence of this species in large numbers and their migration in Kenya during January is surprising to us as scientists. This triggers the need for further exploration to see if this will be a trend in the coming years," stated Dr Sevgan.

Moreover, he notes that further studies will help determine the impacts these unprecedented rains have on the emergence of butterflies and moths during this time of the year and their likely impacts on the ecological setup.

VertTogo

Hector Nammangue (Togo) ; Les zones humides au Togo : une source de richesses et d'opportunités ; Vert Togo, 2 février 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://vert-togo.tg/les-zones-humides-au-togo-une-source-de-richesses-et-dopportunites/>



15

La journée mondiale des zones humides, célébrée ce vendredi 2 février 2024, met en lumière l'importance des écosystèmes humides pour la création de richesses, d'emplois et d'opportunités commerciales au Togo. Ce pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest regorge de ressources naturelles dans ses zones humides, offrant ainsi un potentiel prometteur pour le développement durable.

Intervenant lors d'un atelier de rapport provisoire du plan de promotion de l'économie bleue a été validé, le directeur des Affaires administratives et financières (DAF) du ministère de l'environnement, Comlan Awougnon, a déclaré que les zones humides sont riches en ressources naturelles et offrent un potentiel de création de richesses, d'emplois et d'insertion dans le commerce.

« Les zones humides au Togo sont un véritable trésor de ressources naturelles, offrant de multiples opportunités économiques. Avec une grande diversité de cours d'eau, de lacs, de marécages et de mangroves, ces écosystèmes constituent des habitats essentiels pour une biodiversité riche et variée. Les ressources halieutiques des zones humides fournissent une

importante source de nourriture pour les communautés locales, tout en offrant des possibilités de pêche commerciale. De plus, les terres fertiles des zones humides sont propices à l'agriculture, notamment à la production de riz, de légumes et de fruits, ce qui contribue à la sécurité alimentaire du pays. », a-t-il affirmé.

Ces zones sont indispensables aux êtres humains et à la nature, compte tenu de la valeur intrinsèque de ces écosystèmes et des avantages et services qu'ils apportent, notamment de leurs contributions au développement durable et au bien-être des populations sur les plans environnemental, climatique, écologique, social, économique, scientifique, éducatif, culturel, récréatif et esthétique.

Bien qu'elles ne couvrent qu'environ 6 % de la surface terrestre, 40 % de toutes les espèces végétales et animales vivent ou se reproduisent dans les zones humides. La biodiversité des zones humides est importante pour notre santé, notre alimentation, le tourisme et l'emploi. Les zones humides sont vitales pour l'homme, pour les autres écosystèmes et pour notre climat, car elles fournissent des services écosystémiques essentiels tels que la régulation de l'eau, notamment la lutte contre les inondations et la purification de l'eau. Plus d'un milliard de personnes dans le monde dépendent des zones humides pour leur subsistance – soit environ une personne sur huit sur Terre.

Cependant, ces zones humides sont confrontées à des fortes pressions. « Les zones humides sont soumises à de très fortes pressions qui conduisent à leur dégradation, au déséquilibre écologique et à la perte de leur biodiversité. », a indiqué le directeur exécutif de l'ONG Agbo-Zégué, Gaglo Kokou Toviho John.

Les zones humides du Togo jouent un rôle vital dans la création de richesses, d'emplois et d'opportunités commerciales. Il est essentiel de sensibiliser à l'importance de ces écosystèmes et de mettre en place des mesures de préservation et de développement durable afin de maximiser leur potentiel bénéfique pour le pays. La journée mondiale des zones humides offre l'occasion de mettre en valeur cet héritage naturel exceptionnel et de promouvoir une gestion responsable de ces précieux écosystèmes.

Afrik 21

Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Sommet Italie-Afrique : Rome soutient l'initiative « Villes vertes pour l'Afrique » ; Afrik 21, 2 février 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/sommet-italie-afrique-rome-soutient-initiative-villes-vertes-pour-lafrique/>

Tag : FAO, G7.



17

Lors du sommet Italie-Afrique du 29 janvier 2024 à Rome, le gouvernement italien a annoncé un plan d'investissement de 5,5 milliards d'euros, pour soutenir le développement de l'Afrique. Ce soutien prendra en compte les énergies renouvelables, les projets d'efficacité énergétique, l'eau et l'assainissement. Ceci se fera suivant les dispositions du projet conjoint « Villes vertes pour l'Afrique ».

La Première ministre italienne Georgia Meloni lance un appel en faveur d'un nouveau partenariat italien avec l'Afrique. Le ton a été donné lors du Sommet Italie-Afrique qui s'est tenu le 29 janvier 2024 à Rome. La dirigeante italienne a annoncé diverses initiatives destinées à renforcer les liens économiques et à créer un pôle énergétique pour l'Europe, tout en freinant l'émigration africaine vers l'Europe. Ces initiatives comprennent un engagement initial de 5,5 milliards d'euros, garanties comprises.

À travers la Facilité de financement du processus de Rome, le gouvernement italien s'engage également à fournir 100 millions d'euros (dont 90 % de financements concessionnels) pour soutenir les infrastructures en Afrique, en particulier pour les énergies renouvelables, les projets d'efficacité énergétique, l'eau et l'assainissement, les initiatives agricoles, ainsi que la formation professionnelle et la création d'emplois.

Des infrastructures inscrites dans le projet « Villes vertes pour l'Afrique »

Dans son intervention, le Directeur général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) a remercié le gouvernement italien d'avoir convoqué ce sommet, qui vise à promouvoir un véritable partenariat avec l'Afrique et à faire en sorte que le continent reste au cœur des débats pendant la présidence italienne du G7, le groupe de discussion et de partenariat économique des plus grandes puissances du monde qui détiennent environ les 2/3 de la richesse nette mondiale puis 45 % en 2019, à savoir l'Allemagne, le Canada, les États-Unis, la France, l'Italie, le Japon et Royaume-Uni.

Le Directeur général de la FAO a également exprimé sa gratitude à l'Italie qui au travers des divers soutiens financiers annoncés, collabore au projet conjoint « Villes vertes pour l'Afrique », qui s'inscrit dans le cadre de l'initiative Villes vertes de la FAO.

Le Programme régional Villes vertes de la FAO pour l'Afrique vise à répondre à l'urbanisation croissante du continent et à la pression qui en découle sur les systèmes agroalimentaires. Il vise également à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire, la nutrition et la qualité de vie dans les zones urbaines et périurbaines.

Selon la FAO, d'ici à 2030, 70% de la population mondiale devrait vivre dans des villes. Et 90% de cette augmentation se produira en Afrique et en Asie, ce qui mettra à rude épreuve les systèmes agroalimentaires.

VertTogo

Hector Nammangue (Togo) ; Togo : Développer une économie verte pour alléger la pression sur la forêt et augmenter les revenus ; Ver Togo, 4 février 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://vert-togo.tg/togo-developper-une-economie-verte-pour-alleger-la-pression/>

Tag : UNESCO, UA, Agenda 2063.



Les éléphants ont une peur profonde des abeilles. Par conséquent, ils préfèrent rester à bonne distance lorsque des ruches sont placées tous les 20 m environ le long de tout couloir migratoire qu'ils empruntent. L'apiculture peut ainsi éviter aux cultures d'être piétinées par des troupes d'éléphants et aux villageois d'entrer en conflit avec les pachydermes.

Étant donné que les troupes d'éléphants traversent régulièrement le parc national de Fazao-Malfakassa au Togo, l'apiculture a été l'un des trois moyens de subsistance que l'UNESCO a développés avec les communautés rurales entre juin 2019 et août 2022 pour compléter leurs revenus tout en protégeant la biodiversité locale. Le projet a été conçu et mis en œuvre par l'UNESCO grâce à un financement de 970 396 dollars des États-Unis du Fonds de partenariat

pour le développement entre l'Inde et les Nations Unies obtenu par l'intermédiaire du Bureau des Nations Unies pour la coopération Sud-Sud.

Au Togo, les populations puisent dans leur environnement non seulement pour leur subsistance mais également pour leur sécurité alimentaire et hydrique. Cependant, de nombreuses espèces végétales et animales dont elles dépendent ont disparu en raison d'une croissance démographique rapide et de l'exploitation non durable des ressources.

Afin de soulager la pression humaine sur la forêt, le programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère de l'UNESCO a mis en œuvre ce projet de trois ans en collaboration avec le ministère togolais de l'Environnement et des ressources forestières, ainsi qu'avec des organisations non gouvernementales locales et des communautés rurales.

Mme Enang Moma du Bureau de l'UNESCO à Abuja au Nigéria explique comment, « dans la première phase, l'UNESCO a entrepris une série d'études et d'enquêtes pour déterminer l'état de la biodiversité et identifier les opportunités de marché. Celles-ci comprenaient un exercice de cartographie des parties prenantes, des consultations avec la communauté locale, une évaluation des besoins, une étude socio-économique, un inventaire de la biodiversité dans le parc national de Fazao-Malfakassa et, enfin, une étude de marché et des analyses de produits ».

L'étude socio-économique a révélé que les habitants étaient principalement des agriculteurs, des chasseurs et des cueilleurs de produits forestiers. Les agriculteurs cultivaient des cultures telles que le maïs, l'igname, le soja, le niébé et les graines de sésame. Certains récoltaient également du miel et du beurre de karité à partir des amandes d'un arbre (*Vitellera paradoxa*), mais ces produits leur rapportaient moins de 2 dollars par jour.

Mettre l'accent sur trois industries artisanales « vertes »

Le personnel de l'UNESCO a présenté les résultats des différentes études aux communautés locales, maires, chefs traditionnels, gestionnaires de parcs et au ministère de l'Environnement. Toutes les parties ont ensuite convenu de développer trois moyens de subsistance « verts » pour augmenter les revenus des communautés, à savoir l'apiculture, la valorisation des noix de karité et l'élevage de ruminants.

Pour développer ces trois moyens de subsistance, l'UNESCO a organisé plus de 620 ménages en 28 coopératives. Près de 45 % de ces ménages étaient dirigés par des femmes.

Des hommes, des femmes et des jeunes ont été formés à la gestion d'entreprise et aux processus connexes, à l'emballage et à la comptabilité, ainsi qu'à l'entretien et à la manutention des équipements. En parallèle, ils ont appris la gestion de l'environnement et la conservation de la biodiversité.

Les communautés participantes ont reçu des équipements modernes leur permettant de produire du miel et de la cire de qualité supérieure et en plus grande quantité. À mesure que la productivité augmentait, les revenus tirés de la vente de cire et de miel augmentaient également. Cela a permis aux familles d'acheter de la nourriture et des motos, de s'offrir de nouveaux vêtements et de financer la scolarisation de leurs enfants.

Les femmes locales ont appris à récolter des noix de karité sauvages (*Vitellaria paradoxa*), à les décortiquer et à faire bouillir les amandes avec de l'eau, puis à récupérer le beurre lorsqu'il durcirait. Selon la présidente de la coopérative du village de Fazao, Mme Afissa Ibrahim, « ce processus nous a permis de vendre nos amandes à un prix plus élevé que les années précédentes ».

Les femmes ont également appris que ce beurre végétal gras avait des propriétés médicinales et pouvait être utilisé comme onguent et hydratant pour la peau, offrant de nouvelles perspectives commerciales.

La récupération des amandes de karité a réduit l'abattage de ces arbres pour la production de charbon de bois dans la zone. Les femmes qui ramassent les amandes ont entrepris une campagne de sensibilisation au sein de la communauté sur la nécessité de protéger l'arbre à karité, maintenant qu'elles connaissent sa valeur.

Pour Mme Bèzéwapéyé Ali, « l'UNESCO nous a apporté un grand soulagement en nous apprenant comment créer de la richesse à partir de nos ressources forestières sans les détruire. Avant, nous gagnions très peu de nos produits agricoles car nous ne savions pas comment les transformer. Avec le projet de l'UNESCO, la plupart d'entre nous, les femmes et les jeunes, ont appris à gérer des moyens de subsistance durables et nous avons maintenant un meilleur revenu pour subvenir à nos besoins ».

En même temps, la promotion de l'élevage ovin et caprin a converti les braconniers en éleveurs de ruminants. L'élevage d'animaux domestiques a permis aux populations fauniques locales de

se rétablir. Ceci, à son tour, a facilité le repérage des animaux sauvages, offrant ainsi la perspective de développer une activité touristique reposant sur l'observation des animaux.

En parallèle, des fosses fumières ont été construites pour produire du compost. Cet engrais naturel a stimulé la productivité agricole et rendu les exploitations plus durables. Dans le même temps, l'augmentation du nombre de têtes de bétail a permis d'ajouter des protéines animales au régime alimentaire de la population et de générer davantage de revenus.

Une future réserve de biosphère ?

Ce projet s'inscrit à la fois dans les Objectifs de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et dans le cadre de l'Agenda 2063 de l'Union africaine, dans la mesure où il contribue à la gestion durable des ressources naturelles, à la conservation de la biodiversité et à la préservation de la paix.

Depuis que le projet est terminé, les communautés locales travaillent avec le gouvernement et les scientifiques togolais pour préparer leur candidature pour que le parc national de Fazao-Malfakassa soit désigné réserve de biosphère par l'UNESCO, afin d'ancrer la conservation de la biodiversité et l'économie verte dans le plan communautaire de développement à long terme.

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Joseph Checky Abuje (Kenya) ; Climate Investment Funds Endorses Kenya's \$70 million Plan for 100 percent Clean Energy ; Africa Science News, February 5, 2024.

To access the article : <https://africasciencenews.com/2024/02/05/climate-investment-funds-endorses-kenyas-70-million-plan-for-100-percent-clean-energy/>

Tag: CIF, AfDB, World Bank Group

The Trust Fund Committee of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) has endorsed a \$70 million plan, with an initial allocation of \$46.39 million, to advance the integration and utilization of renewable energy in the Kenyan grid, enabling the country's transition to 100 percent clean

energy by 2030. This approval, as part of CIF's Renewable Energy Integration (REI) investment program, will support Kenya's ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 32 percent by 2030 and achieve Net Zero by 2050.

The initiative will see Kenya's CIF REI plan support access to clean, adequate, affordable, and reliable electricity in the country. It is expected to mobilize at least an additional \$243 million from the public and private sectors through implementing partners—the African Development Bank and the World Bank Group.

Currently, the share of renewable energy in Kenya is almost 90 percent – including 45 percent geothermal and 26 percent hydropower, but the system faces challenges. During evening hours, it struggles to meet peak demand, but later, at night, generation surpluses from geothermal and wind are sometimes not dispatched.

Kenya's REI investment plan will improve dispatch, grid stability, and flexibility to address these issues. It will facilitate future private sector investment in innovative storage technologies, such as battery storage and pumped hydropower. The energy system will also be better prepared for a significant increase in electric mobility and cooking. The plan contributes to the expansion of variable renewable energy, such as wind and solar, from 19 percent to 30 percent by 2030.

CIF has established the pioneering REI program precisely to address the issues linked to the deployment of clean and intermittent power sources in developing economies. REI can support a mix of supply/demand side flexibility measures— enabling technologies, enabling infrastructure, market design and system operations improvement, and electrification and demand management; while advancing social inclusion and leveraging private sector financing.

Ten countries have been selected to take part in this program, with Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Fiji, and Mali's investment plans endorsed by the CIF Trust Fund Committee in 2023.

The Guardian

Victor Gbonegun (Nigeria) ; ‘Energy, waste, transport sectors are highest emitters of GHG’ ; The Guardian, 5 February 2024.

To access the article: <https://guardian.ng/property/energy-waste-transport-sectors-are-highest-emitters-of-ghg/>



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The Lagos State government has said that energy, waste, and transportation sectors are the highest emitters of Greenhouse Gases (GHG), which contribute to climate change, poses a severe threat to the well-being of residents and the economy of the state.

Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Climate Change and Circular Economy (OCCE), Titi Oshodi, who revealed this called for collaboration between the Office of Climate Change and Circular Economy (OCCE) and Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) to stem the rising threat of climate change in the state and harness the opportunities for institutionalizing circular economy as a way to create jobs and contribute to the state's Gross Domestic Products. She stated this during a visit to the management of LAMATA, warning that the State Climate Action Plan 2020 to 2025 showed that more than half of Lagos's 21 million population live in informal settlements, which makes them vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

“Lagos State Adaptation and Resilience Plan (LCARP) estimated the effects of climate inaction at \$22 to \$29 billion, 11 times the state's 2022 yearly budget. These numbers and statistics are worrisome. So that is why we are on this roadshow to engage all stakeholders in reining in this

menace of climate change. We want to work with key stakeholders to increase the level of advocacy and unlock the possibilities within the climate action programmes for the growth of the circular economy in Lagos.”

LAMATA Managing Director, Mrs Abimbola Akinajo, said the agency is conducting studies on alternative fuel usage in public transportation and assured that LAMATA’s regulatory functions also aim at promoting multi-fuel rolling stock to mitigate the impact of greenhouse gases on fuel in transport operations.

Akinajo explained that other fuel sources being explored in public transport operations include Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), waste-to-fuel, and biogas, as well as taking necessary measures to be able to quantify emissions.

VertTogo

Hector Nammangue (Togo) ; Valorisation des tiges de cotonnier : Une opportunité économique et environnementale ; Vert Togo, 6 février 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://vert-togo.tg/valorisation-des-tiges-de-cotonnier-une-opportunite-economique-et-environnementale/>



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Dans presque tous les pays producteurs de coton d'Afrique de l'Ouest, les tiges du cotonnier sont plutôt considérées comme des résidus bons à rien. Le plus souvent, ils sont brûlés après la récolte. Seule une petite partie est utilisée pour la fertilisation organique, l'alimentation du bétail et comme bois de chauffage pour les ménages ruraux.

Mais cette réalité pourrait bientôt changer en Afrique de l'Ouest. Une technologie utile destinée à créer de la valeur ajoutée et à transformer près de 1,6 million de tonnes de tiges de cotonnier produites après la récolte au Bénin, au Mali et au Togo existe.

La filière coton offre des perspectives importantes de génération de revenus et de réduction de la pauvreté pour environ 10 millions de producteurs ruraux au Mali , en Côte d'Ivoire , au Bénin et au Togo .

Plutôt que de laisser les tiges de cotonnier se dégrader, une technologie adaptée permet de les transformer en panneaux de particules, offrant ainsi une solution rentable sur le plan économique.

« C'est une opportunité pour nous de prouver qu'il y a une valeur ajoutée pour les tiges de cotonnier. Que nous puissions tirer beaucoup de ces résidus pour augmenter les revenus et créer des matériaux pour le secteur du bâtiment », explique le chercheur togolais, Gnofame NAMBOU

Des experts du Bénin, du Mali et du Togo, formés lors de l'installation de l'unité de Parakou, devraient dupliquer l'installation des unités de production similaires dans leurs pays respectifs. L'objectif à long terme est d'améliorer les moyens de subsistance des populations rurales, en augmentant leurs revenus, en créant des emplois et en stimulant une croissance économique durable de la filière coton.

La diffusion massive de cette technologie sera essentielle pour renforcer l'impact de cette innovation dans les communautés cotonnières d'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Les panneaux de particules sont un substitut fiable du contreplaqué et peuvent être utilisés comme carreaux de sol ou de faux plafonds, articles de meubles, panneaux muraux. Non seulement ils s'intègrent bien dans les bâtiments scolaires, les hôtels, les maisons commerciales et résidentielles, mais les experts affirment que leur transformation est également bénéfique pour l'environnement en ce sens qu'ils réduisent la pollution résultant de l'incinération des tiges et limitent la pression exercée sur la forêt pour la fabrication de meubles

Afrik 21

Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Ouganda : lancement de la feuille de route pour l'économie circulaire ; Afrik 21, 7 février 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/ouganda-lancement-de-la-feuille-de-route-pour-leconomie-circulaire/>

Tag : ACEA, ACEF, BAD.



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L'Ouganda fait un premier pas vers l'intégration du modèle d'économie circulaire dans sa stratégie nationale. Le pays d'Afrique de l'Est a procédé le 31 janvier 2023 à Kampala la capitale, au lancement de sa feuille de route pour l'économie circulaire. Le document vise à stimuler la croissance durable et l'industrialisation verte, conformément au programme national « Vision 2040 » de l'Ouganda.

Le processus de création d'une économie circulaire en Ouganda, est désormais doté d'une feuille de route. La cérémonie de lancement officiel de ce document s'est tenue le 31 janvier 2023 à Kampala, la capitale ougandaise. Les dispositions du document garantissent un développement socio-économique et une croissance inclusive, incluant la création d'emplois, tout en protégeant le capital naturel du pays et en luttant contre les effets du changement climatique.

Cette initiative, soutenue conjointement par l'Alliance africaine pour l'économie circulaire (ACEA) et par la Facilité africaine pour l'économie circulaire (ACEF) de la Banque africaine de

développement (BAD), mobilisera les décideurs gouvernementaux, les entreprises et les organisations de la société civile dans les efforts visant à exploiter pleinement le potentiel de la circularité pour accélérer les progrès vers la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable (ODD) et l'action climatique.

« Les feuilles de route de l'économie circulaire sont des outils politiques permettant d'orienter les investissements vers une utilisation efficace des atouts naturels de l'Afrique, générant des dividendes pour la nature et les populations », explique Anthony Nyong, le directeur du changement climatique et de la croissance verte à la BAD.

L'économie circulaire et ses emplois verts

L'économie circulaire est un modèle de production et de consommation qui consiste à partager, réutiliser, réparer, rénover et recycler les produits et les matériaux existants le plus longtemps possible afin qu'ils conservent leur valeur. Selon les autorités ougandaises, outre la stimulation des revenus des ménages, les sept millions de jeunes que compte le pays sont parmi ceux qui devraient profiter le plus de l'économie circulaire, à travers la création d'emplois verts. « L'Ouganda, qui en est au stade initial de son industrialisation, a le privilège de suivre la voie d'une transition durable qui nous permet d'éviter les conséquences d'une industrialisation inefficace sur le plan des ressources », a déclaré Joshua Mutambi, le commissaire au ministère ougandais du Commerce, de l'Industrie et des Coopératives.

Le processus de mise en œuvre d'économie verte, répond également aux objectifs de la Contribution déterminée au niveau national (CDN) de l'Ouganda. Dans le document mis à jour en septembre 2022 l'Ouganda s'engage à réduire ses émissions nettes de gaz à effet de serre de 24,7 % par rapport aux niveaux habituels d'ici à 2030, totalisant ainsi une réduction absolue des émissions de CO₂, de l'ordre de 36,75 millions de tonnes, dans des secteurs clés tels que l'énergie, l'agriculture, la foresterie et les autres utilisations des terres, les procédés industriels et l'utilisation des produits, les transports et les déchets.

TalkAFRICA

Henri Owino (Kenya) ; Climate Action: Interventions At Early Stages of Learning To Curb Future Climate Crisis ; Talk Africa, February 9, 2024.

To access the article : <https://www.talkafrica.co.ke/inculcating-climate-action-in-early-stages-of-learning-to-curb-future-climate-crisis/>

Tag: Paris Agreement.



A teacher explaining to young learners processes of planting seedling

Nairobi, Kenya: Young people are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis. The voices of young Africans are often unheard in public discussions and political arena where decisions on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation are deliberated.

The best way to reach out to these groups of young people to consider their thoughts is at the learning institutions especially primary and secondary schools for climate change discourse. In Nairobi, many schools mostly located at Kibera, the largest informal settlement in Africa, are practicing various methods of environmental conservation to reduce impacts of climate change.



Environmentalist teaching pupils ways and importance of environment conservation as climate change intensifies

Kenya's National Climate Change Policy (Sessional Paper 3 of 2016) emphasizes climate change mainstreaming in all sectors to build adaptive capacity and resilience. Incorporating climate change into education curricula is therefore a necessity. More so, developing a model for integration of climate education into national primary school curricula.

To this end, tree conservators and stakeholders have been encouraged to collaborate with the government to incorporate climate action to learning institutions. The Kenya Government also initiated planting of 15 billion trees by 2032, aimed at; reducing greenhouse emissions, stopping and reversing deforestation and, restoring 5.1 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes in the country.

Prioritizing Climate Change Education

During a Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice Symposium at Kenyatta University recently, Education Cabinet Secretary (CS) Ezekiel Machogu said the government is committed to complying with the 2021 Berlin Declaration to have environmental education a co-curriculum component by 2025.

As a result, Machogu said the Education Ministry had to update books and other educational materials that integrate climate change topics. Books are a good source of content for learners, but tutors make them practicable.

“Integrating climate change into the education system, it must focus on multiple disciplines, including agriculture, environmental science, economics and policy to foster holistic understanding. To achieve this, teacher training curricula must also integrate climate change,” Machogu emphasizes.



Pupils plant trees at school an initiative known as Miti Alliance School Programme

The Education CS urged teachers to come up with modalities that create environmental champions among school-going children to encourage them on the importance of growing and nurturing planted trees.

Young people are best placed in realizing this mission and vision, since it is important to cultivate the culture of environmental conservation and management at a young age. Nurturing the young generation with skills of combating climate change impacts, may open new ideas and approaches more likely to generate innovative solutions to problems.

Nevertheless, key education actors admit that since Kenya is a signatory to the Paris Agreement, educating more people about climate change instills a sense of global responsibility. They unanimously agree teachers are Kenya's sure bet to achieve the goals.

Their main concern, even with integration of climate change into education curricula, the Kenyan government must consistently pay teachers well, train and let them equip the next generation with knowledge and skills needed to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Teachers Essential for Attaining Climate Action

Teachers are key in achieving these goals because they actively participate in curriculum development, especially at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development. They can use extracurricular activities such as drama and music festivals, besides environmental clubs and science contests to build capacity and encourage innovative climate solutions.



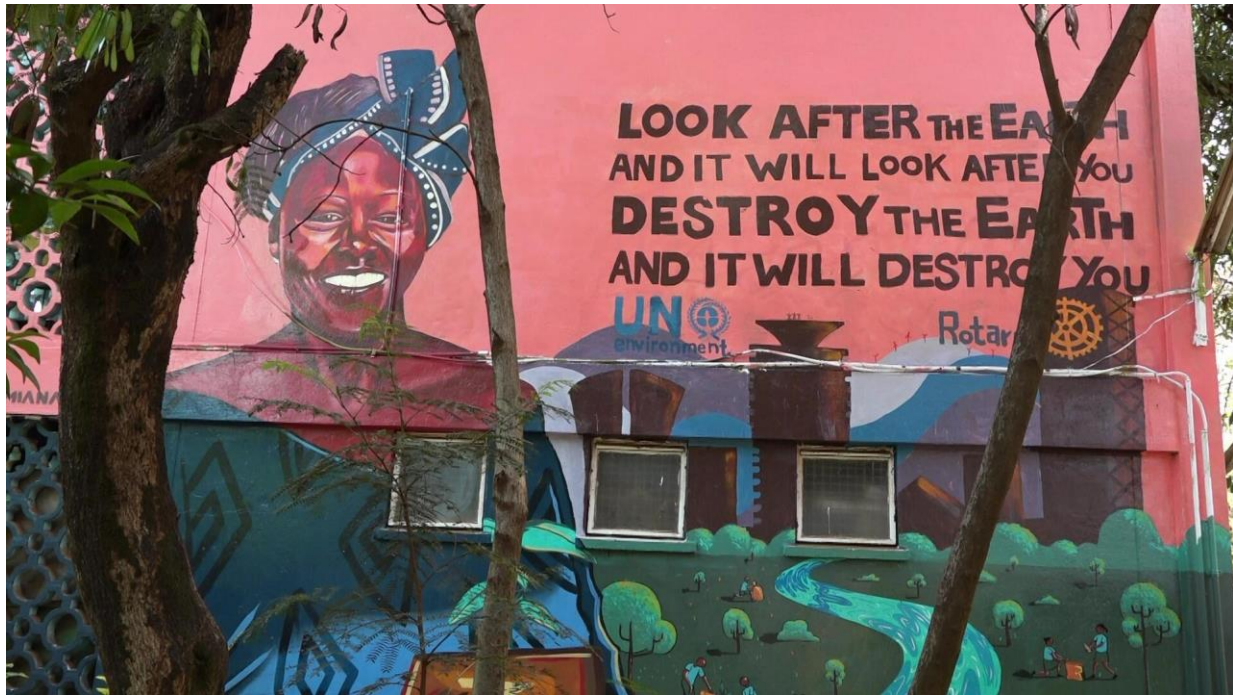
Teacher guiding pupils of Nairobi Primary School on planting trees on their compound

Most schools in the Nairobi region are already implementing this with teachers at the forefront training learners on the subject matter. For instance, schools in Kibera, apart from teaching, are marked with murals about climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The artwork on the walls resonates well with learners and residents on effects of climate change to their environment. Kibera slum is vulnerable to floods yet home to more than a half a million people. The environment is disgusting with filth of waste pollution and poor drainage systems hence most prone to flooding.

There are five public primary schools which are densely populated with children mostly from poor families. Many schools are privately owned and learners come from well off families who are equally affected by the worsening climate crisis.

Generally, life in Kibera is anything but easy, yet a stern determination for a better future is beckoning, especially amongst the younger generation. The determination is to change the current situation of environmental challenges precipitated by human induced climate change.



Wangare Mathaai artwork promoting green environmental conservation to public in Kibera

These school-going children represent the strength and glimmer of hope to Kibera residents. They are curious, energetic and daring to be technologically innovative to solve severe climatic conditions.

Action for Climate Empowerment

Mr. Daniel Ochieng, Principal at Magoso Primary School in Kibera says the area is among the vicinities always hit hard by climate change impacts in Nairobi. The consequences have

compelled the school administration to introduce climate mitigation strategies to learners as co-curricular activity to impede extreme weather intensities.

Mr. Ochieng explains school administration consulted parents, sponsors among the education stakeholders and informed them that pupils go through climate change mitigation lessons just to evade any rebellion. The message was welcomed and to date learners are aware of the risks associated with extreme weather patterns.

Pupils know their future lives depend on nature conservation hence the dedication and commitment to make that change now. The pupils understand the responsibilities of planting and nurturing trees to transform the country both environmentally and economically is in their hands.

“Learners have since realized their potential and opportunities in harnessing climate action with their academic work can save the ecosystem. Although the approaches put in place may not absolutely offer lasting solutions to climate change, it has helped minimize extreme weather impacts,” Principal discloses.



Teachers and pupils of Nairobi Primary School planting trees at the institution

Mr. Ochieng who is also the Patron for Environmental Club, describes the aim of acquainting learners with climate action initiatives has been to achieve three main objectives: Introduce practical teaching and learning tools for climate change education in primary schools; Cultivate students' interest in developing climate innovations through regular competitions and inter-school engagements such as climate clubs, debates to mention but a few.

The initiative began in April 2021 amid Covid-19 Pandemic and developed an informative, useful, and locally contextualized resource pack, which includes practical and playful activities like growing food in school. This resource pack purposefully includes relevant school trips to help pupils understand the reality of climate change impacts in parts of Kenya.

Furthermore, the activities are problem-solving related to local climate impacts. It helps in teaching with urgent responsiveness needed as climate disruptions worsen.

“We ensure that the content covers the drivers of climate change, so that pupils and teachers understand the root causes, impacts, challenges and possible mitigation or adaptive aspects both locally and global contexts,” the Principal explains.

Approaches in Combating Climate Change

The schools have been promoting eco-friendly practices through various initiatives such as in-school recycling of organic waste into fertilizer, declaring school compounds as plastic-free zones, growing trees one's age plus class population, water management, energy conservation by increased use of renewable energy, protecting nature through using energy saving stoves at school kitchens.

Others include; walk-to-and-fro school campaigns, encourage bike-cycling among students and teachers, creating awareness through music, debate, drama, artwork messaging on walls, termly community clean-ups, participating in public fora to educate community and pupils invented initiatives.



Schools using modern stoves solutions to saving nature from deforestation

Some schools in Kibera have their food scraps collected to be composted rather than taken directly to the landfill. The compost is used to enrich the soil of school gardens and parks. Food scrap composting has been an effective method of reducing the amount of food waste that ends up in landfills emitting methane- greenhouse gas.

According to Mr. Isaac Agalo, Director of Shammah Splendid Centre and School located in Kibera, his students founded Kibera Waste Recyclers. This was after observing the amount of waste paper schools around generate from notebooks and printed material which are burnt in landfills, releasing greenhouse gasses.

As a result, it has improved waste disposal from collection, sorting, transportation for treatment to recycling firms that transform it for other re-use. The money received from waste papers assists in paying electricity bills but currently the school is minimizing paperwork with the introduction of a computer laboratory.

“In order to implement the idea of waste collection fully, we collaborated with the local community waste pickers and neighboring schools to collect waste papers fortnightly in

designated collection bags from various schools for recycling. Benefits attracted residents who sensitized the community on proper waste disposal and encouraging recycling,” Mr. Agalo discloses.

In addition, our school nowadays consumes less firewood, less time and heats more food equivalent to one mature tree per week to 300 students daily, thus contributing to forest conservation,” Mr Agalo affirms.

“In an effort to reduce environmental pollution and deforestation, our students innovated conversion of waste papers and sawdust into briquettes. It is pollution free and briquettes energy lasts longer when cooking our meals,” revealed Patron teacher,” Soft-spoken School Director states.



Pupils from All Saints Cathedral Primary School daring to grow 10,000 trees on the compound

Making Learners Climate Action Agents

Lavendah Khasoa, Form 4 student confirms that their school provides learners with opportunities to be as creative and innovative as possible for competitive platforms such debates. It elevates their voices on matters of climate change and the school has been recognized for solutions-based ideas on environmental conservation.

“Our students are encouraged to make informed decisions and be responsible for their actions to ensure environmental integrity. Through contributing to environmental conservation, we have won awards, and every year we tour local National Game Parks and Reserves courtesy of AFEW Giraffe Centre to learn more on wildlife and ecosystem,” Khasoa attested.

Hamisi Juma, a Form 4 on the same breath boastfully repeated all recognitions they had received in relation to climate action. He said many other schools in the informal settlement are embracing their school solutions to severe weather patterns and skills action based.

“As students, it has in turn enriched our attitudes and values towards climate actions sustainability. Community around also appreciates the clean environment, increase of trees and other vegetation cover that absorbs excess water,” Juma pointed out.

Dr. Susan Gitau, Senior Psychologist and Lecturer at Africa Nazarene University (ANU), affirms that education is an equalizer among human-beings. She therefore asserts climate change education must start with the young who are majority found in primary schools.

“Education is a critical pillar of climate adaptation and mitigation, so it is up to us at higher level to help build the firmest foundation for climate change education at the higher and tertiary institutions in Kenya,” Dr. Gitau emphasizes.

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Mural messaging on effects of human induced climate-change

The Don explains pupils learning about nature, climate change, and sustainability theoretically without pragmatism, is unrealistic. It is like the saying; “children are our future” used so often that it almost sounds a cliché, but truer words are rarely spoken.

“Young people are the stewards of the environment in 10 or 20 years to come. The future of our planet will soon be in their hands. Teachers make important impacts in their lives and for our future too,” the Educationalist declares.

Most people applying their trade within Kibera informal settlement nowadays appreciate the clean status of the famous slum. This is because integrated experiential learning approach enabled involvement of learners and teachers to practically implement climate mitigation strategies.

Whereas a green learning agenda has been the starting point for the schools to help solve the different problems associated with the climate crisis, the entire slum is turning out tidy. Everybody else is currently benefiting from the efforts of teachers and learners; government institutions, religious organizations, markets, businesses among surrounding communities.

Afrik 21

Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Madagascar : parmi les pays considérés « à haut risque » face aux impacts d'El Niño ; Afrik 21, 9 février 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/madagascar-parmi-les-pays-consideres-a-haut-risque-face-aux-impacts-del-nino/>

Tag : OMM.



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L'île de Madagascar, située au large de la côte sud-est de l'Afrique, devrait enregistrer une sécheresse accrue au cours de l'année 2024. Selon les Nations unies, la Grande île figure parmi les 35 pays de planète considérés « à haut risque » face aux impacts du phénomène d'El Niño.

Les voyants d'alerte pluviométriques ont été déclenchés le mercredi 7 février 2024 dans le Grand Sud de Madagascar, une région déjà très vulnérable aux effets du changement climatique. Les observations satellites ainsi que les stations météorologiques y enregistrent un déficit hydrique important, marqué par des températures d'au moins 35 degrés Celsius et des vents secs qui font tourbillonner la terre rouge.

Les conséquences de cette très faible pluviométrie devraient être ressenties par la population dès le mois de mai 2024, où débutent les récoltes. Le pic d'insécurité alimentaire quant à lui est prévu pour octobre 2024, si les récoltes sont mauvaises. «Madagascar est déjà confrontée à la crise climatique. Et avec le retour d'El Niño, les conséquences pourraient être dramatiques»,

alerte Reena Ghelani, la coordinatrice des Nations unies sur la crise climatique et le phénomène El Niño, qui a conclu le vendredi 2 février 2024, une visite dans le Grand Sud de Madagascar.

El Niño est un phénomène climatique qui se caractérise par des températures anormalement élevées de l'eau dans la partie Est de l'océan Pacifique sud. Conjugué à la hausse globale de la température à la surface de la terre, ce phénomène aggrave de fait, les effets du changement climatique. L'Organisation météorologique mondiale (OMM) classe Madagascar parmi les 35 pays de la planète considérés « à haut risque » face aux impacts d'El Niño. Sept autres pays africains figurent dans ce top 35, à savoir, l'Afrique du Sud, le Botswana, l'Eswatini, le Lesotho, le Malawi, le Mozambique et le Zimbabwe, où l'impact d'El Niño s'est soldé l'année dernière par de mauvaises récoltes générales et l'assèchement des points d'eau communautaires utilisés par la population, le bétail et pour les besoins de l'agriculture.

Mobilisation de l'aide humanitaire internationale

Selon l'OMM, 2024 pourrait battre le record de chaleur établi l'an dernier sous les effets du réchauffement lié à El Niño. Dans la région du Grand Sud de Madagascar, où environ 45 % de la population de certains districts est confrontée à des niveaux d'insécurité alimentaire aiguë, les acteurs humanitaires craignent que la sécheresse n'amplifie les vulnérabilités existantes. Lors du dernier épisode El Niño en 2015-2016, la région a été frappée par une grave sécheresse. Le coût de la réponse humanitaire qui a duré trois ans a été estimé à 180 millions de dollars.

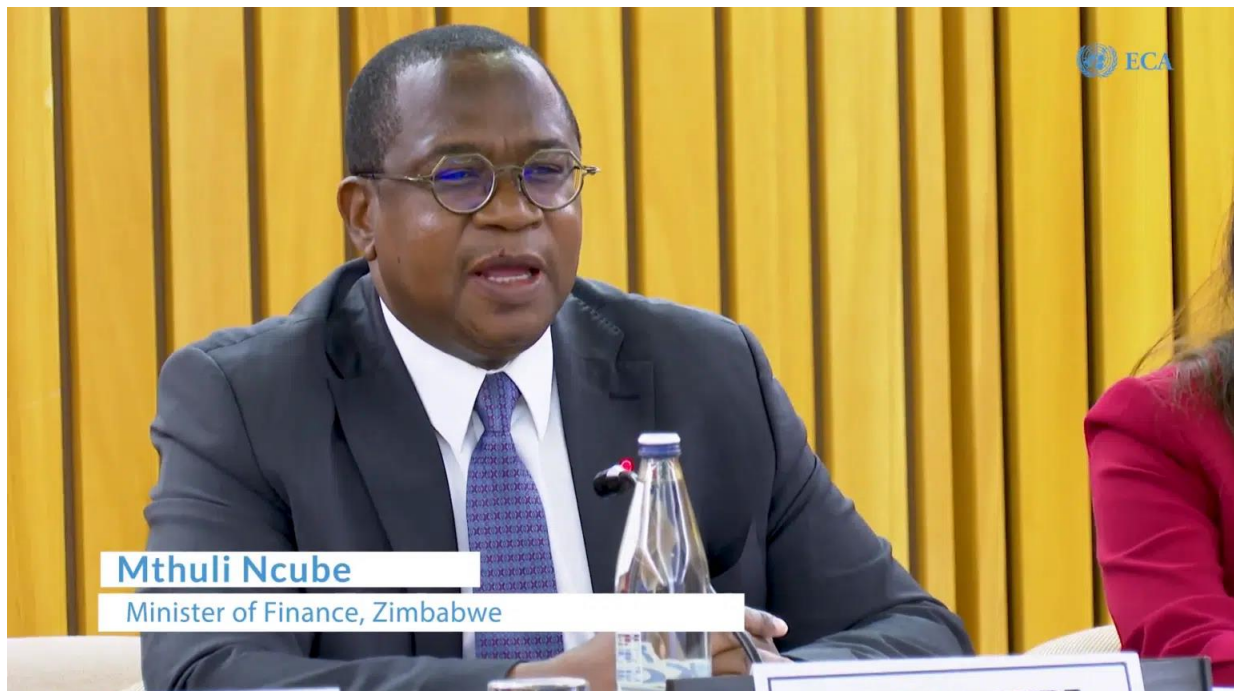
Dans le cadre du Plan national de réponse humanitaire (PNRH) 2023-2024, le gouvernement malgache et ses partenaires comptent venir en aide à environ 1,6 million de personnes affamées par la crise climatique. Un plan pour lequel la communauté internationale est appelée à mobiliser 162 millions de dollars.

**BLEEN MEDIA****Karina Zarazafy (Madagascar) ; Mobilisation des ressources nationales : le Zimbabwe prêt à partager ses expériences avec Madagascar ; Bleen Media, 13 février 2024.**

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.bleenmada.com/mobilisation-des-ressources-nationales-le-zimbabwe-pret-a-partager-ses-experiences-avec-madagascar/>

Tag : CEA-ONU, CoM2024, ZELECAF

La Commission Economique pour l'Afrique des Nations-Unies (CEA) a tenu une conférence de presse le 12 février dernier pour parler des tenants et aboutissants de la Conférence des ministres des finances, de la planification et du développement économique (CoM2024). Une conférence qui se tiendra au Zimbabwe du 28 février au 5 mars, sous le thème "Financer la transition vers des économies vertes inclusives en Afrique : impératifs, opportunités et options politiques".

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« Les pays ont besoin de conseils et nous sommes prêts à partager notre expérience avec Madagascar en ce qui concerne la mobilisation des fonds au niveau national. » Tels ont été les

propos de Mthuli Ncube, ministre des Finances du Zimbabwe, lors d'une conférence de presse le 12 février dernier.

Filière

« Pour la première fois en 50 ans, le Zimbabwe est autosuffisant en blé et a même accédé au statut d'exportateur » a souligné le ministre zimbabwéen des finances, Mthuli Ncube, lors de la conférence de presse préparatoire de la CoM2024 ou Conférence des ministres des finances, de la planification et du développement économique de la Commission Economique pour l'Afrique des Nations-Unies (CEA). Une conférence des ministres qui se tiendra du 28 février au 5 mars 2024 prochain au Zimbabwe sous le thème « Financer la transition vers des économies vertes inclusives en Afrique : impératifs, opportunités et options politiques ».

Aucun pays ne peut se développer sans le secteur privé

La filière blé a été prise comme exemple par le ministre en ce qui concerne la réussite zimbabwéenne en termes de mobilisation des ressources nationales, de même que le lithium. Sachant que, selon lui, il est primordial pour les pays du continent « d'obtenir un maximum de revenus des ressources naturelles » dont ils disposent. En effet, la CoM2024 envisage de traiter en profondeur les questions relatives aux réformes de l'architecture financière internationale, de la problématique de la dette, de l'économie verte et toutes les questions qui s'y rapportent, de la mobilisation des divers fonds climatiques mais également des ressources internes, de la mise en œuvre de la Zone de libre-échange continentale africaine (ZLECAf) etc.

Profiter des ressources nationales

Claver Gatete, Secrétaire général adjoint des Nations Unies et Secrétaire exécutif de la CEA a indiqué que l'objectif de cet événement est « de mieux comprendre les tenants et aboutissants des défis économiques » notamment en ce qui concerne les finances, les technologies et le climat. Il a notamment insisté sur la nécessité d'impliquer le secteur privé. « Aucun pays ne peut se développer sans le secteur privé... Pendant très longtemps, les gouvernements du continent Africain ont joué un rôle de premier plan en ce qui concerne les financements. Mais il faut que cela change et implique le secteur privé. Et c'est là que la CEA intervient » a-t-il noté. Ce que vient appuyer Mthuli Ncube.

« On a besoin de la prise de participation du secteur privé car si on arrive à les impliquer, leur contribution pourront dépasser de loin les financements publics » a-t-il expliqué avant de

rajouter la nécessité d'impliquer également « les communautés locales ». Selon ses dires, augmenter la mobilisation des ressources nationales consiste à « donner avantages aux uns et aux autres et non juste exporter nos ressources nationales sans en faire profiter toutes les parties prenantes ». Il s'agit d'après lui, de réfléchir à une manière pour que tout le monde puisse profiter de ces ressources nationales. Et les pays « ont besoin de conseils et d'un cadre réglementaire pour cela » a-t-il insisté.

Problématique de la dette

Les résolutions de cette conférence sont ainsi très attendues dans la mesure où elle devrait tracer les grandes lignes qui pourraient permettre aux pays Africains de sortir de la problématique de la dette et se concentrer sur les financements de leur développement. Chaque pays devrait, selon le Secrétaire exécutif de la CEA, Claver Gatete, être représenté par son ministre des finances appuyé par celui ou celle en charge du département environnement. Les agendas de la ministre malgache de l'Economie et des Finances, Rindra Hasimbelo Rabarinirinarison, ainsi que de Max Fontaine, ministre de l'Environnement et du Développement durable, quant à ce grand événement, sont également attendus.



Wallace Mawire (Zimbabwe) ; Zimbabwe To Host COP-15 in 2025 ; Pan African Visions, February 13, 2024.

To access to the article : <https://panafricanvisions.com/2024/02/zimbabwe-to-host-cop-15-in-2025/>

Tag: Ramsar Convention, COP 15, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.



Zimbabwe is set to host the Conference of Parties (COP-15) in 2025 and the relevant government bodies responsible are already in the process of making the necessary preparations in consultation with various stakeholders to host the prestigious conference, Mangaliso Ndhlovu, Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife told Journalists at a recent press conference in Harare.

Minister Ndhlovu made the remarks on 30 January, 2024 in his World Wetlands Day press statement as the country joined the rest of the world in commemorating the World Wetlands Day.

The World Wetlands Day is commemorated to mark the signing of the Treaty on the Conservation of Wetlands, which occurred on the second of February, 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.

The treaty became popularly known as the Ramsar Convention and its aim is to raise public awareness on conservation, proper utilization and management of wetlands and their resources.

According to Minister Ndhlovu, the Ramsar Convention, which is the only international treaty focused on the sustainable management of wetlands, provides a platform of 172 contracting parties working together for wetlands conservation and wise use and to develop the best available data, advice and policy recommendations to realize the benefits of fully functional wetlands for nature and society.

He added that Zimbabwe ratified the convention on 11 February, 2012 and has since designated seven wetlands as wetlands of international importance, known as Ramsar sites.

The sites include the Victoria Falls, Driefontein Grasslands, Middle Zambezi/Mana pools, Ike Chivero, Monavale Vlei, Chinhoyi Caves and Cleveland Dam.

Ndhlovu said that the country is hoping to designate more wetlands as Ramsar sites.

Minister Ndhlovu said that Zimbabwe is preparing to host COP-15 in 2025 hence the World Wetlands Day 2024 remains the window to showcase best case scenarios in wetland management.

"As such this year's commemoration will serve as the timely platform to tell the world that Zimbabwe is on the right track towards the sustainable management of wetlands, all in readiness for the grand hosting of COP-15," Ndhlovu said.

He also said that government was expecting to host the Ramsar Secretariat on 4 March, 2024 to sign the COP-15 hosting agreement.

The United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) was endorsed in Montreal, Canada on 19 December 2022 with a landmark agreement to guide global action on nature through to 2030. Representatives from 188 governments gathered in Montreal the important summit.

Chaired by China and hosted by Canada, COP 15 resulted in the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) on the last day of negotiations.

The framework aims to address biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems and protect indigenous rights.

The plan also includes concrete measures to halt and reverse nature loss, including putting 30% of the planet and 30% of degraded ecosystems under protection by 2030.

It also contains proposals to increase finance to developing countries, a major sticking point during talks.

In Zimbabwe, wetlands cover approximately 136 595.8 square kilometers, which is 34.96% of the total area of the country, according to the Environmental Management Agency (EMA).

EMA says that of the available wetlands in the country, 21% are severely degraded, 18% are stable and pristine and 61% moderately degraded.

The agency adds that as such, conservation and wise use of wetlands therefore becomes vital for human wellbeing.

According to EMA, the government through the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) developed the National Wetlands Policy, Masterplan and Guidelines to inform decision making and development planning by the Government, private sector, development partners, traditional leaders, communities and individuals. The Ministry also gazetted certain wetlands as “Ecologically sensitive ecosystems” further buttressing the policy framework on the wise use of wetlands.

EMA says that it has supported 92 wetland restoration projects since its inception, to date, enhancing community livelihoods and resilience.

The theme for 2024 is “Wetlands and Human Wellbeing”. EMA says that the theme clearly spotlights how interconnected wetlands and human life are with people drawing sustenance, inspiration and resilience from these productive ecosystems.



Joseph Checky Abuje (Nigeria) ; \$12 trillion needed to triple global renewables by 2030 ; Africa Science News, February 14, 2024.

To access the article : <https://africasciencenews.com/2024/02/14/12-trillion-needed-to-triple-global-renewables-by-2030/>

Tag: COP 28, OECD.

Investment in Africa needs to grow five-fold to ramp up renewables twice as fast as global average.

According to the new report by Climate Analytics, \$8 trillion of investment is needed for new renewables and \$4 trillion for grid and storage infrastructure to deliver the 2030 tripling goal agreed at COP28 – or combined, \$2 trillion a year on average. Using climate finance to mobilize \$100 billion a year for the rollout in Sub-Saharan Africa, five times current investment levels which will ensure energy access for all and align the region with the global target.

“\$2 trillion a year sounds like a cost, but it’s really a choice. We’re set to invest over \$6 trillion in fossil fuels over this decade – more than enough to close the tripling investment gap. Faced with this choice, I’d go with the safest, best value option – renewables,” says the report’s lead author and Climate Analytics expert Dr Neil Grant.

The report however calculates how fast different regions need to act to triple global renewables based on current capacities and future needs. Renewable capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa needs to scale rapidly by a factor of seven (double the global average) due to historic underinvestment and energy access needs. The OECD is forecast to double its renewables by 2030, but it needs to triple.

Accelerating action in line with this would close 60% of the global gap between forecast capacity in 2030 and the tripling goal.

“The OECD needs to triple renewables but is currently way off target. Countries in the region claiming to be climate leaders need to walk the talk, not just by ramping up renewables at

home, but by coming through for other regions which need finance to contribute to the tripling goal,” says Claire Fyson, co-author on the report and Head of Policy at Climate Analytics.

Asia needs to scale slightly faster than the OECD, almost quadrupling its renewable capacity by the end of the decade. Asia is the only region broadly on course for the tripling goal, driven mostly by policies in China and India.

However, the significant coal and gas pipelines in these countries risks stranded assets or slowing the transition. As renewables are set to grow strongly in the region, new fossil fuel plants are not needed and should be avoided.

“The renewables industry stands ready to deliver on the global tripling goal. But to get there in time, we need governments to take urgent action to turbocharge an already buoyant renewables market. Public finance is key, especially international support to provide access to low-cost capital for emerging markets to join the renewables era, ensuring a clean, secure and just transition for all,” says Bruce Douglas, CEO of the Global Renewables Alliance in reaction to the report.

Tripling renewables by 2030 is not the end of the story. The report finds renewables need to continue growing strongly beyond the end of the decade, scaling up five times by 2035 relative to 2022, to limit warming to 1.5°C. As governments start to develop their 2035 targets for the next round of NDCs, they should consider how to follow through on the tripling ambition collectively agreed at COP28



Sharon Ambani (Kenya) ; Women from Vihiga and Kakamega Unite to Conserve Kakamega Rain Forest ; Story Spotlight, Feb 14, 2024.

To access the article : <https://storyspotlight.co.ke/women-from-vihiga-and-kakamega-unite-to-serve-kakamega-rain-forest>



Women from Vihiga and Kakamega Unite to Conserve Kakamega Rain Forest

Rose Wamalwa, WWANC CEO urges women to spearhead environmental conservation

Women in grassroots areas of Kakamega and Vihiga counties are encouraged to take a leading role in conserving the Kakamega Tropical Rainforest. This will contribute immensely to the mitigation and adaptation efforts towards the fight against the adverse effects of climate change.

According to Rose Wamalwa, the Chief Executive Officer of Women in Water and Natural Resources Conservation (WWANC), women are greatly affected by climate change; hence, they should spearhead nature-based efforts like tree planting and growing to conserve the environment.

“Women are the most affected people by climate change. So it is our responsibility, or rather, an opportunity that we’ve been given to address the various challenges we face by embracing nature-based solutions and knowing that we are not just beneficiaries of community environmental conservation initiatives but we have played a role in them,” says Wamalwa

The organization, in partnership with the International Tree Foundation (ITF), engages women from the areas of Iloro in Kakamega County and Kibiri in Vihiga County to nurture indigenous trees in the Kakamega Forest, the only tropical Rainforest in the country.

“We have partnered with the International Tree Foundation since 2021 to adopt about 350 hectares of Kakamega Forest, 250 in Iloro, Kakamega, and 100 in Kibiri Vihiga. We have supported women from the surrounding areas of Kakamega forest who have committed themselves to planting and growing over 240,000 indigenous tree species in the forest. We aim to restore and conserve this unique natural resource and increase mitigation efforts against climate change,” she said.

Wamalwa’s remarks were reiterated by the Chief Executive Officer of the International Tree Foundation, James Whitehead, who said his organization seeks to conserve Kakamega Forest due to the significant role it plays in balancing the ecosystem.

“I am struck. This is the first time I have visited Kakamega Forest, and it is the only tropical rainforest in this part of the world [Kenya]. And so it is precious. If we lose it, we might not get it back,” said Whiteman.

“The forest is precious to the region as it is the source of water flowing in various rivers. It is also important for local communities’ livelihood. As an organization, we are grateful to be part of this, and we shall continue to support local community-led initiatives to conserve the forest,” he added.

The Kakamega Forest Manager at Iloro station, James Gachia, has stated that such initiatives are a booster to the conservation of biodiversity in the forest.

“We are going to do all we can as the Kenya Forest Services to protect all planted trees. We are ready to partner with other stakeholders to rehabilitate the Kakamega forest. In the future, we will see a well-conserved natural forest with many other biodiversity tree species, apart from the abundant guavas, thriving in this area,” said Gachia.

He has also stressed the need to meet President William Ruto’s order to plant and grow 15 billion trees by 2032, an initiative meant to increase the country’s tree cover and fight the adverse effects of climate change.

Apart from planting trees, the organization funds environmental protection projects such as using clean cooking energy to reduce the rate of residents cutting down trees in the forest.

“We have been giving women Eco-stoves to reduce their reliance on firewood for cooking,” says Wamalwa.

“We also empower them with some skills, such as establishing tree nurseries as businesses so that they can do some nature-based enterprises. This empowers them socioeconomically while eradicating poverty,” she added.

The local communities have attested to benefiting from the projects by WWANC.

“My husband died when I had just joined this initiative. I am glad I can support my children with the money I get from my tree nurseries. I also play a role in protecting the forest as a vigilant,” said one of the beneficiaries.

WWANC Board Chairperson Dr. Stella Wanjala now urges other stakeholders, such as the Kenya Forest Services and other organizations, to come on board and support them in this result-oriented initiative.



Wallace Mawire (Zimbabwe) ; New Report Highlights Job Opportunities For Young Africans In Food And Agriculture ; Pan African Visions, February 14, 2024.

To access the article: <https://panafricanvisions.com/2024/02/new-report-highlights-job-opportunities-for-young-africans-in-food-and-agriculture/>

Tag : Malabo Montpellier Panel.



Africa's agrifood sector holds significant untapped potential to deliver jobs and livelihoods for the continent's rapidly growing youth population, according to a new report.

The latest publication from the Malabo Montpellier Panel highlighted how 11 million young people join the African labor market each year, yet only 3.7 million jobs are being created. At the same time, the African agricultural economy is now the fastest growing across all continents, powered by a rapidly rising processing sector, with combined food and beverage markets forecast to triple in value to US\$1 trillion by 2030.

"YOUTH AHEAD: Policy Innovations to Create Opportunities for Young People in Africa's Agrifood Systems" argues that agrifood systems provide an important channel for solving the unemployment and underemployment challenges facing African youth and strengthening them will reduce poverty and bolster food security on the continent. With the right innovative policies, African governments can stimulate new employment and entrepreneurial

opportunities for young people along agribusiness value chains, while equipping and incentivizing youths to join the sector, the authors found.

“Africa’s agrifood sector offers extraordinary potential for attractive, profitable, and sustainable jobs for our rising youth population, that will in turn help address the continent’s food security challenges,” said Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063, and Co-Chair of the Malabo Montpellier Panel.

“Innovative strategies to attract and support Africa’s youth to succeed with the right skills, technology, and policy environment would boost the pace of employment creation to meet the growing labor demands in the decades ahead. Our report recommends policies to help create these opportunities, including targeted education, training, enterprise creation and growth support, and technology infrastructure.”

Launched at the 13th Malabo Montpellier Forum in Kampala, Uganda, the report reviews four systematically selected African countries – Ghana, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe – as case studies of how innovative policies and institutional reforms can shift the needle on youth empowerment in food systems.

This report provides examples of successful and emerging interventions being implemented across the continent to empower youth and facilitate a thriving environment for their leadership and engagement in sustainable food systems transformation.

It identifies opportunities to unlock decent jobs and livelihoods along the agri-food value chain, from crop breeding and research and development to harvesting, processing, and trade. The authors make a critical recommendation for African governments to diversify education and training programs to develop and upgrade skills that facilitate entrepreneurship and employment for young Africans in agriculture and agribusiness.

In Ghana, initiatives such as the Youth Employment Agency Bill and the National Youth Policy were cited as examples of efforts to upskill and support youth to enter the agri-food sector. As part of its plan to industrialize agriculture, increase food security and employment opportunities, and lower poverty rates, the country launched the Youth in Agriculture Programme (YIAP), which deployed youth-focused initiatives to change the negative perception of farmers as uneducated, unskilled laborers with low economic returns.

The authors found that youth-focused institutions and programs in Uganda, such as the Presidential Zonal Industrial Hubs, the Uganda Industrial Research Institute Innovation Centre, and the Youth Livelihood Programme are providing young people with marketable skills in agri-food processing and product development, ICT, agricultural mechanization, and entrepreneurship. To further support digital transformation, the government launched the Digital Skills Acceleration Program and the Digital Transformation Program, which aim to increase access and usage of ICT by vulnerable groups, including small-scale farmers.

In Zambia, the government set up the Skills Development Levy to mobilize resources that can be invested in youth empowerment, notably in strengthening the infrastructure of technical and vocational training institutions. Through the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA), the TEVET bursary enables vulnerable youth to benefit from skills training, including courses in general agriculture, food and beverage production, automotive mechanics engineering, electrical engineering, and computer studies.

The report also looks at policy interventions in Zimbabwe, highlighting the innovation hubs in higher education institutions that provide technical and research-based solutions for skills enhancement in the country's labor force. Introduced under the framework of the country's Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Policy, these hubs equip students with specific industrial skills to enable them to operate entrepreneurially with the capacity to incubate any businesses they create. Beneficiary sectors include agriculture, energy, and mining.

"Attracting youth to the agrifood sector and enabling them to play an active role in shaping African food systems must go hand-in-hand with leveraging the potential of new technologies for the industry," said Eng. Dr. Dorothy Okello, Dean, School of Engineering, Makerere University, and Malabo Montpellier Panel Member.

"Harnessing the entrepreneurial spirit of Africa's youth alongside developments such as AI and emerging technologies while investing in transferable skills training in areas such as computer programming and embedded systems, data science, and business studies, will maximize the potential of young people to advance Africa's agrifood and economic transformation."

Other recommendations to support African governments in empowering youth in agrifood systems include addressing trade barriers and investing in technology infrastructure for jobs,

involving youth in policy formulation and decision-making, and addressing green growth and employment agendas with youth as investors.

“The active involvement of young people in Africa's agrifood systems is essential for the continent's economic development and peace,” said Prof. Joachim von Braun, Distinguished Professor, Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, and Co-Chair of the Malabo Montpellier Panel.

“Reaping the full benefits of the enterprising spirit of Africa’s youth will require access to finance, skills and land, and respect for youth voice in political decision-making processes”.



Ridwan Karim Dini-Osman (Ghana) ; Climate Change : Hazy skies over Accra: Harsh harmattan season in Ghana leads to health hazards, poor air quality ; The World, 14 February 2024.

To access the article : <https://theworld.org/stories/2024-02-14/hazy-skies-over-accra-harsh-harmattan-season-ghana-leads-health-hazards-poor-air>

Tag: World Bank.

When dispatch rider Efo Pascal recently returned to Accra on his motorbike from one of his delivery rounds, he came back with a dusty black sweater and helmet.

“Since the whole of last week and this week, the dust is too much, and it is really bad. This is my first delivery today yet, see how dirty I look,” he said.

Ghana is in the grip of this year's harmattan season — characterized by dry, dusty winds between the end of November through March — as winds from the Sahara desert reach West Africa.

Since December, the skyline in Accra has been hazy with excessive dust flying in the air.



Air quality levels have been bad in Accra since December as harmattan season kicks in across Ghana. The data coming in shows the situation is not improving. Credit: Ridwan Karim Dini-Osman/The World

Last week, Accra's air quality was labeled hazardous by the Ghana Meteorological Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency and other air quality monitoring platforms. The harmattan season is not new to Ghana, but experts say climate change is intensifying these harsh weather conditions and leading to increased health hazards.

Pascal said that driving at night has become dangerous due to visibility problems. And his health, too, is taking a hit. He said he's already been to the hospital twice in the past two weeks due to breathing problems.

"Breathing was really hard for me, especially at night. I had pains in my chest, and I was coughing," he said as he pulled medicine out of his pocket. "The doctor said I had some infections from the air. That's why they gave me antibiotics," he said.

Yet he still struggles with his breathing.

Last August, a team of scientists published new research indicating a substantial correlation between air pollution and antibiotic resistance, resulting in about 480,000 premature deaths in 2018.

Pascal said he fears his health may deteriorate. And he's not the only one.

Patience Denu, a teacher at the Fountain Basic School in Accra, said the current dry weather is making some children sick. Inside the school courtyard, children usually run around or chat with friends during recess — but the weather is taking a toll.

“Their faces, all dry, their lips are breaking and all that. Because of that, they are always like, ‘My head...I’m feeling tired...’ They are always complaining of headaches,” she said.



Patience Denu is a teacher at Fountain Basic School in Accra, Ghana. Credit: Ridwan Karim Dini-Osman/The World

Denu said the situation is making schoolwork tedious. When the children don't feel well, she said the children have to spend a few days at home. The school may shut down if the situation does not improve, she added.

Emmanuel Osei Waziri is dropping off his children at school. He said he's concerned about Accra's worsening air quality.

Emmanuel Osei Waziri is dropping off his children at school. He said he's concerned about Accra's worsening air quality.



Emmanuel Osei Waziri, who recently dropped off his children at school, said he's worried.

“The dust is everywhere, and it's hard to shield them from it. How do I even tell if it is not already affecting their lungs? We are still monitoring whether we may have to keep them at home for some time until the air becomes normal,” he said.

Surge in respiratory illnesses

Some hospitals are now seeing a surge in respiratory tract infections among children.

At the Child Health Emergency unit of the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, Mabel Okine said her 2-year-old has been coughing excessively and having breathing difficulties in the last two weeks.

“This is the third time I am bringing her to the hospital. We have tried prescriptions and even home remedies, but she is still not getting better. I sell water by the road and usually strap her on my back. So I think the air has entered her system,” she said.

Pediatrician Dr. Frank Owusu Sekeyere said they are recording 30 respiratory tract infection cases per day compared to just six cases every two months before the harmattan season started.

“So, the children are coming in with either a runny nose, or they are snorty, coryza [acute mucous], and then, they are also coughing. And then sometimes, they also come with signs of

respiratory tract infections. What we also see is that fine particles in the air are worsening preexisting conditions. The situation is quite disturbing,” he said.

'Health effects of climate change are very real'

Accra now sits alongside Delhi, in India, as one of the most highly polluted cities in the world. The fastest-growing African city of 4 million people sees a daily influx of 2.5 million business commuters. And the city is already grappling with the effects of climate change due to rapid urbanization and industrialization.

Selina Amoah, head of environmental quality at the EPA, said this year’s harmattan season is worse than years prior.

“From our monitoring locations along the roadside, we realized that the pollution levels are high — and this is largely due to climate change. Rising temperatures, changing wind patterns, and increased desertification have all contributed to the severity of the weather,” she said.



Selina Amoah is head of environmental quality at the Environmental Protection Agency in Ghana. Credit: Ridwan Karim Dini-Osman/The World

The expansion of desert areas has led to an increase in dust that is then carried by the harmattan winds.

Amoah said climate change can influence the intensity and duration of the harmattan season, potentially leading to more severe dust storms or altered patterns of dust transport. This can also have a detrimental impact on air quality.

“The only thing we can do now is to take precautions to stay safe,” Amoah said. They are encouraging people to stay indoors and wear a mask if they must go outdoors. They are also asking the public to refrain from burning garbage outside and to use water to douse their surroundings in dusty areas.

Dirty air results in 4 million deaths annually around the world. In Ghana, this translates to at least 28,000 premature deaths every year. Yet, just 1% of global development aid is spent on tackling air pollution.

Akosua Kwakye, with the World Health Organization office in Ghana, said that air pollutants and greenhouse gasses often come from the same sources — coal-fired power plants and diesel-fueled vehicles.

“What we are experiencing in Ghana shows that the health effects of climate change are very real. There’s evidence to indicate that issues like respiratory infections, cardiovascular diseases and even some cancers are attributable to the events of climate change,” she said.



Akosua Kwakye is with the World Health Organization office in Ghana. She wants air pollution and climate change to be addressed collaboratively. Credit: Karim Dini-Osman/The World

In 2022, the World Bank disclosed that global health-related damages linked to outdoor air pollution reached \$8.1 trillion, equivalent to approximately 6.1% of the global gross domestic product. And the burden disproportionately affects low- and middle-income countries like Ghana.

Experts like Kwakye say that Ghana should begin to embrace green initiatives to include cleaner, renewable energy sources, phase out subsidies that promote use of polluting fuels, and plant more trees.

But Emmanuel Appoh, an environmental scientist at the University of Ghana who inspects sensors at an Air Quality Evaluation facility, said the latest data shows no signs of improvement any time soon.

“The current state of air quality is very unhealthy, and you have a lot of dust in the atmosphere. It is not encouraging at all. Hopefully, this does not lead us into a public health crisis,” he said.



Sarah Natoolo (Ouganda) ; Kiteezi Plastic ; Uganda Broadcasting Corporation, 15th february 2024.

To access the report :

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lvmmmL5bloKiMcl1nBli_G3uUlp9yhzs/view

SPIKED.

Fresh Unbiased Viewpoint

Baboloki Semele (Botswana) ; UNEP to Host UNEA-6 in Nairobi, Kenya: A Milestone in Global Environmental Diplomacy ; Spiked Media, 16 February 2024.

To access the article: <https://spikedmedia.co.zw/unep-to-host-unea-6-in-nairobi-kenya-a-milestone-in-global-environmental-diplomacy/>

Tag: UNEP, UNEA-6.



Soipan Tuya and Inger Andersen

Nairobi, Kenya – The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is set to host the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26th February to 1st March 2024. This prestigious event, known as UNEA-6, is the world’s highest-level decision-making body on environmental matters and is expected to attract more than 70 Ministers and 3,000 delegates from around the globe.

The theme for UNEA-6, “Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution,” underscores the urgency of addressing

pressing environmental challenges facing our planet today. Against the backdrop of escalating climate change impacts, biodiversity loss, and pollution crises, the assembly aims to forge united, inclusive, and multilateral action to tackle these interconnected issues.

The forthcoming UNEA-6 session will see discussions on twenty draft resolutions and two draft decisions, covering a wide array of environmental topics. These deliberations will involve ministers, intergovernmental organizations, civil society groups, the scientific community, and the private sector, shaping global environmental policy and providing strategic direction for environmental action.

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, highlighted the significance of UNEA-6 in addressing what UNEP terms the triple planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The African continent, including Kenya, bears a disproportionate burden of these crises, making UNEA-6 particularly relevant for the region.

Addressing the assembled media, Hon. Soipan Tuya, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Forestry of the Republic of Kenya, expressed Kenya's pride in hosting UNEA-6. She emphasized Kenya's commitment to environmental conservation and climate action, citing initiatives such as the Africa Climate Summit and the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call-to-Action.

UNEA-6 is organized around six thematic areas aimed at fostering effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral action. The assembly will feature various activities, including leadership dialogues on finance, science, data, and digitalization, as well as a Youth Environment Assembly. Additionally, a day will be dedicated to aligning the efforts of various multilateral environmental agreements towards unified action.

The importance of UNEA-6 transcends merely setting policies; it represents a concerted effort to mobilize global resources and political will towards solving the world's environmental challenges. As Ms. Andersen noted, while UNEA-6 may not solve all problems overnight, it will serve as a catalyst for environmental action, guiding the work of UNEP in this critical period for people and the planet.

As Kenya gears up to welcome delegates from 193 United Nations Member States, including Heads of State and Government, for UNEA-6, the country reaffirms its commitment to environmental stewardship and climate leadership on the global stage.

UNEA-6 promises to be an intense week of deliberations, bilateral meetings, and side events, with outcomes expected to significantly impact global environmental governance. The assembly provides an opportunity for nations to unite under the banner of environmental action and work towards a sustainable future for all.

The world is watching as UNEA-6 unfolds in Nairobi, Kenya, marking a pivotal moment in global environmental diplomacy.

Afrik 21

Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Afrique : la BAD injecte 10 M\$ dans le fonds AGIA-PD, des infrastructures vertes ; Afrik 21, 16 février 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/afrique-la-bad-injecte-10-m-dans-le-fonds-agia-pd-des-infrastructures-vertes/>

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Tag : BAD, AGIA- PD, COP 28, Commission de l'Union Africaine, Africa50.



Le Conseil d'administration du groupe de la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) prend une participation en capital, d'un montant de 10 millions de dollars dans le projet « Alliance pour l'infrastructure verte en Afrique – Fonds de développement de projets » (AGIA-PD). Pilotée

par la BAD, le fonds AGIA-PD est une initiative de 10 milliards de dollars, dont l'objectif est de contribuer à l'accélération de la transition verte en Afrique.

Une nouvelle contribution au capital de l'Alliance pour l'infrastructure verte en Afrique – fonds de développement de projets (AGIA-PD), est annoncée. Les membres du conseil d'administration de groupe de la Banque africaine de développement (BAD), ont adopté le 24 janvier 2024 à Abidjan, la proposition d'une participation en capital, d'un montant de 10 millions de dollars dans le fonds AGIA-PD. Il s'agit ici de la première tranche d'une prise de participation d'un montant total de 40 millions de dollars, pour laquelle la banque s'est engagée lors de la 28e Conférence des Nations unies sur le climat (COP 28) de décembre 2023 à Dubaï.

Composante de l'Alliance pour l'infrastructure verte en Afrique (AGIA), le fonds AGIA-PD est une initiative de 10 milliards de dollars, pilotée par la BAD et créée conjointement avec la Commission de l'Union africaine (CUA), la plateforme panafricaine d'investissement Africa50 et plusieurs autres partenaires. L'objectif est de contribuer à accélérer la transition verte du continent en collaborant avec les pays africains et le secteur privé international et local, pour préparer et développer très rapidement et à grande échelle des projets et programmes transformateurs d'infrastructures vertes et résilientes.

Les projets ciblés par l'AGIA-PD sont alignés sur les Contributions déterminées au niveau national (CDN) des pays bénéficiaires, ainsi que sur les priorités stratégiques des High 5 de la BAD à savoir, éclairer l'Afrique et l'alimenter en énergie, nourrir l'Afrique, industrialiser l'Afrique, intégrer l'Afrique et améliorer la qualité de vie des populations, et sur le Cadre du changement climatique et de la croissance verte de la Banque 2021-2030.

Pour atteindre ses objectifs, l'AGIA sera mise en œuvre à travers trois piliers dont le premier est la préparation des projets, visant à mobiliser 100 millions de dollars de dons pour des activités ciblées. Le deuxième pilier, avec comme instrument l'AGIA-PD, est le développement de projets, visant à mobiliser 400 millions de dollars de capitaux mixtes pour transformer des concepts de projets d'infrastructures vertes en opportunités bancables. Enfin, le troisième pilier, Investissement et Financement, consiste à mettre en place un cadre pour faciliter la mobilisation de dix milliards de dollars de financements (fonds propres, prêts et instruments d'atténuation des risques) pour permettre le financement à grande échelle de projets d'infrastructures vertes préparés et développés dans le cadre des deux premiers piliers.

**ibihe.org**

Le changement, c'est maintenant

Ferdinand Mbonihankuye (Burundi) ; Vers un avenir sans Paludisme : Plaidoyer fort et action concertée au 37ème sommet de l'UA ; Ibihe, Fév 17, 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.ibihe.org/vers-un-avenir-sans-paludisme-plaidoyer-fort-et-action-concertee-au-37eme-sommet-de-lua/>

Tag : UA, GAVI, OMS.

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Le paludisme reste l'une des maladies parasitaires les plus dévastatrices au monde, particulièrement en Afrique subsaharienne, où près de 94 % des cas et des décès surviennent chaque année. Face à cette réalité alarmante, le 37ème sommet de l'Union Africaine (UA) s'est tenu avec un objectif clair : faire progresser la lutte contre le paludisme et travailler ensemble vers un avenir sans cette maladie mortelle.

Lors de la Conférence de presse sur le Rapport sur les progrès de la lutte contre le paludisme en Afrique, Son Excellence Amb. Minata Samate Cessouma, la Commissaire à la Santé, aux Affaires Humanitaires et au Développement Social, a souligné que malgré les défis, nous disposons d'outils hautement efficaces pour répondre aux menaces du paludisme. Ces outils sont plus performants mais aussi plus coûteux. Cependant, la fabrication locale et les efforts de

mise en marché par les États membres et les partenaires peuvent réduire ces coûts, les rendant ainsi abordables, accessibles et créant un plus grand impact.

Elle a également exhorté les États membres à donner la priorité au paludisme et à exploiter la volonté politique déjà présente sur le continent. Cet engagement a été démontré il y a plus de 20 ans, lorsque les Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement d'Afrique, par le biais de l'Union Africaine, ont réussi à inclure le paludisme dans le Fonds Mondial. Il a également été manifeste lorsque les campagnes de prévention du paludisme ont été maintenues pendant la pandémie de COVID-19 malgré les confinements.

Elle a souligné que le Prix décerné au Cabo Verde lors de ce Sommet démontre qu'avec détermination et actions affirmatives, l'Afrique peut se débarrasser du paludisme une fois pour toutes. Elle a également exprimé ses félicitations à ses collègues, S.E José Maria Pereira Neves, et à la République du Cabo Verde pour avoir été certifiée exempte de paludisme. En rejoignant d'autres pays ayant atteint des étapes similaires, elle a souligné que c'était une leçon importante pour les pays africains : ils peuvent vaincre le paludisme avec l'engagement, les outils, les partenariats et l'engagement communautaire appropriés.

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Réaffirmation de l'engagement africain

Le sommet a été marqué par un plaidoyer fort en faveur de l'élimination du paludisme en Afrique, mettant en lumière l'urgence d'une action concertée et coordonnée à tous les niveaux. Les dirigeants africains ont réaffirmé leur engagement à intensifier les efforts de prévention, de traitement et de recherche pour réduire la charge du paludisme sur le continent.

Le président de l'Union Africaine, dans son discours d'ouverture, a souligné l'importance de la solidarité et de la coopération régionale dans la lutte contre le paludisme. Il a appelé à une mobilisation accrue des ressources financières et humaines pour renforcer les systèmes de santé et mettre en œuvre des programmes de prévention efficaces.

Dans le cadre de ce plaidoyer, des personnalités influentes telles que les directeurs d'organisations de santé, les représentants d'ONG et les chercheurs ont pris la parole pour exhorter les gouvernements et les partenaires internationaux à redoubler d'efforts dans la lutte contre le paludisme.

Le Dr. Awa Marie Coll-Seck, envoyée spéciale de l'Union Africaine pour la lutte contre le paludisme, a insisté sur l'importance de l'innovation dans la recherche de nouvelles approches

de prévention et de traitement. Elle a souligné la nécessité de promouvoir l'accès aux outils de lutte antipaludique, tels que les moustiquaires imprégnées d'insecticide et les médicaments antipaludiques de qualité.

Le Dr. Pedro Alonso, directeur du Programme mondial de lutte contre le paludisme de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS), a également pris la parole pour encourager les pays africains à maintenir leur engagement envers les objectifs de réduction du paludisme. Il a mis en avant les progrès réalisés dans la lutte contre la maladie, tout en soulignant la nécessité de rester vigilants et de poursuivre les efforts pour atteindre les objectifs de développement durable liés à la santé.

Mise en lumière des initiatives et des success stories

En plus du plaidoyer, le sommet a été l'occasion de mettre en lumière les initiatives et les *success stories* dans la lutte contre le paludisme en Afrique. Des pays comme le Rwanda, le Kenya et le Ghana ont présenté leurs stratégies nationales de lutte contre le paludisme, mettant en évidence les progrès réalisés et les défis restants.

Le Rwanda, par exemple, a été salué pour ses efforts remarquables dans la réduction de la charge du paludisme grâce à des interventions intégrées, telles que la distribution gratuite de moustiquaires imprégnées d'insecticide et le déploiement de services de diagnostic et de traitement efficaces.

Le Kenya a également été reconnu pour son engagement continu envers la recherche et l'innovation dans la lutte contre le paludisme, avec des initiatives telles que le développement de nouveaux médicaments antipaludiques et de vaccins expérimentaux.

Enfin, le Ghana a été félicité pour ses progrès significatifs dans la réduction de la prévalence du paludisme grâce à des programmes de sensibilisation communautaire et à une coordination efficace entre les différents acteurs de la santé.

Le 37ème Sommet de l'Union Africaine a été un moment crucial dans la lutte contre le paludisme en Afrique. Cependant, les répercussions du paludisme ne se limitent pas à la sphère médicale. Les absences scolaires fréquentes dues à la maladie compromettent sérieusement l'éducation et le développement cognitif des enfants. De plus, les familles touchées doivent souvent faire face à des dépenses de santé importantes, entraînant parfois une détresse financière sévère et les empêchant de répondre aux besoins élémentaires de leur foyer. Les

enfants souffrant de paludisme chronique sont également plus susceptibles de contracter d'autres maladies, mettant ainsi en péril leur bien-être général.

Face à ce fardeau, des mesures de prévention et de traitement efficaces sont indispensables. Cela englobe la distribution de moustiquaires imprégnées d'insecticide, l'accès à des médicaments antipaludiques de qualité et la sensibilisation aux pratiques préventives telles que l'élimination des eaux stagnantes. De plus, il est crucial de renforcer les systèmes de santé pour garantir un accès équitable à des services de qualité. En investissant dans la lutte contre le paludisme et en mettant en avant la protection des enfants africains, nous pouvons contribuer à alléger le fardeau de cette maladie et à promouvoir la santé et le bien-être des générations futures en Afrique.

Avec un plaidoyer fort et une action concertée, les dirigeants africains et leurs partenaires internationaux ont réaffirmé leur engagement envers un avenir sans paludisme, mettant ainsi en marche des efforts renouvelés pour éliminer cette maladie mortelle et réaliser le plein potentiel de santé et de bien-être pour tous les Africains.

**ibihe.org**

Le changement, c'est maintenant

Ferdinand Mbonihankuye (Burundi) ; 37^e Sommet de l'Union Africaine : Lutter contre la malnutrition, enjeu crucial pour l'Afrique ; Ibihe, Fév 17, 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.ibihe.org/37-e-sommet-de-lunion-africaine-lutter-contre-la-malnutrition-enjeu-crucial-pour-lafrique/>

Tag : FAO, OMS.

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La malnutrition, sous toutes ses formes, continue de constituer un défi majeur pour de nombreux pays africains, compromettant la santé, le bien-être et le développement économique des populations. Ce sommet a été une occasion cruciale pour les dirigeants africains, les experts en santé, les ONG et les partenaires internationaux de se réunir, de partager leurs connaissances et leurs expériences, et de trouver des solutions innovantes pour lutter contre ce fléau.

Selon les données de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO), près de 256 millions de personnes souffrent de la faim en Afrique subsaharienne, soit près d'un quart de la population totale de la région. De plus, la malnutrition infantile reste un problème grave, avec environ un enfant sur quatre de moins de cinq ans souffrant de retard de croissance.

La malnutrition affecte non seulement la santé des individus, mais aussi leur productivité économique et leur capacité à subvenir à leurs besoins essentiels. Les enfants malnutris sont plus susceptibles de souffrir de maladies, d'avoir des retards de développement et de performances scolaires, ce qui compromet leur avenir et leur capacité à contribuer au développement de leur pays. De même, la malnutrition chez les adultes entraîne une baisse de la productivité et des revenus, ce qui peut perpétuer le cycle de la pauvreté et de l'insécurité alimentaire.

C'est dans ce contexte alarmant que les dirigeants africains et leurs partenaires se sont réunis lors d'une réunion de haut niveau pour la nutrition, en marge du 37e Sommet de l'Union africaine, afin de discuter des stratégies et des actions à entreprendre pour accélérer la réduction de la malnutrition en Afrique d'ici 2025. Cette rencontre, qui s'est tenue le 16 février 2024 à l'hôtel Hyatt Regency Addis-Abeba, a jeté les bases d'une collaboration renforcée et d'une action concertée pour relever ce défi urgent.

« La malnutrition en Afrique est un obstacle majeur à la réalisation de notre plein potentiel économique et social. Nous devons agir avec détermination et coopération pour inverser cette tendance alarmante », a souligné le Représentant de la Commission de l'Union africaine lors du sommet.

Le changement climatique, la pauvreté, la faim et la maladie : principaux facteurs de malnutrition en Afrique

Plusieurs facteurs sous-jacents contribuent à la prévalence persistante de la malnutrition en Afrique. Parmi ceux-ci figurent la pauvreté, la faim, la maladie, l'accès limité à des aliments nutritifs et abordables, les pratiques agricoles non durables, les conflits armés, les crises climatiques et les systèmes de santé fragiles adéquate sont les principaux facteurs de malnutrition en Afrique et sont liées aux mauvaises conditions de vie, au manque d'éducation, aux moyens de subsistance précaires et au manque d'accès aux services de base tels que les soins de santé et les aliments sains et nutritifs. En outre, les inégalités sociales et économiques exacerbent souvent les disparités en matière de nutrition, en privant les populations les plus vulnérables des ressources nécessaires pour une alimentation.

Cependant, la malnutrition continue d'avoir un impact significatif sur l'Afrique : 41 % des enfants de moins de cinq ans souffrent de diverses formes de malnutrition, 61 millions

d'enfants souffrent d'un retard de croissance et 12 millions d'enfants sont émaciés. Le fardeau économique de la malnutrition est énorme et réduit la productivité et le potentiel des pays. Le résultat de cette discussion éclairera les stratégies et les activités que la Commission de l'Union africaine et ses partenaires défendront pour accélérer la réduction de la malnutrition en 2025 en Afrique. « Ces dernières années, nous avons concentré à juste titre beaucoup de nos énergies sur la lutte contre la faim, mais ce que nous devons reconnaître, c'est que l'éradication de la faim ne garantit pas une meilleure nutrition », a dit le Dr Felicitas Zawaira, Directrice du volet santé familiale et génésique au Bureau régional de l'OMS.

Les maladies non transmissibles liées à l'obésité et à l'alimentation sont en grande partie le résultat de modes de vie caractérisés par une activité physique limitée et une consommation d'aliments hautement nutritifs riches en calories, en sucres, en graisses, en sel et en additifs, mais pauvres en nutriments essentiels.

L'éducation communautaire sur l'alimentation, efforts actuels pour combattre la Malnutrition

Face à cette réalité alarmante, les dirigeants affirment qu'un financement et des politiques plus fortes sont nécessaires pour lutter contre la malnutrition qui touche plus de 80 millions d'enfants. Les gouvernements africains, en collaboration avec des organisations internationales et des ONG, ont lancé diverses initiatives innovantes pour combattre la malnutrition et améliorer la santé des populations.

Parmi ces initiatives figurent les programmes d'alimentation scolaire, qui ont été mis en place dans de nombreux pays pour fournir des repas nutritifs aux enfants dans les écoles. Ces programmes ne se contentent pas d'améliorer la nutrition des enfants, mais ils encouragent également la scolarisation et réduisent l'absentéisme.

De plus, des campagnes de sensibilisation et d'éducation sont menées pour informer les communautés sur les pratiques alimentaires saines, l'allaitement maternel exclusif et l'importance des régimes alimentaires équilibrés. L'éducation nutritionnelle joue un rôle crucial dans la prévention de la malnutrition.

L'éducation communautaire sur l'alimentation peut jouer un rôle crucial dans l'autonomisation des femmes et des mères pour assurer que leurs enfants âgés de 0 à 5 ans ne souffrent pas de malnutrition. Grâce à des programmes éducatifs axés sur la nutrition, les femmes ont acquis

des connaissances essentielles sur l'allaitement maternel, la diversification alimentaire et la préparation de repas équilibrés.

Elles ont appris à identifier les signes de malnutrition et à prendre des mesures préventives pour garantir que leurs enfants reçoivent une alimentation adéquate pour leur croissance et leur développement. En renforçant les capacités des femmes au sein de la communauté, ces programmes ont contribué à réduire le taux de malnutrition infantile et à améliorer la santé globale des enfants dans la région.

Les gouvernements investissent également dans le renforcement des systèmes de santé pour fournir des services de nutrition de base, y compris le dépistage et la prise en charge des enfants malnutris, ainsi que des programmes de supplémentation en micronutriments.

« La lutte contre la malnutrition est une priorité absolue pour la Banque africaine de développement. Nous devons mobiliser les ressources nécessaires et coordonner nos efforts pour assurer un avenir meilleur et plus sain pour les générations futures », a ajouté Akinwumi A. Adesina, Représentant de la Banque africaine de développement.

En outre, des initiatives visant à promouvoir l'agriculture durable et à accroître la sécurité alimentaire sont essentielles pour lutter contre la malnutrition. La promotion de l'agriculture familiale, l'accès aux semences améliorées et aux pratiques agricoles durables peuvent contribuer à renforcer la résilience des communautés face à la malnutrition.

L'Afrique s'engage vers un avenir sans malnutrition

Pour surmonter ces défis, une approche holistique et multisectorielle est nécessaire. Les gouvernements africains doivent intégrer la nutrition dans leurs politiques de développement et investir dans des programmes de nutrition sensibles aux contextes locaux. La collaboration entre les secteurs de la santé, de l'agriculture, de l'éducation et du développement est essentielle pour assurer des progrès durables dans la lutte contre la malnutrition. L'éducation communautaire sur l'alimentation a joué un rôle crucial dans l'autonomisation des femmes et des mères pour assurer que leurs enfants âgés de 0 à 5 ans ne souffrent pas de malnutrition. Grâce à des programmes éducatifs axés sur la nutrition, les femmes ont acquis des connaissances essentielles sur l'allaitement maternel, la diversification alimentaire et la préparation de repas équilibrés. Elles ont appris à identifier les signes de malnutrition et à prendre des mesures préventives pour garantir que leurs enfants reçoivent une alimentation

adéquate pour leur croissance et leur développement. En renforçant les capacités des femmes au sein de la communauté, ces programmes ont contribué à réduire le taux de malnutrition infantile et à améliorer la santé globale des enfants dans la région.

De plus, il est impératif d'accroître la sensibilisation et la mobilisation sociale autour de la nutrition, en mettant l'accent sur l'autonomisation des femmes et des communautés pour prendre des décisions éclairées en matière de nutrition.

Enfin, un engagement politique fort au niveau national et international est essentiel pour faire de la lutte contre la malnutrition une priorité mondiale. L'agenda de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 offre une occasion unique de placer la nutrition au cœur des efforts de développement et de réaliser un progrès significatif vers un avenir sans malnutrition en Afrique et dans le monde entier. La malnutrition en Afrique reste un enjeu central pour le développement du continent. En travaillant ensemble et en investissant dans des solutions durables, nous pouvons créer un avenir où chaque individu a accès à une alimentation adéquate et nutritive, garantissant ainsi la santé, le bien-être et la prospérité pour tous les Africains.

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Joseph Checky Abuje (Kenya) ; East Africa: Building regenerative, sustainable Agricultural industry ; African change stories, February 18, 2024.

To access the article : <https://www.africanchangestories.org/2024/02/18/east-africa-building-regenerative-sustainable-agricultural-industry/>

Agriculture is an essential part of East Africa's economy and by extension the African continent. In most cases, rural farmers play a critical role in the sector's growth.

Statistics from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), indicate that the agricultural sector directly contributes up to 25% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 27% indirectly through linkages to other sectors and also accounts for more than 60% of Kenya's export earnings.

In other East African countries like Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania, the sector plays a pivotal role in their sustainable development agenda. In Uganda, 80% of her land is arable with a paltry 35% under agriculture.

The sector accounts for 24% and 35% of the country's GDP and Exports respectively with 68% of the population employed in agriculture. This is the same scenario in Tanzania where the main economic activity is agriculture at 70%. Agriculture also accounts for 75% of jobs in the country, with 80% of agricultural produce produced by smallholder farmers.

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However, with rapidly growing population and climate shocks threatening the agricultural sector at both local, regional and continental levels due to extreme weather conditions, land subdivisions, soil degradation, overcropping, overgrazing and poor farming techniques, food security in Africa is endangered and this has compelled the continent to spend huge budget of billions of tax payers' money on importing food stuffs and fertilisers to gap the deficit in a bid to address the insecurities and poverty situation in continent.

To watch the video :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdV_c9f0QXU&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.africanchangestories.org%2F&feature=emb_imp_woyt

Experts largely attribute this to climate change phenomena like floods and erratic rains as well as the linear model of farming which most African countries have adopted.

However, the narrative is positively changing for the better.

Caleb Omollo, an expert and trainer in the regenerative farming model across East Africa said that over-reliance on the linear farming model in Africa has created a vacuum in food security and adds that there is need for a paradigm shift to circular farming, popularly referred to as “regenerative Agriculture”.

Mr Omollo who also runs Sustainable Village Resource Centre, noted that Africa is on the positive trajectory in embracing circular economy for sustainable agriculture through organic farming.

“With current global emphasis on adoption of circular economy in all sectors of production, there is a foreseeable hope to reverse the African food insecurity narrative to food self-reliance and sustainable agriculture as well as climate change mitigation towards sustainable development in Africa,” he remarked.

Omollo says he has trained over 500 farmers in Kenya, 250 (Rwanda) and 350 (Uganda) adding that in order to build farmers resilience in Africa and for the continent to realize its potential in food security and environmental conservation, regenerative agriculture is the option where this model involves rejuvenating soil fertility to increase production and reduces carbon emissions which is not only good for agriculture, but also a climate change mitigation measure.

In semi-urban areas in Eastern Africa, the food security narrative is shifting towards organic farming as agricultural production is constantly under threat due to risks of climate change, over population and poor farming practices.

According to omollo, local farmers in Western Kenya are gradually shifting towards regenerative agriculture which he says is changing their fortunes. Syprine Oniala is a widow and a member of “Mbeka Widows Coffee farmers’ group’ based in Kisumu rural and confirms her venture into regenerative farming of vegetables has seen her economic fortunes and food security interventions change positively.

“I eat these vegetables and feel very strong. The orphans that I take care of are very strong and have good and healthy skin because they feed on leafy vegetables free from chemicals,” said the elated widow.

Another group member Susan Akinyi, disclosed to Africa Science News that before they were trained on regenerative agriculture, they used conventional chemicals and fertilizers that destroyed their crops and depleted key nutrients from the the soils besides health complications.

“Before we were trained by Omolo on regenerative farming practices, we used to make huge losses from our shambas. We could not afford to buy fertilizers for our farms in a move that led us towards being food insecure” reiterated jubilant Akinyi.

Mbeka Widows Coffee Farmers’ group comprises of 25 widowed women who came together to practice circular farming as a trend for global sustainable agriculture that is eco-friendly to mitigate against climate change by eliminating use of chemicals and fertilizers in their farms.

Pamela Adhiambo, the group’s secretary, discloses the socio-economic benefits of her reverting into organic farming that includes and not limited to meeting school fees requirements of her children.

To watch de video : https://youtu.be/H7mP30kg_yw

Mr Victor Kaluwa, a lecturer at the University of Zambia underscores the importance of regenerative agriculture as a counter to risks of climate change in the sector, adding that the model plays a crucial role in stabilizing soil fertility and thus improves yields and also encourages water conservation.

To watch the video : <https://youtu.be/EB9Rni9BSD8>

According to Dr Imelda Mianda Khachofwe, a lecturer at the Copper Belt University in Zambia, regenerative agriculture gives the farmer a choice of growing a variety of crops on a small piece of land for maximum production for food security.

“The African population is growing and the continent must find ways of producing enough food against diminishing land. We don’t want to find ourselves in a situation where we are only dependant on foreign food aid as a continent,” she remarked.

Speaking during an exchange programme visit to Kenya, the two lecturers said African continent must change the farming narrative from linear farming model to circular farming model, which they say has a promising future in terms of food, health and environmental security.

Mr Christian Makokha (HSC), a Kenyan environmentalist, there is core-relation between organic farming and climate change mitigation measures.

He says organic farming reduces greenhouse emissions that are energy active through sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere into the soil, adding that it replaces synthetic fertilizers with biomass which enhances soil fertility and increased soil carbon that supports agricultural sustainability.

Mr Saxton Banda, an Agricultural engineer at the University of Zambia reiterated that in order to ensure food security in 'our countries' and urged other farmers across the continent to invest more in organic farming to help the continent come out of food imports bondage.

"We are here today in Kenya on exchange programme on permaculture. Our essence is to learn about permaculture so that the young generation can adopt the concept of regenerative farming as a way of mitigating diverse threats of climate change in Africa," said Banda.

He however lauded effort by rural farmers in Western Kenya in adopting regenerative farming.

Nonetheless, Khachofwe observes that Africa is not coping well in being food secure and there is need for incorporating young people into such exchange programme to ensure continuity in sustainable agriculture.

She noted that farming systems in Africa have been destroyed and regenerative agriculture has the potential of restoring back the soils to bring the system back to life for high yield.

"Let Africa go back to older ways of farming practised by our forefathers to achieve the much needed food security."

However, Mr Omollo warned that as organic farming provides a new frontier for food security in Africa, multinational fertilizer companies could corrupt the system for their own selfish interest. He notes that organic farming is labour intensive and could discourage small holder farmers from venturing in it fully thus the need to work closely with them and offer solution to challenges that may arise.

Afrik 21

Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Ghana : le changement climatique amplifie la pollution de l'air à Accra ; Afrik 21, 19 février 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/ghana-le-changement-climatique-amplifie-la-pollution-de-lair-a-accra/>

Tag : OMS.



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La saison de l'harmattan s'intensifie au Ghana avec une augmentation dangereuse de particules fines dans l'air. Le gouvernement tire la sonnette d'alarme, et conseille au public de réduire les activités en plein air, au strict minimum.

Accra, la capitale du Ghana, est désormais aux côtés de New Delhi en Inde, comme l'une des villes les plus polluées au monde. La ville africaine de 4 millions d'habitants marquée par une urbanisation et une industrialisation rapides, traverse actuellement une pollution atmosphérique due à la saison de l'harmattan.

Les résultats de surveillance publiés le 6 février 2024 par l'Agence pour la protection de l'environnement (EPA) du Ghana, indiquent un indice de qualité de l'air (IQA) entre malsain (rouge) et très malsain (violet). L'harmattan est à l'origine de cette pollution. Le vent chaud et

sec venu de nord-est s'est intensifié cette année, par rapport aux années précédentes. « Depuis nos points de surveillance le long de la route, nous avons réalisé que les niveaux de pollution sont élevés – et cela est en grande partie dû au changement climatique. La hausse des températures, la modification de la configuration des vents et la désertification accrue ont tous contribué à la gravité des conditions météorologiques », explique Selina Amoah, responsable de la qualité de l'environnement à l'EPA. La responsable fait également savoir que le changement climatique peut influencer l'intensité et la durée de la saison de l'harmattan, conduisant potentiellement à des tempêtes de poussière plus graves ou à une modification des modèles de transport de poussière. Cela peut également avoir un impact néfaste sur la qualité de l'air.

Limiter les activités en plein air

Pour réduire les conséquences de la saison de l'harmattan sur la santé des populations, l'EPA a exhorté les groupes vulnérables, en particulier les personnes âgées, les enfants, les femmes enceintes, les personnes souffrant d'asthme et d'allergies associées et toute autre personne présentant des problèmes de santé sous-jacents, à réduire les activités de plein air, au maximum possible.

L'Agence exhorte également tous les utilisateurs de véhicules à réduire leur vitesse sur les routes non goudronnées afin de réduire les émissions de poussière.

Selon l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS), la pollution atmosphérique est responsable de 4 millions de décès chaque année dans le monde. Au Ghana, cela se traduit par au moins 28 000 décès prématurés chaque année. Des chiffres qui choquent davantage, quand on sait que seulement 1 % de l'aide mondiale au développement est consacrée à la lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique.

**ibihe.org**

Le changement, c'est maintenant

Ferdinand Mbonihankuye (Burundi) ; Défis de l'éducation en Afrique : Analyse approfondie au 37ème Sommet de l'UA ; Ibihe, Fév 19, 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.ibihe.org/defis-de-leducation-en-afrique-analyse-appfondie-au-37eme-sommet-de-lua/>

Tag : UA, AUDA-NEPAD



[Addis-Abeba] Au cœur des préoccupations des dirigeants africains, le 37ème sommet de l'Union Africaine (UA) se concentre sur la nécessité de prendre des mesures concrètes pour relever ces défis éducatifs.

Au fil des dix dernières années, les gouvernements africains ont déployé une série de programmes et de politiques visant à assurer un accès équitable à l'éducation pour tous les enfants du continent. Malgré ces efforts, plusieurs indicateurs préoccupants persistent, mettant en lumière les défis majeurs auxquels l'éducation en Afrique est confrontée.

Les taux de déscolarisation demeurent élevés, tandis que la pauvreté en matière d'apprentissage représente un défi persistant. De plus, l'Afrique se retrouve confrontée à une

pénurie critique de 17 millions d'enseignants nécessaires pour atteindre les objectifs d'éducation primaire et secondaire universelle d'ici 2030.

Par ailleurs, le continent nécessite une part prépondérante de plus de 90 % des financements externes mondiaux pour l'éducation afin de répondre aux besoins croissants. Pour atteindre les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) et s'aligner sur les aspirations de l'Agenda 2063 pour l'Afrique, un financement supplémentaire de 40 milliards de dollars est requis d'ici 2030.

Ces défis, loin d'être uniquement académiques, ont des répercussions profondes sur le développement personnel des individus. Ils compromettent également la croissance économique et le progrès social du continent dans son ensemble, soulignant ainsi l'urgence d'une action concertée pour transformer le paysage éducatif africain.

Madame Nardos Bekele-Thomas, PDG de AUDA-NEPAD, souligne l'importance cruciale de l'éducation africaine dans le développement durable du continent lors du 37^{ème} sommet de l'union africaine qui s'est tenue à Addis Abeba en Ethiopie du 14 au 18 Février 2024.

Élargir l'accès à une éducation de qualité en construisant, rénovant et préservant les infrastructures éducatives.

« Investir dans l'éducation est un investissement dans l'avenir de l'Afrique. Nous devons redoubler d'efforts pour garantir que chaque enfant ait accès à une éducation de qualité, indépendamment de son origine socio-économique ou de son lieu de résidence.», A-t-elle affirmé.

«réorienter les systèmes d'éducation et de formation en Afrique afin de procurer les savoirs, les compétences, les aptitudes et la capacité d'innovation et de créativité nécessaires à la promotion d'un développement durable sur le plan national, régional et continental ».

En effet, en marge de la conférence, la Commission de l'Union Africaine et l'Agence de Développement de l'Union Africaine-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD), avec le soutien du gouvernement allemand, a organisé une Exposition du Marché du savoir pour lancer l'Année de Transformation de l'Éducation de l'Union Africaine en marge de la 37^{ème} Session Ordinaire de l'Assemblée des Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement.

L'Année de Transformation de l'Éducation sera l'occasion pour l'Union Africaine de mobiliser les gouvernements et les partenaires de développement pour repenser les modèles et les

modalités de l'éducation et du développement des compétences nécessaires pour l'Afrique au 21ème siècle. Un certain nombre d'actions prioritaires ont été définies dans la Feuille de Route de l'Année de l'Éducation 2024 qui sera lancée et mise en œuvre.

« Éduquer un Africain adapté au 21ème siècle : construire des systèmes éducatifs résilients pour un accès accru à un apprentissage inclusif, tout au long de la vie, de qualité et pertinent en Afrique ».

L'année de Transformation de l'Éducation en Afrique offre une opportunité sans précédent pour mobiliser les ressources et l'expertise nécessaires afin de relever les défis persistants en matière d'éducation sur le continent. Nous devons travailler ensemble pour repenser nos approches et adopter des stratégies innovantes pour garantir un accès équitable à une éducation de qualité pour tous les citoyens africains.

Revitaliser la profession enseignante pour assurer qualité et pertinence

Le Marché du Savoir servira à populariser le thème de l'année et à présenter diverses initiatives conformes aux domaines de résultats thématiques de la Note Conceptuelle et de la Feuille de Route sur la Transformation de l'Éducation en Afrique. Le Marché du Savoir lancera les engagements commémoratifs en offrant une exposition interactive et dynamique facilitant la présentation de l'innovation, le partage des meilleures pratiques et la promotion de l'échange de connaissances en éducation à travers le continent. Le pôle EFTP, les leaders du Cluster CESA, les partenaires de développement et les parties prenantes utiliseront le Marché du Savoir pour dialoguer avec les États membres et d'autres parties prenantes.

Esther Azaa Tankou, représentante de l'UA, affirme que l'Union Africaine est pleinement engagée à relever les défis de l'éducation en Afrique : « L'UA s'engage à travailler en étroite collaboration avec ses États membres, les partenaires internationaux et les organisations régionales pour renforcer le secteur de l'éducation et garantir que chaque enfant africain puisse réaliser son plein potentiel. »

Le 37ème sommet de l'UA offre une occasion unique de mettre en lumière les défis persistants de l'éducation en Afrique et de proposer des solutions concrètes pour y remédier. En travaillant ensemble de manière collaborative et en investissant dans l'éducation, l'Afrique peut véritablement catalyser sa transformation socio-économique et assurer un avenir meilleur pour ses citoyens.

Afrik 21

Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Afrique de l'Ouest : vers un plan d'action régional pour la biodiversité ; Afrik 21, 20 février 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/afrique-de-louest-vers-un-plan-daction-regional-pour-la-biodiversite/>

Tag : CDB, CEDEAO.



La crise de la biodiversité était au cœur d'une réunion de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cedeao), le 18 février 2024 à Abuja au Nigeria. Les participants ont été invités à faire des propositions en vue de la mise sur pied d'un plan d'action régional visant à étendre l'objectif 30x30 pour la biodiversité en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Les dirigeants en charge de la protection de l'environnement en Afrique de l'Ouest, tracent la voie à la conservation de leur biodiversité. C'est l'objet de la réunion de coordination organisé par la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cedeao), le 18 février à Abuja. Le Nigeria qui assure la présidence tournante de la Cedeao, dirige les efforts de la sous-région, visant à élaborer un plan d'action régional pour étendre l'objectif 30x30 pour la biodiversité en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Cet effort collectif est en outre soutenu par la Commission de la Cedeao, dirigée par le commissaire Massandje Touré-Litse, qui a souligné l'importance mondiale des actions de la région pour atteindre l'objectif de conservation de la biodiversité d'ici à 2030. Les parties

prenantes présentes à cette réunion de coordination ont un mandat important. Elles doivent produire un plan régional de mise en œuvre de l'objectif 30×30 qui vise à garantir la protection efficace d'au moins 30 % de la biodiversité de la Cedeao d'ici à 2030, afin de préserver les écosystèmes vitaux et d'arrêter l'extinction d'espèces sauvages provoquée par l'homme.

« Je veux être convaincu que grâce à votre travail dans les prochains jours, la Cedeao prendra à nouveau la tête des ambitions en matière de biodiversité. Nous travaillerons sur les aspects techniques difficiles et concevrons de nouvelles voies à suivre, sachant que les yeux du monde sont tournés vers nous. Notre travail acharné pour étendre et renforcer nos zones protégées servira non seulement de signe de notre engagement, mais aussi de sonnette d'alarme pour le reste du monde. », affirme le Dr Iziq Salako, ministre d'État nigérian en charge de l'Environnement.

Selon l'objectif « 30×30 », tel qu'il figure dans la Convention sur la diversité biologique adoptée en décembre 2022 lors de la 15e Conférence des parties au Canada, les parties doivent faire en sorte et permettre que, d'ici à 2030, au moins 30% des zones terrestres, des eaux intérieures et des zones côtières et marines, en particulier les zones revêtant une importance particulière pour la biodiversité et les fonctions et services écosystémiques, soient effectivement conservées et gérées par le biais de systèmes d'aires protégées écologiquement représentatifs, bien reliés et gérés de manière équitable.

La réalisation de cet objectif doit reconnaître et respecter les droits des peuples autochtones et des communautés locales, y compris sur leurs territoires traditionnels.



Victor Moturi (Kenya) ; Bones to Brilliance: Empowering Youth in Kenya's Bone Craft Economy" ; Radio France International – Kiswahili service, 21 February 2024.

To listen the report : <https://fb.watch/qReHnMNCmC/>

In Kenya, the production of goods from waste has continued to increase, with these products contributing significantly to the jua kali sector in the country. However, youth from the slums of Kibera in the capital Nairobi have boosted their income by manufacturing and selling products derived from the bones of various animals. These products includes necklaces, beads, cups and many more. Victor Moturi has prepared the following report.

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Ambience...born selection...and grinding

In this small workshop in the Soweto area of Kibera on the outskirts of Nairobi city, workers are busy selecting various bones that have been delivered for the purpose of making decorations such as necklaces, beads, cups, key holders and many other products. Charles Oigo is the supervisor of the workers here...

Bite,,oigo,,,”Our job is to make jewelry from bones, bones of cows, camels, goats, and sheep. We obtain these bones either from slaughterhouses or from those who sell bones after boiling soup or meat. They collect these bones, and then we buy from them. We make earrings, bangles, necklaces, key holders, bottle openers, etc. Our market is here in the country. There are some who have shops in town central business district; they come to pick up once they have placed an order. But we don't sell a lot because once you sell something to someone, don't expect them to come back quickly, so you have to wait a bit.”

According to Oigo, this work requires high skills and patience because it involves a long process before the products are finished.

Bite,,Oigo...“First, when the bones arrive here, we select the ones we need. Some are split and used as they are, while others are put on a grinding machine to shape them into the desired form, depending on whether it's earrings, necklaces, key holders, or anything else you want to make. First, we smooth them out, then we boil them. You know bones have a lot of fat and bone marrow. We boil them for about three hours, then the bones turn pure white.”

Dennis Orero is another expert in making these bone-derived products in this area. According to Orero, this work has been of great help since he joined this factory five years ago.

Bite...Orero...“After selling, I use the money to feed my children, pay rent, school fees, and we also have a savings group where we put money aside. After a year, we withdraw, and then you can go home and build a house or buy goats, sheep, and so on.”

Orero says the income has started to decline due to intense competition from many players joining and also lack of market witnessed, which is a big challenge.

Bite,,Orero....“In the past, for those who started this business, we heard them say it was very good. However, later when we joined, we became many because there was a demand for these products in the market, and the prices were also good. But as more people joined, it became flooded everywhere. Even in estates, you find people making similar items, and the market is the same. So, customers decrease because customers take few orders, and also, the products are not consistent. What you make is not necessarily what another person will make. Therefore, it becomes a challenge for producers or maintaining your customer base.”

Bite,,Decorator“Right now, I'm making decorations using wax. You heat it on this stove, and when the wax melts, you draw on it, then you put the dye. It takes about one to two hours to finish, then you remove it. Where you've drawn stays white, and the other parts turn black, so it becomes black and white. I can decorate around 300 or 200 pieces depending on the order I have. I learned this here, not from school. If someone is interested, he or she can come and learn because even I didn't know anything when I started, but there were others who knew and taught us until we learned. So, when new people come, we have to teach them how this work is done.”

According to the 2022 Kenya Economic Report, the informal in the other words jua kali sector contributed 25% of the national income, with economists asserting that this sector cannot be ignored as it creates employment. Additionally, products from the jua kali sector are sold in

neighboring countries, thus increasing foreign exchange earnings. Godfrey is an expert in the circular economy .

Bite...Godfrey ,,,,"Bones add value to the supply chain, making it very effective and helpful. The market is vast, and the quality is good because I haven't seen people complaining. Due to this, the products made from bones are attractive and draw people in. Right now, even people from Uganda come to buy from Kenya , and people from Rwanda too. So, the market is very extensive, and it pays very well."

However, besides providing income for artisans and businesspeople, this work has also contributed to improving the environment. Instead of being discarded and harming the environment, these bones are used to make various products, thus reducing environmental damage.

Bite..Godfrey,,,,,"Yes, it helps to improve the environment because there is no dumping, and the place becomes clean. Something the government should do is to look at those young people who come up with ideas and assist them because if this sector is strengthened, it can provide employment for many people. Therefore, we ask the government if it can provide funding. It can help because someone may lack capital but has a very good idea. The challenge is the market because we make good products but lack the network to reach the international market. Another challenge is the workspace; you see how squeezed we are here. If we could get a proper workspace it will be better'

Decorator,,,,,,,"This sector pays well, and I can also advise young people. If someone doesn't have a job, this recycling business is a good option. If you go out to collect, you can earn 500 or 700 shillings a day, so no one goes hungry. Everyone gets something, and if you work well, you can even go home with 1000 or 2000 shillings."

If this circular economy approach is well strengthened, then many products will be made from various types of waste, thus preserving the environment both in urban and rural areas

However, according to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by the year 2030, countries are required to build robust infrastructure, strengthen industries, and promote innovation. This will enhance sectors such as recycled products, thus increasing income.

Ends

TalkAFRICA

Lenah Bosibori (Kenya) ; Heavy Used Commercial Vehicles A Threat To Africa's Air Quality-UNEP Report ; Talk Africa, February 25, 2024.

To access the article : <https://www.talkafrica.co.ke/heavy-used-commercial-vehicles-a-threat-to-africas-air-quality-unep-report/>

Tag : WHO, UNEP, CCAC, EU.



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Nairobi, Kenya: Air pollution is one of the biggest environmental health risks of our time with 99 percent of the global population breathing air that exceeds World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines around pollutant levels.

While heavy-duty vehicle (HDV) exports represent a modest 3.6 percent of the global automotive trade's total value, their associated CO₂ emissions have surged by over 30 percent since 2000, with trucks contributing 80 percent to this increase.

A report released by UNEP on Thursday in Nairobi indicates that HDV contributes 40 percent to environmental pollution of on-road nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions.

The report *Used Heavy Duty Vehicles and the Environment – A Global Overview of Used Heavy-Duty Vehicles: Flow, Scale and Regulation* report, jointly launched by the UNEP and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), provides a first global overview by the UN of the scale and regulation of used HDVs and their contribution to global air pollution, road accidents, fuel consumption, and climate emissions.

Speaking during the launch of the report at UNEP headquarters in Gigiri, Rob de Jong Head of the Sustainable Mobility Unit UN Environment Programme said that the number of heavy-duty vehicles is rapidly increasing worldwide, they are a key issue for air quality due to the rapid increase in emissions worldwide.

“Trucks and buses contribute to economic growth just about anywhere in the world, but ambitious regulations are needed to curb their emissions causing major environmental and health impacts. Introduction of cleaner bus technologies can be a major driver for the global revolution to low and, ultimately, zero emissions transport,” said Jong.

HDVs participate substantially in environmental pollution, accounting for over 40% of on-road nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, over 60% of on-road particulate matter (PM 2.5), and more than 20% of black carbon emissions, as revealed in the latest report by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) according to the report.

According to the study, HDVs are projected to considerably continue to grow with increasing economic activities and the need to move people and goods. This is based on past trends where global sales of trucks and buses doubled in 15 years (2000-2015).

Many developing countries rely on used heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) imports to grow their fleet. While this promotes more affordable means to increase mobility needs in these countries, the report finds that regulation and enforcement on the quality of used HDVs imported are either low or non-existent. Further amplifying their impacts, especially in the case of old, polluting, and unsafe used HDVs.

To date, no country has minimum requirements for exporting used HDVs. The report finds regulations in over half of used HDV importing countries to be ‘weak’ or ‘very weak’ and enforcement to be inadequate. For example, while 25 African countries have adopted standards on used HDVs for air pollution control, climate mitigation, and improved road safety,

only four have fully implemented these. Worldwide, only two countries have included used vehicles in their national climate action plans (NDCs).

The report emphasizes that it is a shared responsibility of importing and exporting countries to ensure cleaner and safer used vehicles are on the roads of developing countries. It shows the need for regional cooperation in introducing and enforcing minimum standards, such as emission standards and age limits, raising public awareness, and more research, for both environmental and road safety benefits. For example, by adopting Euro VI equivalent vehicle emission standards and cleaner fuels, as many as 700 thousand premature deaths can be avoided by 2030.

Currently, 97 percent of all newly registered trucks and 73 percent of buses in the EU run on diesel. Better regulations on used HDVs can also lead to leapfrogging and greater uptake of advanced technologies in developing countries, including electric buses and trucks.

The report represents the first effort of quantifying and qualifying used heavy-duty vehicle flows, based on export data from Japan, the European Union, and the Republic of Korea – altogether representing about 60 percent of the total new and used HDV export market – to 146 predominantly low- and middle- income countries. The report has limitations, most notably discrepancies in statistics, as well as lacking publicly available data from the USA, which does not separate exports of new and used vehicles, and China, an emerging exporter.



Agnes Oloo (Kenya) ; Nairobi hosts Sixth United Nations Environment Assembly ; Citizen Digital, February 26, 2024.

To access the article : <https://www.citizen.digital/news/nairobi-hosts-sixth-united-nations-environment-assembly-n337380>

Tag: UNEA 6.



Delegates attend Sixth United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi.

Nairobi hosts Sixth United Nations Environment Assembly

Over 5,000 delegates from the 193 United Nations Member States, including Heads of State and Government, are expected to attend this year's 6th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) at the UN Complex in Gigiri, Nairobi Kenya.

The 5-day UNEA-6 will discuss a wide array of subjects guided by the theme, "effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution", the triple planetary crisis, and conclude with a Ministerial Declaration on the way forward.

One of the main points on the agenda will also be the dramatic increase of wasteful and fuel-intensive plastics, which is feeding the climate crisis.

Climate scientists argue that over 99% of plastic is made from chemicals sourced from fossil fuels, the substances responsible for 86% of CO2 emissions in the last decade. Plastic pollution reinforces the need for a binding Plastics Treaty as well as a Fossil Fuel Treaty that can tackle the root cause of both the plastics pollution crisis and the climate crisis through phasing out oil, gas and coal production.

According to the Kenyan Ministry of the Environment, Kenya is committed to multilateralism and has ratified several Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

This is with a view to strengthening actions and protecting the environment from threats, hazards or danger and for sustainable development.

UNEA-6 comes at the backdrop when the world is grappling with a number of unprecedented environmental challenge, impacting every corner of the planet.

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), the world's highest-level decision-making body for environmental matters, is set to address critical issues, focusing on the triple planetary crisis: climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.



BLEEN MEDIA

Karina Zarazafy (Madagascar) ; Crise climatique : les combustibles fossiles responsables de 86% des émissions de CO2 des 10 dernières années ; Bleen Media, 26 février 2024.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.bleenmada.com/crise-climatique-les-combustibles-fossiles-responsables-de-86-des-emissions-de-co2-des-10-dernieres-annees/>

Tag : UNEA 6, PNUE, Powershift Africa, Greenpeace Africa

Les organisations PowerShift Africa, Greenpeace Africa et l'Initiative pour un traité de non-prolifération des combustibles fossiles profitent de la tenue actuelle de la sixième session de

l'Assemblée des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement (UNEA-6) pour lancer un appel aux Etats membres afin d'agir concrètement contre les combustibles fossiles et le plastique. L'UNEA-6 se déroule au siège du Programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement (PNUE) à Nairobi, Kenya, jusqu'au 1 Mars prochain.



La sixième session de l'Assemblée des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement (UNEA-6) ouvre ce jour, et se tiendra jusqu'au 1er mars au Kenya. Les activistes du climat exigent de cet organe décisionnel le plus élevé au monde en matière d'environnement une action décisive et concrète contre les crises actuelles du climat et des plastiques alimentées par les combustibles fossiles.

Triple crise planétaire

L'UNEA-6 se concentrera selon l'organisation, « sur la manière dont le multilatéralisme peut contribuer à résoudre la triple crise planétaire du changement climatique, de la perte de la nature et de la biodiversité, et de la pollution et des déchets ». C'est notamment sur ce dernier point que les organisations Powershift Africa, Greenpeace Africa et l'Initiative pour un traité de non-prolifération des combustibles fossiles, ont insisté aujourd'hui à l'occasion de l'ouverture de la session.

« Notre planète se noie dans le plastique, une crise intimement liée à l'industrie des combustibles fossiles. Les États membres permettent aux intérêts des combustibles fossiles de diriger les négociations du traité et d'en réduire l'ambition », a alors dénoncé Hellen Kahaso Dena, responsable du projet panafricain sur les plastiques à Greenpeace Africa.

Urgence

Le processus d'extraction et de traitement des produits pétrochimiques dans la production plastique est extrêmement énergivore. Ce qui contribue énormément aux émissions de gaz à effet de serre. De plus, la demande mondiale de plastique ne cesse de croître faisant par la même occasion augmenter les besoins en combustibles fossiles. Comme le soulignent les organisations susmentionnées, « plus de 99 % des plastiques sont fabriqués à partir de produits chimiques issus de combustibles fossiles, substances responsables de 86 % des émissions de CO2 au cours de la dernière décennie ». Une situation alarmante et qui accélère l'urgence climatique.

« Mettre fin à l'addiction des entreprises au plastique est un élément important pour s'éloigner des combustibles fossiles, lutter contre le changement climatique, la pollution et protéger les communautés », a ainsi déclaré Hellen Kahaso Dena.

Dévastateur

Au niveau du continent Africain, les interpellations pour l'élimination de la production de combustibles fossiles ne cessent de s'intensifier. Amos Wemanya, conseiller principal pour les énergies renouvelables et les transitions justes à Powershift Africa, a souligné l'impact dévastateur des combustibles fossiles sur le climat en plaidant pour une transition vers des énergies propres et durables.

« Les combustibles fossiles ne parviennent pas à alimenter le continent africain. Malgré des décennies d'extraction de charbon, de pétrole et de gaz, 600 millions d'Africains sont privés d'électricité. L'ère des combustibles fossiles doit cesser maintenant si nous voulons éviter un changement climatique catastrophique. Nous exhortons les États membres de l'UNEA-6 à s'engager en faveur d'une transition rapide et juste vers les énergies renouvelables », a-t-il lancé.

Pour ces activistes du climat, il est plus que temps d'adopter et de mettre en œuvre un traité mondial sur les plastiques qui devrait être « complet et contraignant » en couvrant « l'ensemble du cycle de vie des plastiques, de la production à l'élimination ». De même, les États membres devraient également approuver et mettre en œuvre un « traité international sur les combustibles fossiles » lequel se doit d'en éliminer progressivement et équitablement la

production tout en soutenant une transition juste vers des sources d'énergie durables et renouvelables.



Agnes Oloo (Kenya) ; Climate experts: Fossil fuels driving plastics, climate crises ; Citizen Digital, February 26, 2024.

To access the article : <https://www.citizen.digital/news/climate-experts-fossil-fuels-driving-plastics-climate-crises-n337418>

Tag: UNEA 6, Greenpeace Africa, Powershift Africa.



At a press conference held at the United Nations Complex in Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya, speakers emphasised the critical need for a strong Global Plastic Treaty.

During the inaugural session of UNEA-6, environmental advocates pressed for decisive action to address the concurrent climate and plastics crises, which are exacerbated by reliance on fossil fuels.

At a press conference held at the United Nations Complex in Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya, speakers emphasised the critical need for a strong Global Plastic Treaty.

According to Hellen Kahaso Dena, Project Lead of Greenpeace Africa's Pan-Africa Plastics project, "UN Member states are allowing fossil fuel interests to drive treaty negotiations and water down its ambition.

"Ending the corporate addiction to plastic is an important part of moving away from fossil fuels, combating climate change, pollution and protecting communities."

Amos Wemanya, Senior Advisor for Renewable Energy and Just Transitions at Powershift Africa, highlighted the failure of fossil fuels to adequately power Africa, stating that "600 million Africans have been left without power." The era of fossil fuels must end now if we are to avert catastrophic climate change. We urge member states at UNEA-6 to commit to a rapid and just transition to renewable energy."

Advocates also urged for the adoption of an international treaty to phase out fossil fuels equitably and facilitate a financed global transition to renewable energy systems.

Seble Samuel, Head of Africa Campaigns and Advocacy for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, emphasized the intertwined nature of the plastics and fossil fuel crises, maintaining that "an international fossil fuel treaty is not only necessary but urgent."

Climate scientists echoed these concerns, linking plastic production to greenhouse gas emissions from the fossil fuel industry and warning against the escalating climate emergency fueled by increasing demand for both plastics and fossil fuels.

DownToEarth

Maina Waruru (Kenya) ; UNEA-6 opens with a call for environmental multilateralism ; Down to Earth, 27 February 2024.

To access the article : <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/environment/unea-6-opens-with-a-call-for-environmental-multilateralism-94682>

Tag : UNEA 6, UNEP.



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A photograph shared by UNEP Executive Director, Inger Andersen on her X account (@andersen_inger)

The sixth assembly of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEA-6) opened in Nairobi, Kenya on February 26, 2024 with a call for multilateral actions to address the rising environmental crisis fuelled by climate change.

The assembly also called upon member states to formulate and adopt a comprehensive and binding Global Plastic Treaty to address the plastics menace, formulate an international treaty for phasing out fossil fuel production and support a just transition in favour of “sustainable and renewable energy sources”.

The speakers noted that the world was drowning in plastic, a crisis linked to the fossil fuel industry, a huge contributor to climate change and pollution.

An international fossil fuel treaty was not only necessary but urgent as well, they noted, observing that a non-proliferation treaty had the potential to tackle both crises — plastics and fossil fuels — facing the world.

According to Kenya's Environment Minister Soipan Tuya, the world also needed to accelerate the implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda in order to stay the course for sustainable development.

She noted millions of people in the developing world still are in deep poverty amid heightened economic inequality, made worse by climate change.

Tuya said the solution lay in conserving the environment. She added that the global community was "not doing too well", and must change course and do so soonest.

"We are living in a time of turmoil. And I know that in this room, there are people who are, or who know, those deeply affected by this turmoil. Our response must demonstrate that multilateral diplomacy can deliver," Leila Benali, president of UNEA-6 and Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development for the Kingdom of Morocco. "As we meet here in 2024, we must be self-critical and work towards inclusive, networked and effective multilateralism that can make a tangible difference to people's lives," she added.

Strengthening environmental multilateralism

The assembly said UNEP Executive Director Inger Anderson will make resolutions to boost multilateral actions to address climate injustice and a global conversation on emerging technologies. This will equip nations with the science to help make the right choices for the future of the planet and its people under the concept of environmental multilateralism.

"We are living through an intensifying triple planetary crisis: the crisis of climate change, the crisis of nature and land loss, and the crisis of pollution and waste. This crisis casts its shadow over every person on this planet, regardless of nationality, colour, faith or gender," the director noted.

The time, she noted, had come for putting political differences aside, focusing on threats facing the planet and embarking on the pathway to a sustainable and safe future.



“We’ve all felt and seen the impacts — baking heat, intense storms, vanishing nature and species, failing soils, deadly dirty air, oceans stuffed with plastic waste and much more,” she lamented.

Unfortunately, she observed, the poor and the vulnerable, also the least responsible for climate change, were the hardest hit by the impacts which had made their lives almost unlivable.

At least 19 resolutions are before the assembly, and 30 side events and associated events are expected to take place during the five-day event.

More than 7,000 delegates from 182 UN member states and more than 170 ministers have enrolled for UNEA-6, whose theme is effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

DownToEarth

Maina Waruru (Kenya) ; UNEA-6: Rapid adoption of renewables critical for a climate-resilient world, say experts ; Down To Earth, 28 February 2024.

To access the article: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/renewable-energy/unea-6-rapid-adoption-of-renewables-critical-for-a-climate-resilient-world-say-experts-94700>

Tag: IUCN.



Photo: @andersen_inger / X

A rapid adoption of Renewable Energy (RE) sources is critical in order to achieve a climate-resilient world and to halt the effects of climate change, experts said at a side event on energy transition during the ongoing Sixth United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-6) in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

While some RE projects will initially entail a level of negative effects such as change of land use and loss, it is a fact that the world needs to quickly make the shift if it ever hopes to decarbonise the energy sector, they added.

The world was nearing a limit in terms of what level of development-related impacts it could take. This called for systemic change and an acceleration with regard to energy transition.

“It is an undeniable fact that we need to hasten the uptake of RE and decarbonise nature. At the same time, we must understand and strike a balance between the need for and limits of development,” said Jose Rubio, senior technical specialist at conservation charity, Fauna and Flora International.

However, there was a need to develop globally acceptable RE standards, spelling the best practices on how best to utilise RE for powering development around the world, he explained. This was to be done in order to minimise risks that projects posed to the environment.

The world needs three times the RE that it currently has by 2030. No efforts should be spared in trying to transition to renewables in order to halt the climate change crisis, Rubio said at the side event.

Developing standard best practices in the mining sector was also important. This was because on-site impacts on the environment were usually high and often harmful in the sector, the expert observed. He called for “responsible sourcing” of minerals.

“We need to entrench circularity as a new paradigm in the mining sector, and extend the life chain of minerals,” he said.

While there was no doubt that the time for renewables had arrived, the same had low profitability when compared to traditional energy sources. This, according to biodiversity expert at energy conglomerate Total Energies Steven Dickinson, called for companies to adopt alternative business models.

A low return on investment was one of the impediments in the transition to RE. Taking care of it would make more business sense and attract more companies to make the shift, he said during the sessions on Ensuring that the energy transition contributes to a nature and people positive planet.

Dickinson added that Total Energies was striving to make investments worth \$5 billion in REs every year, in appreciation of the risks posed to nature by fossils and other non-climate friendly energy sources.

By 2050, the conglomerate intended to increase renewable electricity production by 75 per cent. It planned to achieve this goal by producing 5 gigawatts of power globally each year, said Dickinson.

“There’s no doubt that the world must increase the pace of making the switch to REs in appreciating the roles they play in decarbonisation of economies,” he said during the event hosted by Fauna & Flora in collaboration the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association and the International Council on Mining and Metals.

According to Rachel Asante, a programme manager at IUCN, tackling climate change will require growth of RE investment in all parts of the world and the conservation umbrella body was working with governments to make sure that they understood the importance of supporting the shift.

The organisation was encouraged by the fact that there were positive moves for RE by governments around the world. Asante singled Egypt as being among countries that were very ‘positive’ in embracing RE.

Investment in the sector, however, meant that it came with some level of environmental risks that needed to be mitigated. IUCN was developing new standards for REs to make sure that projects were environmentally sustainable, she said.



Wallace Mawire (Zimbabwe) ; Zimbabwe's Smallholder Farmers Embark On Agro-Ecology Initiatives ; Pan African Visions, February 28, 2024.

To access the article : <https://panafricanvisions.com/2024/02/zimbabwes-smallholder-farmers-embark-on-agro-ecology-initiatives/>



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Zimbabwe's smallholder farmers are intensifying the adoption and implementation of agro-ecology projects as the country continues to fall prone to the negative impacts of climate change in most of its agro-ecological zones.

Due to climate change, most parts of the country are witnessing less or no rainfall. During the current season, the forecast predicted low to below normal rainfall and many farmers throughout the various regions of the country are beginning to see their crop getting dry due to poor and low rainfall. Also most of the farmers in the country rely on rain-fed agriculture, highlighting the need for adoption of irrigation projects to boost agriculture production.

Zimbabwe is divided into five agro-ecological regions, known as natural regions on the basis of the rainfall regime, soil quality and vegetation among other factors. The quality of land resource

declines from natural region one to five, according Researchers Moyo in 2000, Vincent and Thomas in 1961.

The government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Development has expressed keen interest to facilitate the drilling of boreholes and establishment of irrigation projects to safeguard smallholder farmers from climate change.

In Zimbabwe, a Non-Governmental Organization, the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Zimbabwe is at the forefront of supporting and enhancing capacity building for smallholder farmers throughout the different agro-ecological zones of the country for the implementation and adoption of agro-ecology projects.

PELUM works with other partner organizations, institutions and farmers associations to facilitate trainings for the farmers on adoption of agro-ecology.

The organization works on increasing smallholder farmers' resilience through strengthening community based seed systems.

PELUM-Zimbabwe began when the regional PELUM Association was launched in 1995. During its early years, the NGO was active in networking, capacity-building and it established the PELUM College Zimbabwe, the first agro-ecological school without walls in Southern Africa where trainings on agro-ecology were conducted.

Its works through its member organizations who in turn work with small scale farmers in Zimbabwe.

Member organizations should be legally registered to operate in the country to provide training and services to communities to promote sustainable livelihoods and should have a record of such work service of at least two years.

Its mission is to upscale participatory ecological land use management practices for improved nutrition security, livelihoods and environmental sustainability.

According to an organization called More and Better, agro-ecology shares much in common with other approaches to sustainable farming.

The organization says that agro-ecology is farming that centres on food production that makes the best use of nature's goods and services while not damaging the resources.

The organization also adds that farming thrives when it works with local ecosystems, for example, improving soil and plant quality through available biomass and biodiversity, rather than battling nature with chemical inputs.

They add that agro-ecological farmers seek to improve food yields for balanced nutrition, strengthen fair markets for their produce, enhance healthy ecosystems and build on ancestral knowledge and customs.

More and Better says that worldwide, scientists, grassroots organizations, NGOs, consumers, universities and public agencies are working with farmers to construct sustainable and nutritious food systems based on agro-ecology.

In its bid to enhance the adoption and promote agro-ecology projects with smallholder farmers in the country, PELUM-Zimbabwe facilitated a learning and exchange visit for smallholder farmers, farmers organizations and associations and its partner organizations to share experiences and promote the adoption of agro-ecological projects for farmers enhancement.

The exchange programme was conducted at Shashe School of Agro-ecology at Shashe in Mashava district of Masvingo of Zimbabwe on 20 to 21 February, 2024.

The exchange visit programme was attended by local farmers from Shashe and associations, farmers, farmers associations and partner organizations of PELUM-Zimbabwe.

Participants were drawn from areas of the country such as Bikita, Chimanimani, Mwenezi, Makonde, Mbire, Chirumanzi, Guruve, Bindura, Gutu, Rusape, Harare, Goromonzi and Matebeleland province.

The exchange programme was supported by PELUM-Zimbabwe as the lead organization under the Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Programme (ZSSP). It was meant to be a platform old and new farmers and organizations to share and exchange experiences on agro-ecology.

The Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Programme is a multi-year programme underpinned by agro-ecological principles.

Its vision is towards seed sovereignty of farming communities who depend and rely on crop production.

The programme aims to protect and promote farmers rights.

It has established seed banks, seed fairs and raises awareness of the importance of cultivating food that is native to the land.

The seed sovereignty project is dedicated to promoting farmer seed systems through seed saving, seed multiplication and agro-ecological practices.

The project supports communities to revive their lost seed varieties as a way to diversify food production and reduce dependency on a few grain crops like maize.

ZSSP was formed in 2014 by a collaborative of seven NGOs in Zimbabwe. Peter Mudzingwa, ZSSP Representative told participants at the exchange visit programme in Shashe that they are now currently 10 organizations participating in the initiative and it has grown.

Under the initiative, centres of excellence on agro-ecology adoption have also been established like at Shashe. At the centres, field visits are made to outstanding farmers homesteads who are active in the application of agro-ecological methods for other farmers to learn from their experiences.

At the Shashe visit, farmer field visits were made to Mr Abumeleck Matsenhure's Village, Mavedzenge Village, Mrs Mpofu's village and Mr Peter Mudzingwa's village.

These are some of the outstanding farmers in the Shashe district who are implementing successful agro-ecology projects to improve their agricultural production, incomes and livelihoods.

PELUM-Zimbabwe has also conducted similar exchange visits with farmers and farmers organizations to other regions in Zimbabwe like Chimanimani and Zvishavane.

Participants at the Shashe exchange visit remarked that the district stands outstanding as a model of excellence in the application of agro-ecology projects and initiatives.

Farmers at Shashe implementing agro-ecology projects have benefitted immensely from the training offered at the Shashe Agroecology School and are implementing various initiatives and projects at their homesteads.

Some of the initiatives include establishment of agroforestry, adopting intercropping, downland conservation, water harvesting, stonewalls to capture water, manure making and preservation fishponds, dead-level contours, standard and upland conservation contours, promotion of the use of natural herbs, nutrition gardens, processing-centre driers, earth dams

including the establishment of seed banks, information centres, gene banks and seed stores for keeping seed stock.

TalkAFRICA

Lenah Bosibori (Kenya) ; UNEA-6: Lobby Group Calls for End to Fossil Fuels in Africa ; Talk Africa, February 28, 2024.

To access the article : <https://www.talkafrica.co.ke/unea-6-lobby-group-calls-for-end-to-fossil-fuels-in-africa/>

Tag: UNEA 6, Greenpeace Africa.

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Nairobi, Kenya: As over 5,000 delegates from more than 180 nations convened in Nairobi during the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA -6), fossil fuels crisis eradication took to the center stage during a side event organized by Greenpeace Africa.

The Lobby demanded an end to fossil fuels and welcomed a decisive action against the ongoing climate and plastics crises that have been largely fueled by fossil fuels.

Speaking during the event, Hellen Dena, Project Lead of the Pan-African Plastics Project at Greenpeace Africa said that the planet is drowning in plastics, a crisis intricately linked to the fossil fuel industry.

“Our planet is drowning in plastic, a crisis intricately linked to the fossil fuel industry. Member states are allowing fossil fuel interests to drive the treaty negotiations and water down their ambition. Ending the corporate addiction to plastic is an important part of moving away from fossil fuels, combating climate change, and pollution, and protecting communities,” said Dena.

Dena added that when it comes to plastic pollution, it might not seem as much but every time one carries a reusable water bottle, she/he is contributing to less plastic footprint and plastic waste.

“We need collective responsibility and we are also calling upon big businesses from America, Europe, and the UK into the table in order for us to be able to deal with this crisis, this is because they are the people with resources, they can invest, research and develop,” added Dena.

On her part Seble Samuel head of Africa Campaigns and Advocacy for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative called for the adoption of an international treaty to equitably phase out fossil fuels and deliver a financial global just transition to distributed renewable energy systems.

“An international fossil fuel treaty is not only necessary, it is urgent. We need binding commitments to phase out fossil fuels and ensure a just transition for affected communities, particularly in Africa, that diversifies economies, deploys renewables, builds development alternatives, and puts finance, technology, justice, and equity at the Centre,” said Samuel.

She reiterated that there are three substances that have driven around 90 percent of carbon emissions in the last decade, the three are coal oil and gas, and despite being the leading driver of the climate crisis, they are completely absent from our international policy, they have become geniuses in making themselves be invisible in our negotiations despite being the main driver of this crisis.

“We ask ourselves how are we going to deal with the crisis if we are not dealing with the root cause? The African continent has the right to development but is being held back by fossil fuels,” added Samuel.

The proposed Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty aims to provide a binding plan for a managed with three pillars just transition, non-proliferation and fair phase out.

According to Samuel, there is a growing momentum for fossil fuels treaties as 12 nation states have backed the proposal and over 1000 organizations supporting it.

She further says that fossil fuels have underdeveloped the African continent citing a challenge to accessing clean energy and clean cooking, she notes that most fossil fuel operations on the continent are headquartered abroad.

“We need a binding plan which is the proposal that comes from the fossil fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty written on the shoulders of the entire end fossil fuels movement and the call for renewable energy.

Countries are on track to produce 110 percent more fossil fuels between now and 2030, than what we can safely burn to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, this massive overshoot and its happening because there is no framework to rein in this production and it’s leading us to dangerous overshoots of our climate targets.

Amos Wamanya Senior Advisor for Renewable Energy and Just Transition at Powershift Africa Africa highlighted the devastating impact of fossil fuels on the climate.

“Fossil fuels are failing to power the African continent, despite decades of coal, oil, and gas extraction, 600 million people lack energy access, the era of fossil fuels must end now if we are to avert catastrophic climate change. We urge member states at UNEa-6 to commit to a rapid and just transition to renewable energy,” said Wamanya.

Further, the lobby reiterates that Africa is a continent with 950 million people inhaling toxic fuels every single day because they don’t have access to clean cooking and it has made Sub-Saharan Africa an energy poverty hotspot. “We do not own our energy, 60 percent of the fossil fuel operations on this continent are headquartered abroad, the majority in Europe,” added Samuel.

Gas outlook

Samuel Ajala (Nigeria) ; Nigeria on “brink of a new era” say President at energy summit ; Gas Outlook, 28 February 2024.

To access the article : <https://gasoutlook.com/analysis/nigeria-on-brink-of-a-new-era-say-president-at-energy-summit/>

Tag: African Energy Bank, African Export-Import Bank.



An aerial view of Abuja, Nigeria (Photo: Adobe Stock/Terver)

(Abuja, Nigeria) — African leaders and energy experts emphasised the need for energy security and financial resources for Africa to achieve a just and orderly energy transition at the Nigeria International Energy Summit (NIES).

This was said on Tuesday in Abuja at the launch of the seventh edition of the summit, the official industry event of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The summit is a global platform for stimulating discussions, interactions, and signing high-level deals in the oil and gas sector. It brings together governments, national and international oil companies, independents, investors, and service providers from Nigeria and other countries worldwide.

During the official launch of the summit, Nigerian President Bola Tinubu emphasised that the country must leverage innovation and collaboration to ensure a smooth and just transition that will leave no one behind. The President, represented by Mohammed Idris, Minister of Information and National Orientation, noted that the petroleum subsidy had strained the country's economic resources, leading to inefficiencies and hindering its ability to invest in critical areas of energy security.

“We are creating a more transparent and accountable energy sector. The funds that were previously allocated to subsidising petroleum products are now redirected towards developing and upgrading our energy and other social infrastructure,” he added

“While we are immersed in energy security, let us not forget that energy transition is another key aspect of our discussions. We stand on the brink of a new era, where traditional energy sources are being complemented and, in some cases, replaced by cleaner and more sustainable alternatives. This transition is not only an environmental necessity but also an economic opportunity,” the President stated.

A Special Adviser to the President on Energy, Olu Verheijen, during a plenary session, said the global energy markets have gone through an exciting phase since the Russian-Ukraine war. She said this means that Nigeria has a role to play in meeting energy security domestically and globally.

Affordability of sustainable alternatives

Olu said Nigeria and other African countries have to make sure that the transition from fossil fuels matches the affordability of sustainable energy sources. “So when we look at the levelised cost of solar, especially grid-scale solar alternative energy sources, it is still twice or three times the cost of gas. I think the idea and the theme of this conference is really to think through what we can do to enable ourselves to provide energy security, to make sure we're doing so sustainably, and that we can make sure that this is affordable.”

According to Ekperikpe Ekpo, Nigeria's Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Gas), energy finance is essential for transformative endeavours, and the gas sector is not exceptional. He said during his address that attracting domestic investment is important to unlock the full potential of Nigeria's gas resources.

“Cooperation from international partners and financial institutions is vital for gas infrastructure development. The nation is rich in natural gas reserves. It is now essential to strategically channel these reserves into job creation, poverty eradication, and environmental sustainability.

Expo said the shift toward gas is an option and a necessity for Nigeria’s economic development, an opinion that many energy transition experts and climate leaders would regard as unhelpful since they think gas should not be a component of the transition at all. “We will continue the development of energy infrastructure while ensuring natural gas is affordable for domestic consumption and encourage the adoption of compressed natural gas for transportation and household use, respectively, “ he said.

Creation of African Energy Bank

At the summit, Dr Omar Ibrahim, the Secretary General of the African Petroleum Producers’ Organization, said energy security is important in every country to industrialise the economy and improve people’s lives.

He said African countries need to focus on permanent emissions, not the temporary ones. “Africans can’t afford to abandon their thousands or millions of barrels of gas in the name of righting the wrongs committed by others, especially when those others are still benefiting from the wrongs that they chose at the expense of others. And they have the capacity to right the wrong without denying others the opportunity also to use the same energy to better their lives or their people.”

Dr Omar said that looking to the same source for financing for technology and markets for Africa’s energy transition will not work. He said financial issues had formed the basis for establishing the African Energy Bank in collaboration with the African Export-Import Bank.

“I’m pleased to say that this bank will take off by the middle of this year. A decision on the energy bank headquarters shall be taken in the first quarter of this year, that is, by the 31st of March. Seven countries are in for the vote: Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Benin Republic and Cote D’Ivoire.”

Technology and expertise challenge

According to Dr Omar, beyond finance, there is a technology and expertise challenge in Africa's energy transition. He said no African country can succeed in the oil and gas industry if Western countries decide to move away.

"And none of us has the money to establish the kind of research institutions that can make us excel," he added.

"Finally, there is no point we've been told severally that we are too poor to buy energy. Ladies and gentlemen, I don't believe we are poor. Africa is rich, our governments are rich. If only they will seek and prioritise and eliminate corruption."

DownToEarth

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Maina Waruru (Kenya) ; UNEA-6: Over a third of global population living with solid waste, reveals report ; Down to Earth, 29 February 2024.

To access the article : <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/waste/unea-6-over-a-third-of-global-population-living-with-solid-waste-reveals-report-94725>

Tag: GWMO 2024, UNEA 6, UNEP.



Photo shared by @andersen_inger / X

More than a third of the world's population is drowning in waste, with over 2.7 billion people in the Global South and developing regions of the world not having their waste collected.

Two billion of the 2.7 billion live in rural areas, while 700,000 live in cities, a new United Nations report has found.

It also showed that an estimated 540 million tones of municipal solid waste, an equivalent of 27 per cent of the global total waste, is not being collected. Only 36 per cent and 37 per cent of the refuse generated in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central and South Asia respectively is being collected.

This is in sharp contrast to the situation in the developed and upper middle-income regions of the world where almost all of the waste is collected — between 83 per cent for the Caribbean and 99 per cent for North America.

The global average waste collection rate is 75 per cent, the report titled Turning rubbish into a resource: Global Waste Management Outlook 2024 (GWMO 2024) revealed.

It also predicted that waste generated was set to grow in volumes — from 2.3 billion tones in 2023 to 3.8 billion tones by 2050. This would worsen the burden of managing it.

“In 2020, the global direct cost of waste management was an estimated \$252 billion. When factoring in the hidden costs of pollution, poor health and climate change from poor waste disposal practices, the cost rises to \$361 billion,” said the document, launched during the Sixth United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-6) at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

“Without urgent action on waste management, by 2050 this global annual cost could almost double to a staggering \$640.3 billion,” it added.

This can however be mitigated by management of the refuse and could potentially limit the net annual costs by 2050 to \$270.2 billion, it observed.

It added:

Projections show that a circular economy model, where waste generation and economic growth are decoupled by adopting waste avoidance, sustainable business practices, and full waste management, could in fact lead to a full net gain of \$108.5 billion per year.

The report provided the most substantial update on global waste generation and the cost of waste and its management since 2018, using life cycle assessments to explore what the world could gain or lose through continuing business-as-usual, adopting halfway measures, or committing fully to zero waste and circular economy societies.

According to lead author Zoë Lenkiewicz, no country in the world (including developed ones) had managed to ‘decouple’ development from waste generation so far, with the two going hand-in-hand always.

The waste continued to pose a threat to ecosystems and contribute to climate change. The threat from the refuse is predicted to double by 2050.

A rise to \$640 billion in the cost of the refuse by 2050 clearly means that this is unaffordable for the world and it is time to take action against the acceleration.

“The message from this study is clear. We must now decide the kind of future that we want to pursue,” Lenkiewicz said.

She added that the world was largely ignoring the climate, health and economic impacts that came with waste. Key segments of society — notably women and the informal sector — were not being involved in making decisions on municipal waste, a major barrier in processing the refuse.

“Women are receptive to waste prevention measures while waste pickers are key to removal of waste and should not be forgotten,” Lenkiewicz noted.

She called for inclusive approaches that bring citizens on board in handling waste, noting with concern that shipping of waste around the world is a vice that has continued despite being a serious environmental crime.

“We recommend that the world needs to integrate the principles of just transition to a circular economy in order to better manage waste, and note that many countries need to build their national expertise in waste management,” said Lenkiewicz.

Dealing with the menace of municipal waste will require addressing the whole value chain in production of various goods and commodities, with an emphasis on ‘upstream’ measures at manufacturing stage, as opposed to ‘downstream’ measures which involved managing waste, said UNEP’s Director of Industry and Economy Division Sheila Aggarwal-Khan.

This would mean an end to things like production of single-use plastic bags that is now the subject of ongoing negotiations for a global plastics treaty, she added.

In the interest of circularity, it would also involve things like companies producing more returnable containers as happened with some beverages.

DownToEarth

Maina Waruru (Kenya) ; UNEA-6: Nature-based solutions for climate facing a funding crisis, says Andersen ; Down to Earth, 29 February 2024.

To access the article : <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/environment/unea-6-nature-based-solutions-for-climate-facing-a-funding-crisis-says-andersen-94724>



Photo shared by @andersen_inger / X

Tag: UNEP, UNEA, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, Global Biodiversity Framework

Nature-based solutions to the global climate crisis remain grossly underfunded, receiving only a fraction of what is needed to help them make a significant contribution in taming the crisis.

The solutions receive only about \$200 billion globally a year, which is less than a third of the over \$600 billion required annually by 2030, to meet the goals of climate, biodiversity loss and halting land degradation.

Even worse, their importance is being made more urgent by continued investments in sectors and in ways that harm nature and worsen climate change, said Inger Andersen, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), at the ongoing Sixth United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-6) in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

“They are not just underfunded, however. They are being undone by \$7 trillion in nature-negative finance that flows annually from harmful subsidies and investments,” Andersen said.

With the money not forthcoming, ending “nature-negative finance flows” remained the best way to halt and reverse the losses, Andersen noted.

“We need to change the incentives, in this case policies. We need to provide the data on long-term economic losses and shift business practices and our understanding as well as the way we do business,” Andersen said.

Nature-based solutions include reforestation, afforestation and land restoration which have the potential to slow down the climate crisis and build resilience among communities by halting the loss and restoring biodiversity.

Andersen noted that in urban areas, forests provided a “vital connection to nature” and helped cool the extreme temperatures that have not been experienced in all parts of the world, including in temperate climates in recent years.

The assembly, she said, was gathering in Nairobi, to find “inclusive multilateral solutions” to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss and the crisis of pollution and waste.

“We are doing so because a stable climate, healthy nature and pollution-free planet are the bedrock of our societies and economies,” the director remarked.

Andersen spoke at a session on Science-Policy Business Forum on February 28 during UNEA-6 at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, where she made a case for nature-based solutions to the triple crisis, particularly in urban settings.

Investment opportunities, especially in Africa, respecting the integrity of protected areas while avoiding deforestation have the potential to be particularly cost-effective, she explained.

Andersen made a case for debt for climate and nature swaps as previously proposed by a number of developing countries, currently faced by a debt crisis.

“These swaps can provide a solution to the interconnected challenges of debt, climate and nature loss — especially. They can open-up fiscal space, leverage additional finance and develop regional approaches for shared ecosystems,” she noted, citing the example of the Latin American country of Ecuador.

The country, she said, had made a debt-for-nature swap, saving it \$1.1 billion in loan repayments while providing no less than \$450 million for conservation programmes.

“UNEP is exploring debt for climate and nature swaps in the Latin America and Caribbean region. A key proposal of our technical approach was the development of a regional framework to promote sustainability and manage debt, which would strengthen collaboration, solidarity and solvability,” Andersen said.

At the same time, the assembly on February 28 launched a call for nominations for its Young Champions of the Earth award, which recognizes youth’s contributions in efforts to protect the environment.

The call is seeking seven young people, aged between 18 and 30 years, already undertaking initiatives to protect the environment to fight climate change. The Young Champions of the Earth is led in partnership with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and in support of the new Global Biodiversity Framework.



Jackson Okata (Kenya) ; Air Quality Sensors Boosting Nairobi's Fight Against Air Pollution ; IPS News, 29 February 2024.

To access the article : <https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/02/air-quality-sensors-boosting-nairobis-fight-air-pollution/>

Tag: WHO, CCAC, UNEP, UNEA 6.



A mother and her children are seen wading through a cloud of smoke at the Dandora dumpsite, Kenya's largest open landfill. Smoke emanating from the dumpsite is cited as a contributor to air pollution in Nairobi. Credit:

Jackson Okata/IPS

NAIROBI, Feb 29 2024 (IPS) - Deborah Adhiambo (43) has been battling mild asthma since 2022, a condition she describes as “both a health and economic burden.” The mother of three lives within Dandora Estate, nine miles east of Kenya’s capital, Nairobi. Dandora is home to Kenya’s largest open landfill, which receives more than 2,000 metric tones of waste daily.

For five years, Adhiambo operated a makeshift restaurant near the dumpsite, where her main clients were waste pickers working within its environs.

“Working near the dumpsite exposed me to the heavy smoke that billows from the dumpsite. I started developing chest pains gradually and would take painkillers to subdue the pain. It was later that I was diagnosed with asthma,” Adhiambo told IPS.

Adhiambo’s doctors told her that prolonged and constant exposure to toxic fumes was the root cause of her asthma. She was forced to close her business since she could not venture out of her house early in the morning, late in the evenings or during cold seasons.

“The closure of my business due to sickness crippled me economically as it was my only source of income. Getting medication and feeding my family has been hard because now I have to rely on my husband, who also works at the dumpsite,” she says.

Nairobi’s Air Quality

More than 70 percent of Nairobi’s 5.3 million residents live in informal settlements like Dandora, which analysts say have the worst air quality, with vulnerable populations, particularly women and children, bearing the brunt of polluted air. Vehicles, open burning of waste, and industrial emissions are cited as the major sources of air pollutants in Nairobi. Motor vehicles contribute an estimated 40 percent of Nairobi’s particulate matter (PM2.5) air pollution concentrations, with illegal dumping and open waste burning contributing 25 percent.

And as both the population and economic output of Kenya’s capital keep expanding, the demand for energy from fossil fuels is also on the rise. The rapid expansion of Nairobi has taken an environmental toll on the city, which is evident in the worsening air pollution levels. Air pollution in Kenya’s capital is 4.2 times higher than the World Health Organization’s (WHO) recommended average annual concentration levels.

According to the World Health Organization, Nairobi’s air pollution is 2.4 times higher than recommended levels, with 19,000 poor air quality deaths being reported in Kenya annually.



A technician installs a low-cost air quality monitor sensor in Nairobi, Kenya. Air quality monitors are helping Nairobi collect data on air pollution. Credit: Jackson Okata/IPS

Tech and Data

To enhance her efforts in combating air pollution, the City of Nairobi has been incorporating the use of technology. The city management has been installing low-cost air quality monitors and sensors to gather and share data on the levels of air pollution trends across the city. The data collected is then analyzed and guided in the formulation of policies and legal frameworks to combat air pollution, even as East Africa's economic giant works towards realizing her ambitious target of becoming a net-zero green city by 2030.

Dubbed AirQo monitors, the low-cost air quality sensors developed by a team of young engineering and computer science students at Uganda's Makerere University are in use in eight countries, including Kenya.

Engineer Bainomugisha, an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Makerere University and lead developer of the AirQo monitoring system, says Sub-Saharan Africa lacks usable air quality data that can help in the formulation of proper and effective policies to combat air pollution. AirQo monitors collect information about air pollution levels, types of air pollutants, and air quality

Bainomugisha explains that the air quality monitors main aim is to “close the existing gap in air quality monitoring.” AirQo air quality monitors collect air samples, which are then analyzed through a light scattering technology that quantifies the particulate matter concentration.

The information is then relayed to a cloud-based network that determines the pollution levels in a specific area. The devices measure the air particulate matter PM2.5 and PM10, which is a mixture of solid particles in the air. They also capture ambient meteorological conditions such as humidity and atmospheric pressure

“The air quality monitors run on a 2G GSM-enabled network configuration for IoT sim cards and are optimized to work in areas with unstable internet and power connectivity,” says Gideon Lubisia, AirQo’s international operations embedded systems and network support engineer.

AirQo has also developed a mobile app that allows people to receive periodic and real-time updates on the air quality in their city. The monitors are mounted at strategic points within the city’s Central Business District, industrial areas, markets, along major city highways and in select residential areas. while others are mounted on motorbikes that move from one location to another, collecting data.

Data and Policy Formulation

With the monitors in place, Nairobi City has been able to develop two air quality collocation installations and infrastructure reference grade monitors, according to Nairobi City County Deputy Director in Charge of Air Quality and Climate Maurice Kavai.

“The one-stop center collocation enables our research teams to compare air quality data collected from various points within the city, which is key in developing appropriate action,” Kivai explained.

“The availability of periodic data collected by the monitors enables the city to establish the extent of pollution in particular areas, identify the causes, and develop necessary actions,” he said.

Through air quality data collected through the monitors and establishing the extent of air pollution in the city, Nairobi has been able to develop a city Air Quality Action Plan as well as enact the Nairobi City County Air Quality Act which have become critical policy and legal assets in tackling the problem of air pollution.

AirQo monitors are now in use within select cities in eight African countries, including Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Cameroon, Burundi, Ghana, Mozambique, and Senegal.

Global Push for Clean Air

During the Climate and Clean Air Conference (CCAC) 2024 in Nairobi between February 21 and 23, 2024, ahead of the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), member states and partners launched a Clean Air Flagship effort to provide, among other things, data-led policy action towards combating air pollution

Inger Andersen, UNEP's Executive Director, said, "We need to push harder on superpollutants. Just as you need a superhero to defeat a supervillain, we need super solutions to face down super pollutants. And we need you to mastermind these solutions."

Speaking on the sidelines of the CCAC, Kenyan environmentalist Elizabeth Wathuti observed that "the very essence of life starts with a breath, a gasp of air that signifies the beginning of our journey on this Earth. Yet, for too many across our globe, this fundamental act of breathing has become a hazard, a risk, and a gamble against the odds of pollution and climate-induced adversities." According to Wathuti, the commitment to clean air and a stable climate is not just an environmental cause but a fight for the very right to life.

The World Health Organization estimates that 99 percent of the world's population lives in places with poor air quality, leading to nearly seven million premature deaths per year, primarily in low- and middle-income countries.

According to UNEP, in Africa alone, ambient air pollution caused an estimated 400,000 premature deaths in 2019, while indoor air pollution caused more than one million premature deaths in the same year. Some of the leading air pollution-related ailments that contribute to these premature deaths include pneumonia, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, chronic lung disease, and lung cancer. Ambient air pollution and household air pollution are associated with 6.7 million premature deaths annually.