

United Nations Environment Programme

Addis Ababa Highlights



Africa to Increase Pace on Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Report by Mariane Akumu & Mahelet Guoshe



Fatoumata Jallow-Ndoye, Project Coordinator

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are vital tools and frameworks for ensuring coordinated national and regional measures to effect needed global change in environmental management for sustainable use and conservation of resources. Many MEAs seek to protect ecosystems and resources that directly affect daily survival in a continent highly dependent on climate-sensitive areas such as agriculture and food security. In spite of the importance of MEAs to the continent, Africa and other countries in the broader grouping of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) face major constraints and lack the capacity to implement and enforce a wide range of global and regional environmental agreements. To remedy this, the European Commission (EC) has provided funds through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for a programme to assist ACP countries to speed up implementation of MEAs. It is in this context that, acting as the Africa hub of the EC-ACP programme the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the Commission of the African Union held a **needs assessment and prioritisation workshop** on 16-18 September 2009

at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa. On the UNEP side the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP/DELCC) drives the programme in partnership with the Regional Office for Africa.

The European Commission support to Africa came under the framework of the 9th European Development Fund (EDF) for the establishment of a capacity building programme related to MEAs in ACP countries. It covers four sub-components namely, Clean Development Mechanism, combating desertification, sound management of chemicals, and clean up of obsolete pesticides.

On behalf of Commissioner Rhoda-Peace Tumusiime, AUC/DREA's Acting Director Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel welcomed the participants and opened the workshop. He reiterated Africa's need to adapt quickly to changes in the environment. He noted that despite this fact, the environment sector is still not considered a priority by most governments. The AUC is making efforts to support regional and national efforts like the climate change negotiations that will culminate in the UNFCCC Conference of

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Africa to Increase Pace on Multilateral Environmental Agreements



Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel

the Parties in Copenhagen in December 2009. He thanked partners such as the EC for the support they provided but reminded everyone that the onus is on Africa to follow through.

Speaking on behalf of UNEP, Strike Mkandla, hailed the EC-ACP MEAs programme as an innovative approach to helping countries. He noted that African countries are party to many conventions such as the UNFCCC, Stockholm and Basel Conventions but the promises made there are hampered by lack of implementation capacity. He thanked the various partners aiding the project especially the African Union and encouraged the AU's Member States to support the institution in its efforts. On the climate change negotiations, he saw Africa's having one voice at the Copenhagen Summit as an important step and noted the key role of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) whose June 2008 session started the consolidation of climate change programmes pushed for meaningful support to African Negotiators to develop the framework for an African Common Position on climate change. The AMCEN Special Session in May 2009 had subsequently adopted an advanced version of the common position submitted by the AUC for endorsement to the African Union Summit in Sirte in July 2009. Through this joint effort Africa has been well prepared for Copenhagen.

The UNEP/DELDC representative, Mr. Robert Wabunoha expressed his hope that this workshop would enhance regional, sub-regional and national capacities. The overall facilitator of the workshop Mr. Maurice Makoloo Odhiambo reiterated this and said the initiative was a long overdue process. Ms. Fatoumata Jallow-Ndoye from the AUC also restated the importance of such workshops as a means to create awareness about the legal and regulatory instruments. She also highlighted the importance of the focal points in this endeavour and encouraged the partners to continue providing support.

Needs and constraints identified

Group discussions were undertaken, clustered around environmental concerns like biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification and sustainable land management, water resource management, pollution and waste management. Predictably, the observations of participants were that even though their countries are signatories to numerous MEA's, the capacity of the countries to implement their MEA obligations is limited, due to a number of reasons.

Generally, the countries lack sufficient institutional capacity; they have poor collaboration between institutions, unclear mandate and lack financial and logistical means for the implementation of MEAs. On the whole there are weak policies, and countries lack capacity to formulate environmental policies and to integrate them into existing institutional mechanisms. Thus lack of national environmental legislation has hindered follow-up of their obligations under the MEAs to which they are signatories. Weak information exchange mechanisms also hinder the development and implementation of environmental policies and will stifle efforts to raise public awareness, sensitise all policy makers, civil society and other target groups. Lack of human and technical resources stemming from budgetary constraints are a major constraint, pointing to the need for building the capacity of enforcement personnel, through training in enforcement of environmental law and regional cooperation for effective implementation of MEAs. Mr. Abou Bamba of the Ramsar Convention gave an overview of capacity building needs under that convention.

As a sequel to the inception workshop, Ms. Fatoumata Jallow-Ndoye outlined the next agenda as the development of work plans. She also stressed the need for Member States to take ownership of the project and hoped that the activities would start in earnest by March 2010.



Mr. Maurice Makoloo Odhiambo

Promoting Resource Efficiency in Ethiopian Industries

Report by Robi Redda

The efficient use of resources is good for the environment but also for business. Conversely, inefficient use or waste of resources is bad for the bottom line and can add to premature depletion of essential resources and unnecessary stresses on environment. This nexus between industry and environment is behind a project launched on 21 September 2009 at the Queen of Sheba Hotel in Addis Ababa, the result of collaboration between the Paris-based Division of Trade, Industry and Economics of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-DTIE), the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) and the Ethiopian Cleaner Production Centre (ECPC). The project, '*Promoting Resource Efficiency for Small and Medium Enterprises in Developing Countries (PRE-SME)*', is part of a global program developed and implemented by UNEP, building on the experiences of UNEP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The main objective of PRE-SME is to build national capacity that supports SMEs to develop and implement resource efficient and cleaner production programmes that improve their competitiveness and reduce their environmental impact. The project is currently implemented in two pilot countries, namely Ethiopia and Vietnam.

Trade and Industry Minister Launches Project

H.E. Mr. Tadesse Haile, Ethiopia's State Minister Trade and Industry, officially opened the workshop and launched the project. Participants came from governmental and non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and bilateral donor agencies, small and medium scale industries, and National Cleaner Production Centres in the African region. This followed welcoming remarks from Mr. Getahun Tadesse, Head of the Metal Products Development Centre (MPDC) a keynote address from H.E. Mr. Wondwossen Kiflu, State Minister of Education, who highlighted the project's complimentary role in supporting the institutional and technical capacity building efforts of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Dr. Desta Mebratu, Head of UNEP-DTIE Business and Industry Unit, gave a detailed presentation on the need for resource efficient and sustainable production/consumption practices in developing countries, stressing the macro (global) and micro (local) imperatives. Dr. Nebilyeul

Gesesse, National Consultant and Team Leader for the Ethiopia pilot project, presented the country needs assessment study that was undertaken for this project. His presentation covered criteria developed and used for selecting SMEs that will be part and parcel of the pilot resource efficiency exercise, as well as the thematic areas for intervention. The presentation by Robi Redda, Project Officer based in the UNEP Addis Ababa Office, was based on a case studies report that was prepared to illustrate and highlight existing successful resource efficiency initiatives and practices in the country. Finally Lelissa Daba, Director of ECPC, presented the piloting exercise that is to be undertaken in the selected enterprises in 2009-2010, thereby showing the expected concrete outcomes. During the presentations the participants were active in providing feedback on how to enhance the expected outcomes of the project.

The Regional Workshop

The launch of the Ethiopia PRE-SME project on 21 September was immediately followed by a regional workshop on 22-25 September 2009. The regional workshop was more technical and specific as it aimed to validate the proposed approaches and methods for promoting resource efficiency in SMEs, based on a draft generic toolkit developed for this purpose. In particular, the workshop aimed to validate the responsiveness and user-friendliness of this draft toolkit to users in developing countries. There were 25 participants, mainly local and regional experts in resource efficiency and cleaner production. The regional participants were for the most part from National Cleaner Production Centres in the African region.

Following Dr. Desta Mebratu's welcoming address and introduction of the UNEP/UNIDO program on resource efficiency, the participants presented their experiences and expectations from the workshop. The structure of the workshop was then presented by Dr. Johannes Fresner (STENUM Consultants) and N. Sreenivas (ECC International Consultants), who were the international resource persons representing the consultants group that developed the draft generic toolkit on resource efficiency. On the first day the workshop focused on providing the participants with a comprehensive background on resource efficiency and an overview

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Gender and Climate Change meetings in Addis Ababa

The Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) whose founder members are UNEP, UNDP, IUCN and WEDO in collaboration with the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for Environment (NWMLE); African Ministers Conference for Environment (AMCEN) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) will be holding a series of Gender and Climate Change meetings in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 15 to 18 October 2009. The first meeting will be a training of trainers' workshop that will be attended by participants from over 20 countries in Africa who will undergo an intensive three-day process in integration of gender into climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies using examples from Africa. The second meeting is an orientation session for government delegates attending the Africa negotiators meeting (planned for 19-20 October, 2009). The session will update delegates who are involved in national and global climate change planning and negotiations on the intersection of gender and climate change and will be held on 18 October 2009 at the UN Conference Centre in Addis Ababa.

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Promoting Resource Efficiency in Ethiopian Industries

of the developed draft toolkit. Day two and three focused on assessing the usability and user-friendliness of the toolkit based on practical exercises that were provided to the participants. These exercises were provided in a number of thematic areas of resource efficiency that were considered in the development of the toolkit.

Evaluation of toolkit and development of industry manual

From the consultative session of the last day and the consequent feedback provided by the participants it was noted that the draft generic toolkit was quite useful and applicable to SMEs in the country. It was also the group's observation that the toolkit provided comprehensive tools and resources in the different thematic areas of resource efficiency. However, it was also the observation of the group that important modifications were required to

make the toolkit user-friendly. Moreover, program compatibility was an important issue discussed, as the usability of the toolkit will be in part determined by its versatility in terms of its computer systems requirement.

In the final session devoted to brainstorming, the team identified and compiled issues for potential incorporation in the industrial training manual that is to be prepared per industrial sector using the toolkit as the main resource. As the way forward the Ethiopian technical team, which is led by ECPC, indicated its commitment to bring on-board the selected SMEs for the pilot exercise and to provide the required technical support during the implementation of the project. It was pointed out that the selected SMEs will undertake intensive resource efficiency exercises in December 2009 - March 2010 time-frame, following an orientation and training session that will be provided to them in November 2009.



Simulation exercises in the different thematic areas of resource efficiency supported by the draft toolkit.

New Publication: **Implementing CDM projects** Guidebook to Host Country Legal Issues

Countries around the globe, rich and poor alike, are preparing for a new “green” economy. The carbon market, including projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol, is part a growing suite of market-based tools that can accelerate low-carbon global economic growth, and that can help stimulate green companies, technologies, and jobs in the developing world.

Under the CDM, developed countries can offset greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change by investing in developing countries that are reducing their own emissions. Example projects include transforming methane from sources such as landfills into electricity or cleaner cooking fuels. As an investment model, the CDM is a stimulus for “eco-friendly” innovation and one driver for increasing necessary investments in renewable energy deployment, as shown in *Global Trends in Sustainable Energy Investment*, a report published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

On 9 September 2009 UNEP launched a guidebook for policymakers in developing countries to help them prepare for a green economy through increasing their access to the carbon market. The publication is a collaborative effort between UNEP and Baker & McKenzie, a leading global law practice with an authoritative environmental markets practice.

Using case studies, “*Implementing CDM Projects: A Guidebook to Host Country Legal Issues*” explains how domestic laws and regulatory frameworks in developing countries interact with the international rules on carbon trading, and how they can be enhanced to facilitate the implementation and financing of carbon projects.

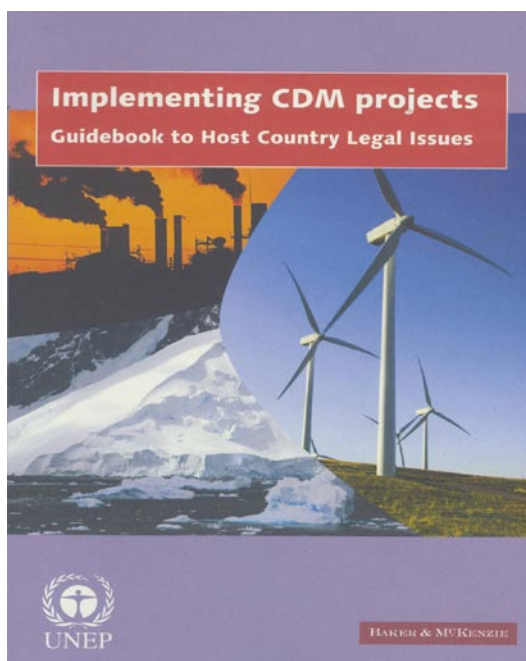
The launch coincided with a technical workshop for government representatives and business people active in the African carbon market,

at the UN Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa. The workshop came hot on the heels of the first meeting of the Conference of African Heads of State on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) at the end of August (in Sirte) through which the African Union will present a united African voice in the global climate negotiations. This position includes new measures to strengthen African participation in the booming carbon market.

Despite a cooling of the global economy, the carbon market has shown continued growth. This has only marginally benefited Africa to date, however, with a share of only around 2%. This figure belies Africa’s large potential to supply the carbon market, as well as its desire for establishing trade partnerships pivoting around clean technologies and emission reductions. According to estimates compiled by the UNEP Risoe Center, Africa could see a total of roughly 230 CDM projects in the pipeline by 2012. Together, these projects could generate 65 million carbon credits worth close to a billion US dollars (at a conservative carbon price of \$15 per ton).

Sealing a new global climate deal in December of this year is an essential step for realizing Africa’s full carbon market potential. But domestic efforts to strengthen legal frameworks for the CDM can also go a long way towards improving the investment climate that undergirds green investments, such as clean energy.

Christiana Figueres, a former member of the CDM Executive Board, concurs. “Once again UNEP Risoe has produced a very helpful document for CDM actors. Host country legal and regulatory uncertainty is widely recognized as one of the main barriers to expanding the CDM. For countries seeking to attract more CDM investment, this book is a true guide.”



The Value of Natural Resources in Ethiopia: Special Public Meeting

Report by Mahelet Guoshe



Dr. Alemu Mekonen

It is generally believed and asserted that natural resources contribute a high percentage to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of developing countries like Ethiopia. The Environmental Economics Policy Forum for Ethiopia (EEPFE) based at the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI) has carried out research on forest, land and soil accounting in order to come up with concrete figures as to what extent natural resources account for the country's GDP. The dissemination of the research results of "The value of natural resources in Ethiopia" was the purpose of a half-day public meeting on 8 September 2009 at Axum Hotel in Addis Ababa, co-hosted by EDRI and the Forum for Environment (FFE).

What is EDRI and why would it be the one to carry out this research? The Ethiopian Development Research Institute is a semi-autonomous government development institute, founded in August 1999. EDRI's research activities mainly focus on macro-economics, agriculture and rural development, industrial growth, international economics, and human resources. Its stated mission is to conduct research on the development of Ethiopian economy and disseminate the results. In doing research on the natural resource accounting project EDRI hopes to make a significant contribution to assisting governments in Eastern and Southern Africa to adopt environmental accounting and use it for policy purposes.

The opening and welcome addresses were

delivered by Dr. Alemu Mekonen representing EDRI. He underlined the importance of studying the natural resource base of the country as a basis for understanding the true composition of GDP of the country in real terms. He further noted that lack of precise accounting on the quantity of the natural resources available in the country, because of shallow data sources, underestimated the sector's contribution to the GDP of the country and sometimes gave wrong signals and information to policy makers. As an illustration of this he presented cross-country data to compare the countries on the bases of "Net Saving" and "genuine" saving factoring in natural resources. This showed that genuine saving of the country is negative while the net saving (which failed to account for the degradation, depletion and so on of the resources) is positive.

Forest resource accounting

Dr. Menale Kassie from EDRI was the first presenter, covering "Forest resource accounting: the Ethiopian experience". He began by explaining Natural Resource Accounting (NRA), summing it up as the compilation of data relating to natural resources into an accounting framework organized in terms of stocks and flows, and the interpretation and reporting of this data. He explained that NRA is a relatively new concept that aims to include in the traditional measurement of economic development the cost for using the environment as inputs to production and as a sink for wastes. From the point of view of NRA, land, water, minerals, and other natural resources are treated as inputs and assets in the production of goods and services of a country. He further explained that NRA will help to estimate the cost of the use of natural resources also as it seeks to track changes in the quantity as well as in the quality of natural resources and the environment over a specified period of time. But more importantly with NRA, the state of natural resources can be assessed – how much resources are available to the people, how much renewable resources are being consumed, how fast non-renewable resources are being depleted, the quality of the environment and the remaining resources, their economic importance/value and how much is spent by government for the protection of the environment. Therefore it helps to develop sustainable economic and resources utilization policies.

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Civil Society Organises Training on Climate Change Negotiations

Report by Haileyesus Brook



Emily Massawa, UNEP/DEPI

The Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change (ESCNCC) in collaboration with the Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Centre (HoAREC) organized a three-day training on climate change negotiations for relevant civil society and governmental representatives in Nazareth from 18 to 20 September, 2009. ESCNCC was formed and launched in January 2009 and contains 40 civil society members. The network has been actively engaged in different activities to raise awareness on climate change and related issues, build capacity of members and partners, share and document experiences and conduct action-oriented research.

The training workshop in Nazareth aimed to boost negotiating capacity of members and also bring to attention the issue of climate to line ministries who attended the meeting. Accordingly 10 civil society organizations (CSOs) and 5 ministries attended the training. The training opened with remarks by Professor Nigussie Retta, Dean of Science Faculty of Addis Ababa University (AAU) and Director, Food Science Program, AAU. He said since Ethiopia is an agrarian country it depends heavily on agriculture for its economic development to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Given this dependence on a climate-sensitive sector there is a need to adapt to changing climate and to

link expertise at the local level to address the issue. He also said in order for the university community to make meaningful contribution and to fill in the gaps regarding climate research, agendas should be responding to the developmental needs of the country. In this regard the outputs of the training would be beneficial to the university by bringing in the needs and perspectives from CSOs and Government institutions.

Guidelines for negotiations

Mr. Desalegn Mesfin, Deputy Director-General of the Federal Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) that is heading the Ethiopian delegation in the climate negotiations to Copenhagen, gave the keynote address. He laid out 10 points that every negotiator should take into account during negotiations that he listed as follows:

- What one finally gets is what one has negotiated for;
- What one gains during negotiations is what the other side losses;
- As a nation Ethiopians have to clearly identify what they are going to negotiate for and what exactly they demand;
- Ethiopians have to identify the needs of the different blocks of interest.
- Create alliances on conditions that ensure national interests will be addressed and also devise ways out.
- Try to lead rather than be led;
- Over the course of the negotiation one can make others to support him/her or make them to believe him/her, and the latter only on condition of demonstrating command of facts on the ground;
- Learn to work together.
- Finance is the key issue. The money being sought in global negotiations is not being begged but demanded as a right for compensation.
- Assistance is needed and being sought for capacity building,

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Green Power - Sustainable Energy for Ethiopia

Report by Haileyesus Brook

This year's Ethiopian Green Forum (GF) theme was, "Green Power - Sustainable Energy for Ethiopia: Ensuring Energy Security in a Changing Climate". The annual forum was held at the Ethiopian Civil Service College in Addis Ababa 1-2 October 2009. Established in 2006 by six organisations, the Green Forum has a clear mandate to join forces on environmental issues that need better information sharing, lobbying and advocacy to influence both policies and behaviour. The member organisations hold a joint conference with a special and current theme. The forum identifies relevant environmental issues and organises workshops that have resulted in production of proceedings distributed to policy makers and interested parties.

Ethiopia's electricity provision depends on hydropower to the tune of 95%. At the same time 94% of the energy used by the country's rural and low-income population is generated from biomass. Demand for electricity is growing at an estimated rate of 13% annually and will continue to grow given the country's economic growth and universal electrification programme that will shift the extent of reliance on biomass even among low-income and rural population. However in the meantime climate change will, in this regard, affect both water and biomass resources and increase vulnerability in the energy sector. Coupled with an already fragile environment and an agro-based economic structure that is highly sensitive to an adverse and changing climate, high dependence on water resources for power generation further highlights the vulnerability of the energy system and makes the need to ensure sustainable energy supplies even more pressing.

Renewable energy alternatives exist

Ethiopia has potential energy sources, including the sun, wind, geothermal, agro-industrial, and biogas. These renewable energy options are not only environmentally friendly but provide additional developmental benefits such as job creation and reduction of oil import bills. Currently, however, the use of renewable energy is very limited because of insufficient awareness of opportunities and benefits involved. Technical barriers and insecure financing of renewable energy projects are among some of the reasons accounting for low resort to renewable energy. These challenges discourage adoption and dissemination of renewable energy technologies.

Power system development strategy & access to energy

The drift of the discussion was to encourage the adoption of a balanced energy generation mix as a more suitable option for universal access to sustainable energy in Ethiopia and the best insurance policy against climate change. Green Forum 2009 highlighted diverse energy options that make it possible to both increase energy access and reduce the vulnerability of energy systems to projected climate impacts.

Presentations dealt with energy sector planning, development and access. It was observed for instance that only 12% of Ethiopians have access to electricity and Ethiopia's energy sources include 8 dams for Hydropower (663MW), 1 geothermal plant (7 MW), 3 diesel generators (80 MW), 3 small hydro plants & 45 diesel stations (30 MW). The 2005-2025 national energy master plans for Ethiopia seek to triple power supply in five years. However the focus does not include a significant strategy for diversifying the national energy portfolio; solar and wind energy projects are not addressed. Presentations discussed the risks and opportunities of a hydro-dominated power system in relation to climate change. Climate change can accentuate droughts and affect amount and pattern of rainfall, thus having a direct impact to power production from hydro plants. The hydro system also poses other challenges, such as impact on the environment and society. Therefore power plant development needs to consider full-cost (or true-cost) analysis that internalises potential social and environmental impacts (which are commonly under-estimated/valued in developing countries because of lack of resources). There also needs to be consideration/evaluation of the viability and competitiveness of other generation options. This way diversification should also be seen as a part of adaptation measures to climate change. It was suggested in this regard to adopt integrated resource planning which is a combined development of electricity supplies and demand side management options to provide energy services at minimum cost, including environmental and social costs.

The presentations also addressed domestic energy consumption in Ethiopia, and reviewed

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According to his research the total value of forest harvested in Ethiopia (firewood, charcoal and construction wood) and non-wood forest products (coffee, fodder, medicinal plants, exudates, honey, bamboos etc...) is ETB 6.21 billion in 1995 and ETB 10.45 billion in 2005. The watershed benefit of the forest sector in 1995 is ETB 8.54 billion and it is ETB 11.27 billion in 2005. The watershed value increased because of afforestation. This is not included in 1995 due to data paucity. The total value of construction wood and carbon is ETB 88.26 Billion (265.50 billion) in 1995 and in 2005 it is ETB 8.51 billion (347.69 billion) in 2005. The economic contribution of forestry sector to total GDP is 11.60 percent in 1995 and 9.0 percent in 2005. The economic contribution includes the watershed service, which increased to 27.5 percent in 1995 and 18.8 percent in 2005. The percentage contribution can mount if wild edible plants are included. Spice resources and the contribution of protected areas to the national economy are another element. The national contribution of the forestry sector as attested in national accounts is 6.4% in 1995 and in 4.7% in 2005. In his recommendation Dr. Menale suggested that the forest sector in Ethiopia should invest in setting up and management of forestry information systems that will provide data in a form that is useful for forest resource accounting

Land and soil accounting

Dr. Abayneh Essaya, also from EEPFE/EDRI, made the second presentation. This was based on a paper done in collaboration with Eric Mungatana of the Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy in Africa (CEEPA), University of Pretoria, South Africa: "Land and Soil Resources Accounting:

The Ethiopian Experience". According to Dr. Abayneh, bare or denuded land increased by 3.5% (4900 km²) since 1995 in spite of massive soil and water conservation activities mainly through WFP "food for work" projects; cultivated land increased by 40% (109,000 km²) due to the population pressure as compared with 1995; urban or built up land increased by 11.3% between 1995 and 2005 primarily because of industrial zone expansion and urban development.

There was striking change in the woodland land formation, which increased very drastically by 555.4% from the 1995 base line, a phenomenon attributed to ever-increased deforestation rate and plantation. Nevertheless, forestland, grassland, shrub land and wetland shrank in size respectively by 34.1%, 68.5%, 5.5% and 7%. Besides, the largest forest land that was found in Southern Nation Nationalities and People Region (SNNP) and Oromiya Region during the year 1984 declined by 67% and 32% respectively by 2005. He also indicated that the highest rate of forest cover decline in SNNP is attributed to the fastest rate of converting forest to tea and coffee plantations and also due to settlement of people into the forest area. Similar declines have been observed in the grassland of the country due to the expansion of the agriculture land and for other activities. Moreover, the study unveiled that both the data of 1984 and 2004 underestimated the wetlands of the country.

The study observed that regular mapping of the country's land cover and land use at an appropriate level of detail is urgently required to track past trends and forecast future scenarios in order to maximise economic benefits and future

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Green Power - Sustainable Energy for Ethiopia

distribution of the country's household energy use (hh) by type of fuel used for cooking and its impact at macro and micro levels, and initiatives on dissemination of clean energy technologies so far tried by various international and local institutions. The development of biogas plants by SNV in Bahir Dar, Tigray and Debre Zeit was presented as an example of an attractive option for replacing unsustainable utilization of wood and charcoal. Furthermore, there is a huge market for biogas because of the feasibility of building plants close

ecosystem sustainability.

to or within farmers' compounds. However there are challenges to it too in terms of the investment costs being prohibitive for most small farmers. Therefore micro-finance and investment incentives are suggested as a solution in popularising and reaching to a decent market for the technology.

As in previous years, there will be a declaration from the forum, which was in preparation at the time of writing. GF organisers include MELCA Mahiber, Heinrich Boll Foundation, ENDA-Ethiopia, Forum for Environment and PANOS Ethiopia.

Civil Society Organises Training on Climate Change Negotiations

however recipient countries also need to strengthen ability to sustain themselves; so as to avoid/cease to continually depend on external assistance.

African Common Position in context

Over the three days, presentations covered a range of issues touching on the Ethiopian perspective and Africa's collective stand. The Presentations included, "State of Environment in Ethiopia", "Issues of Adaptation Finance", "Mitigation and Technology issues", "African Common Position: Politics, Process and Prospects", "Stern Review", "Understanding the Climate Change Negotiations and Challenges", and "Guidance on the conduct of negotiations in the Climate Change Process". Among the presenters and participants were Strike Mkandla (UNEP Representative to AU, UNECA & Ethiopia), Ms. Emily Ojoo-Massawa (UNEP/DEPI Programme Officer, who was invited from Kenya). Dr. Satish Kumar Bilithantham made a presentation on the Stern Report while Dr. Araya Asfaw presented the science of climate change (both are from the Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Centre - HoAREC). Ms Massawa, it was reported, was a longstanding negotiator and involved in the climate change process for Kenya prior to joining UNEP.

Strike Mkandla took the group through a detailed narrative on evolution of the African Common Position on climate change under the auspices of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) and the African Union (AU), bringing together the technical track of the African Negotiators and the political track. The AU Commission had been instrumental in ensuring that African Heads of State and Government kept abreast of the issues and took relevant decisions. This is how the latest form of the African Common Position had been adopted by AMCEN at its Special Session in May 2009 and subsequently endorsed by the July 2009 Summit in Sirte. The Sirte Summit has also established a Conference of African Heads of State on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) to spearhead the continent's negotiating stance at the Fifteen Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen in December 2009. Chaired by Ethiopia, the ten-country grouping will facilitate Africa's cohesion as one delegation, to speak with one voice.

Ms. Emily Ojoo-Massawa of UNEP/DEPI also spoke about potential impacts of climate change in Africa and how to understand the ongoing global negotiations and the challenges. She explained how the existing climate change negotiations structure developed, starting from Rio de Janeiro in 1992 where UNFCCC opened for signature, up to Bali where the negotiations settled on four key elements: adaptation, mitigation, finance and technology. She outlined how a core balance must be struck between the imperatives of development and climate. For Africa, the link between development and poverty is a major issue. In a situation of poverty, it is about survival, and any means to ensuring that survival will be used. If people have no access to modern energy services, whether energy is clean or not may be a non-issue. If livelihoods depend on clearing forest to establish agriculture, this is a matter of basic need. These developmental imperatives drive the sort of deal on climate change that the continent is pushing for. For such a deal to be meaningful it has to come with requisite means of implementation: technology, finance and capacity. She also discussed possible outcomes for Copenhagen and post 2012 issues and challenges. Among the political challenges behind the current negotiations were:

- Some developed country UNFCCC Parties with major emissions had decided not to ratify the Kyoto Protocol – and thus were not working within its targets (e.g. United States and Australia).
- Some developing countries that have ratified Kyoto do not have targets but have rapidly increased emissions (e.g. China).
- With some countries not active in Kyoto, another process had to be found for engaging these countries.

Some of the Annex 1 countries (the major polluters) want the major developing countries to take on specific emission reduction commitments and thus change the current architecture of the Kyoto Protocol as a condition for participating. Before concluding, she said Africa's articulated interests include adaptation, provision of new and adequate financial resources, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and finally quickened global effort to address climate change within the framework of sustainable development.

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Civil Society Organises Training on Climate Change Negotiations

“Horizontal learning” on climate change

The training workshop spent a session on horizontal learning focusing on adaptation, financing issues in the climate negotiation process, mitigation, technology transfer and development, and the impacts of climate change in Ethiopia. Mr. Nigussu Aklilu, Coordinator of Forum for Environment (FfE) tackled financing for adaptation. He said that adaptation and development can seem interchangeable but the difference is that adaptation is implemented in the light of changing climate trends and shocks. Inputs, reason for acting and knowledge put to adaptation may differ from ongoing development actions. He discussed available financial adaptation mechanisms and drew distinctions with Official Development Assistance (ODA). This distinction is recognized as a principle by the UNFCCC through Article 4.4, which specifies that developed countries have committed to helping ‘particularly vulnerable’ countries meet the costs of adaptation, and that this assistance must be ‘new and additional’ to existing aid commitments.

Mr. Dereje G. Michael from Institute of Sustainable Development (ISD) dealt with the issue of mitigation and technology in the negotiations and the date from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He explained the different proposals forwarded by Annex I Parties to the Convention which proposed low figures for emissions reduction in aggregate, with conditionalities, and which are based on different reference years than the specified 1990 level. In contrast, developing countries are calling for deeper cuts in GHG emissions by Annex I Parties considering their historical responsibility, current per capita emissions and their capabilities in technology, finance and institutions. He also covered the REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) mechanism, role of

technology transfer in climate change mitigation, energy sectors for mitigation, and barriers.

The case of Ethiopia in the climate regime was also discussed which highlighted the fact that Ethiopia is especially vulnerable to climate change because of its geographic exposure, high incidence of poverty and social inequality, inadequate financial and technological resources, and greater reliance on poorly performing and climate sensitive socio-economic sectors such as agriculture, pastoralism and energy. According to the aggregate social vulnerability index developed by the Tyndal Centre for Climate Change Research, Ethiopia is the 7th vulnerable country in Africa and IPCC’s regional review of the impacts of climate change identified food security, water resources and health as the three vulnerable sectors in Ethiopia. The country has prepared a national adaptation programme of action (NAPA) and submitted its initial communications to the UNFCCC and a national Climate Forum was established in 2008.

At the global level the Prime Minister has been selected to represent Africa and defend the African Common Position at COP 15 in Copenhagen while relevant governmental and nongovernmental civil society and donor organizations are working to support community adaptation strategies and get access to finance and technology.



Ato Negussu Aklilu

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