

United Nations Environment Programme

# Addis Ababa Highlights



## Young People Lead Clean Up in Addis Ababa

Addis Ababa has kept its unbroken chain of participation in Clean Up the World by organizing a campaign covering 10 sub-cities. Clean Up the World 2007 had special significance because it came at the height of celebrations to mark the Ethiopian Millennium, because Year 2000 AD in the country's unique and ancient calendar began a few days before on 12 September 2007 in the western calendar.

Tena Kebena Youth Cleaners Association spearheaded the campaign in cooperation with SOS Addis, and with support of the UNEP Addis Ababa Office. This is the fourth time in a row that Addis participated in this global campaign.

September 13 marked the kick-off of this year's Clean Up campaign at the heart of Kasanchis. The administrator of Kebele 17/18, Ato Abera Bekele, welcomed participants and noted that it was noble of the youth to embark on this campaign just after the Ethiopian Millennium celebrations started.

### Official launching

Mr. Strike Mkandla, UNEP Representative to AU, UNECA & Ethiopia, officially opened the campaign in Kasanchis. In his opening address, he reminded those present on how simple actions of individuals and the community can make a significant difference, that the sum of individual efforts towards protecting the environment really pay off in the long run. This, he said, coincides with this year's Clean Up theme, "Our climate... Our actions... Our future: Join communities around the world taking action on climate change".

Participants were also given a concise account of how Clean Up the World was started in 1993 from the

initiative of one individual, the Australian

Ian Kiernan, founder and chairman of the Clean Up campaign. Today, this community based action takes place involving an estimated 35 million people in 115 countries all over the world.



*Youth groups cleaning at Agoza Gebeya in Addis Ababa*

### Clean Up Competition

After the official launching, participants went directly into the cleaning activity in the ten participating 10 sub cities of Addis, with youth groups in these sub cities competing for prizes to be given at the end of the campaign. A pre-cleaning assessment of areas had been carried out in selected sites in the 10 sub cities by a team from UNEP and Tena Kebena Association. By the end of the three-day Clean Up campaign the assessment team went over the sites to rank the cleaning efforts for prize giving. On September 16, participants and invited guests assembled at the Tena Kebena base,

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# African Union/ International Events

## Green Wall for the Sahara Takes Shape

The African Union (AU) Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative (GWSI) has moved further from concept to action plan since it was conceived a few years ago. The latest advance is the result of a weeklong planning workshop (17-21 September 2007) under the auspices of the African Union Commission (AUC), which convened at the AU Headquarters a panel of experts that drafted a framework for implementing the initiative. The basic thrust of the GWSI to combat desertification in the Sahel and arrest the southward advance of the Sahara Desert.

In addition to the AUC, representatives from UN agencies and various environmental experts identified a series of areas for intervention at the regional level and proposed a broad range of activities to be executed at the national level. The GWSI is the brainchild of former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, who proposed it during the 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Summit of the African Union in July 2005. During the latter summit African Heads of State endorsed the initiative and requested the Chairperson of the AUC, Professor Alpha Oumar Konaré, to facilitate its development and implementation. Subsequently, a concept note was finalized. Its stated objectives are "to arrest the advance of the Sahara desert southwards and to improve the livelihoods of the inhabitants of the Sahelo-Sahara Zone". It also aims to support implementation of the United

Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Africa; to enhance environmental sustainability; to control land degradation; to promote integrated natural resources management; to conserve biological diversity; to contribute to poverty reduction; and improve the livelihoods of rural women in the Sahelo-Sahara Zone (SSZ).

Although it's not the first such project to combat desertification in Africa, the GWSI is more ambitious than its predecessors. It hopes to advance the well-being of the inhabitants living in the area while combating desertification in an integrated, sustainable and holistic manner, adding value to existing programmes. To that end, the initiatives' goal is, "to bring together relevant actors and stakeholders within a framework of a noble cause to fight desertification and environmental degradation through undertaking a series of inter-related and coordinated set of activities, actions and outcomes".

Representatives from the United Nations (UNEP, FAO, and WFP) participated along side the Sahel and Sahara Observatory (OSS) and several consultants and AUC professionals, the majority from the Commission's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture. They developed a framework that will eventually guide the implementation of specific projects related to the initiative. In

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## Young People Lead Clean Up in Addis Ababa

Agoza Gebeya, for the award ceremony. The event was colorfully opened by the children of Tena Kebena, most of them HIV/AIDS orphans supported by UNFPA, UNAIDS and other supporters. They songs in Amharic had the basic message of protecting the environment and keeping our surroundings clean, as well as raising awareness about HIV/AIDS. The songs also called for all participants to pledge to make an effort towards creating environmental awareness in the new millennium.

Those ranking 1-3 in the Clean Up competition were awarded different cleaning up tools such as wheelbarrows, spades and brooms. *Tena Letsedat* youth group (Yeka sub city)

took the top prize, followed by *Tena Kebena* (Kirkos sub city), while *Nib Yakababi Enkebekabe* youth group (Gulele sub city) took third place.



*Children planting trees for "Two trees for 2000" theme*

### **Tree planting**

The finale of the event was tree planting in reclaimed land, which was part of an old forest that disappeared and was replaced by garbage dumps. This last act was symbolic from the Ethiopian Millennium theme "Two Trees for 2000", that was chosen to draw attention to the importance of taking action against climate change. The environment around the Tena Kebena site is already transformed by concerted tree planting and rolling back of garbage dumps.

# African Union/ International Events

## Water and Sanitation Summit No Longer a Fluid Idea

The proposal to hold a special African Union summit on water and sanitation in 2008 has been in the air for some time. The proposal is no longer a fluid idea but has moved closer to realization after its champion, the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB), held a briefing and exchange of views with the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) of the African Union on 20 September 2007 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa. The invitation from the AU Commission expressed the view that the interaction with the PRC would be useful in according AU Member States the opportunity to make input and to influence the process of convening the summit, thereby ensuring African ownership.

The Water and Sanitation Summit has been gathering support from Heads of State and Government over the last year, including that of the current AU Chairperson, President John Kufuor of Ghana. The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) is also on board, after its immediate former President joined calls for the summit during her tenure in December 2006. The Chair of UNSGAB, His Royal Highness Willem-Alexander - the Prince of Orange and Crown Prince of the Netherlands, and his team have been in contact with

African leaders to promote the holding of the summit.

### *The "dirty side of water"*

At the AU briefing last month the Vice-Chairperson of UNSGAB, Dr. Uschi Eid of Germany, recounted the fact that former SG Kofi Annan identified water as key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), then set up UNSGAB, an independent Board which was chaired first by the now-deceased Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan. In her remarks, Dr. Eid said that taking all decisions over the last 30 years it has been found that we know everything that we need to know to solve the global water crisis. In the meantime people are dying both from lack of water *and* too much water. She suggested that there is enough water if the resource is managed efficiently. She noted that 70% of water goes to agriculture. Remarking that water supply and sanitation is also a gender issue, she said over One Billion people lack access to water, and 80% of diseases in developing countries are water-related. Referring to "the dirty side of water", she said Africa loses many people per year due to dirty water, and there is a need to keep the link between water for development and water for sanitation,

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## Green Wall for the Sahara Takes Shape

this regard, the team outlined all the core issues and expected outcomes to be addressed in projects conducted



*Dr. Ahmadu Babagana of AU who delivered opening address*

under the initiative. These include the promotion of sustainable agricultural and integrated natural resource management practices; formulation of an effective communication strategy and institutions; harmonization of policies and regulations; enhancement of capabilities; establishment of coordination mechanisms; monitoring and evaluation techniques; and other cross-cutting issues such as creation of financing and partnership building mechanisms at the local, national and regional levels.

The framework drafted during the workshop will first be reviewed and revised by specialists from the 22 countries where the initiative will be implemented. Next, ministers from the concerned countries must endorse the framework prior to its presentation to the Executive Council of the AUC, before it is cleared for official use.

The GWSI has a lifespan of about three decades during which it is expected to mature into a self-sustaining program. The delegates at the workshop all agreed that the key to achieving the latter goal is promoting ownership within the local communities in the SSZ.

# African Union/ International Events

## African Water Facility Fine-tunes Operational Programme

The African Water Facility (AWF) held a stakeholders workshop 18-20 September 2007 at the UN Conference Centre in Addis Ababa to deliberate on a draft document on the "Operational Focus and Areas of Interventions and Three Year Indicative Work and Financing Programme". The workshop was attended by representatives of the Technical Advisory Committee of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW TAC), UN-Water/Africa, Regional and River Basin Organizations (RRBOs) the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), Governments and donors, and key staff of both the AWF and the African Development Bank (AfDB). The AWF is an initiative of AMCOW for mobilizing financial resources to support water resources development in Africa and it is hosted by the AfDB.

The workshop considered proposed changes to the 2005-2009 Operational Programme that has guided its activities since it was established at the beginning of the period. The changes included the restructuring of the AWF long term strategic objectives to make them respond to the targets of the African water Vision 2025 and Framework for Action, hence the indicative work and financing programme for the remainder of the original operational programme.

### *Concrete achievements*

In the review of the experiences of the past two years and challenges faced, the stakeholders concluded that the AWF had exceeded expectations. The facility had in that short span succeeded in setting up the necessary institutional and operational arrangements and proceeded to process a number of requests, approve some projects for funding and laid the foundation for decisions by its Governing Council. Another significant achievement was the provision of an enabling environment for resource mobilization efforts. The stakeholders noted with appreciation the facility's catalytic and supportive role (direct financing for small scale projects) in its leveraging capacity.

### *Special character of the Facility*

The stakeholders took particular note of the special character of the AWF, i.e that it is an innovative mechanism owned by AMCOW and demand driven; its ownership and governance are regional (African); it is also managed by a competent regional institution (AfDB), and the GC structure reflects shared goals and commitments.

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## Water and Sanitation Summit No Longer a Fluid Idea

because while water is for development it is also an equity issue. The two go together, she said.

### *Hashimoto Action Plan*

Dr. Eid said UNSGAB was lobbying in different forums such as G-8, the TICAD and other processes to get profile for the African Water and Sanitation Summit, which would be among the events to mark the International Year of Sanitation (2008) within the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" - 2005 to 2015. It is expected that the AU Summit in January 2008, at which the Prince of Orange may be invited to address the Heads of State and Government, will take a decision on holding the special water summit, currently



*Dr. Uschi Eid (left) and Mr. Kenzo Hiroki*

proposed for June/July 2008. The actions that need to be taken by various stakeholders are contained in the UNSGAB

12-page Hashimoto Action Plan, whose highlights were presented to the PRC by Mr. Kenzo Hiroki. In a complimentary statement the Director of the AU Commission Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, Dr. Babagana Ahmadu, said water is an engine of development. He welcomed the offer made by Egypt to host the technical segment that would prepare for the summit. Ambassadors and heads of delegations in the PRC spoke and welcomed the idea of the summit, among them the Chair (Libya).

United Nations organizations that are also members of UN-Water/Africa present (UNECA, UNEP, UN-HABITAT, FAO) indicated readiness for collective support to the process.

# African Union/ International Events

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## African Water Facility Fine-tunes Operational Programme

### *Areas of intervention focused*

The participants stressed the need to ensure linkages and synergies among the areas of intervention. In line with the Water Vision, these are: strengthening water governance; investments to meet basic water needs; strengthening the financial base; and improving water knowledge. There should also be setting of priority actions in the face of a wide scope, and development of modalities for strategic collaboration with major actors in the region, it was observed.

The stakeholders also highlighted the potential of the AWF in promoting the development and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans. The AWF was urged to take into account the full scope of the IWRM approach and principles (i.e. linkages with natural resource management, climate change, economic, social and developmental factors). They also called for assistance to RBOs and translation of the AMCOW decisions on groundwater and Trans-boundary Water Resources Management (TWRM) into actions; and they proceeded to underline the importance of balancing investments among various pillars or areas of intervention. There was a call for more attention to crosscutting themes such as gender aspects of water resources management.

### *Funding the AWF*

The adoption of the revised operational focus and areas of intervention was followed by a meeting with principal donors. The European Water Facility and representatives of bilateral donors were among



*Abdirahman D. Beileh of AWF*

participants in the discussion of funding arrangements. It was reported that the AMCOW Trust Fund hosted by UNEP had received some contributions from African countries and donor partners. Contributions had also been made to the AWF and more could be expected after a "Call for Contributions" to ministries of finance. Although there were some expressions of support from participating donors and indications that some funding may be in the pipeline (the European Commission announced an additional commitment of € 5 million), the consultation was more of a strategic nature rather than pledging of immediate support. It was unlikely that there would be significant new funding before the AWF Governing Council.

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## Guinean Diplomat Visits UNEP Office



*Dr. Dondo Sylla*

Dr. Dondo Sylla, Counsellor in the Embassy of Guiné in Ethiopia, visited the Addis Ababa Liaison Office on 24 September 2007 and had wide-ranging discussion with Strike Mkandla on the work of UNEP. Dr. Sylla studied law and he went to universities outside his country in Africa, western and eastern Europe. Naturally he was keenest to know the status of multilateral environmental agreements and how his delegation can help advance their implementation. In this regard, he drew our attention to the fact that Guiné will be replacing Senegal in the Bureau of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) of the African Union from January 2008. We look forward to close and fruitful exchanges with him. His contact details can be supplied upon request (French documents preferred).

# Ethiopia Activities

## Climate Change Will Affect African Agriculture

Some estimates put Africa's contribution to greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere to less than 3%, yet the continent is likely to be among the principal victims of global warming arising from the "greenhouse effect" from the layer of these gases. Indeed, the continent remains most susceptible to the effects of climate change, due to the fact that Africa's economy is largely based on agriculture that is dependant on climatic factors in addition to low levels of human capital and poor infrastructure. This is the background to a recent workshop under the title "How can African agriculture adapt to climate change? Insights for Ethiopia."

The workshop was organized by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in collaboration with the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), through funding from the Advisory Service on Agricultural Research for Development of the German Government. The workshop considered preliminary findings of the IFPRI project "Food and Water Security" as well as complementary research results from researchers in Ethiopia and elsewhere, to gather insights from policymakers and other attendants on adaptation strategies for Ethiopia. A similar 3-year project has been conducted by IFPRI in South Africa where the effects of climate change are more pronounced.

The workshop was held at the Sheraton Addis on 20-21 September 2007 and attracted the attendance of Ethiopian government and research institutions such as the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED), Addis Ababa University, the Institute of Water Resources Management, the Meteorological Survey Agency, and the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA). United Nations organizations also attended: UNECA, UNEP, and UNDP.

Climate change has various effects on the natural environment, the communities as well as on the economy, it was said. The impacts may be related to intense and frequent extreme events, like floods, water scarcity and increased recurrence of drought. Particularly in Ethiopia the agricultural systems are sensitive to climate change due to the intra-seasonal and inter-annual variability of rainfall.

The findings from the project categorized Ethiopian regions in three main clusters: Afar, Amhara, Tigray and Somali as highly vulnerable; Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz and Dire Dawa as moderately vulnerable; and Addis Ababa, Harari and SNNPR (Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region) as the least vulnerable to the effects of climate change. This was arrived at by using the vulnerability indicators developed with expert judgment, correlation with past disaster events and principal component analysis.

Further it was found that there exists a strong



*Claudia Ringler (IFPRI)*

relationship between vulnerability and agro-ecological settings, drought and flood history as well as relative level of regional development or adaptive capacity. For instance agro-economically Afar and Somali regional states are situated in the arid and semi arid regions of the country and, additionally, these regions are relatively under-developed and considered remote from the central cities while on the other hand Addis Ababa and Harari are relatively well

developed cities and farmers living around these cities enjoy all the benefits that proximity to city provides.

So far there has been no study undertaken to identify the factors that affect household choice of adaptation methods in Ethiopia. The objective of this study is to identify adaptation methods available to farmers and the factors that influence the choice of adaptation methods and guide policy makers on ways to promote adaptation to climate change. The data used for this study is obtained from a household survey of a total of 1000 farmers within 20 districts, during the 2004/2005 production year in the Nile Basin of Ethiopia. It was found that 45% of farmers are not using any of the adaptation options; 52% are trying to adapt to climate change by using different crop varieties and planting trees, conserving soil and early and late planting, while the remaining 3% are using irrigation. The root cause of the problem for farmers is lack of information. In addition, lack of money, shortage of labor, shortage of land and poor potential for irrigation contribute substantially.

Based on this, the policy implications are

- Awareness creation on adaptation methods to climate change

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# Ethiopia Activities

## Policies to Increase Forest Cover in Ethiopia

A workshop on “Policies to Increase Forest Cover in Ethiopia” was held from 18 to 19 September 2007 at the Global Hotel, Addis Ababa, and attended by a wide variety

of stakeholders and invitees, including the UNEP Addis Ababa Office. Participants came from many regions in Ethiopia and from outside the country (USA, Kenya, and Tanzania). The organizers, the Environmental Policy Forum for Ethiopia (EPPFE), are based in the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI) and sponsored by the Environment for Development (EfD) of Göteborg University in Sweden.

### *The objective*

A key purpose of the workshop was to stress the need of policies that support forest protection and preservation in the country. It was a dialogue initiator among the relevant stakeholders to identify policy and knowledge gaps concerning forest resource management. With a forest cover of below 5% of the total land area of the country and a -1.1% annual deforestation rate (<http://rainforests.mongabay.com/20ethiopia.htm>), the country is fast in need of policies that can amend the forest situation in the country.

This fast increasing deforestation rate could entail land degradation, loss of biodiversity, and reduced carbon sequestration capacity among various other consequences.



www.alertnet.org/.../ETerosion.jpg

*Eroded land : a result of deforestation*

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## Climate Change Will Affect African Agriculture

- Facilitating the availability of credit
- Investment on yield increasing technology packages to increase farm income
- Creating opportunities for off-farm employment
- Research on use of new crop varieties and livestock species that are more suited to drier conditions
- Encourage informal social networks and
- Investment in irrigation.

When compared to South Africa's Limpopo Basin, households in Ethiopia's Nile Basin do not perceive changes in climate regarding both temperature and precipitation but they react more to climate change related shocks (droughts, floods) by usually selling livestock. However in both countries households respond more to declining rainfall than to rising temperatures.

The workshop came up with a variety of recommendations, among them that natural resource conservation schemes such as planting trees and soil conservation should be undertaken as well as development of institutions and infrastructure with more emphasis on the relatively under-developed regions; there should be investment in technology like drought – tolerant varieties of crops in all regions, and investment in irrigation to make use of the existing potential and investment in human capital. Other recommendations were to embark on promotion of non-agricultural employment opportunities, investing in watershed management, and strengthening institutional capacity to promote adaptation and integration of adaptation concerns into development strategies.

# Ethiopia Activities

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## Policies to Increase Forest Cover in Ethiopia

H.E. Mr. Neway Gebre-Ab, Director of EDRI and Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister, remarked in his welcoming speech that the above-mentioned facts have important implications for the welfare of the population of Ethiopia now and in the future. He mentioned the various reasons for the high rate of deforestation among which are the need to expand land area for farming and grazing, urbanization, illegal settlement, and fuel wood consumption.

Ato Neway also said that since Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world and the livelihood of many depends upon forest and forest products, the situation could worsen if deforestation continues at the present rate. Also, the significant economic growth witnessed in the country over the past few years, he stated, could mean that unless forest resources are managed properly and attempts made at increasing their size, pressure on forest and forest products is going to increase.

### ***Workshop proceedings***

Participants from different regions in Ethiopia came to share the experiences and challenges they've faced in developing strategies to increase forest coverage. The main challenges faced were ownership of forests and providing those who depend on forests and forest products for their livelihood an alternative means of earning their living. They listened keenly to participants from the USA, Kenya, and Tanzania who shared their views and experiences.

### ***Existing policies***

In his speech to the workshop, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development H.E. Mr. Yacob Yana outlined steps being taken in Ethiopia to address the challenges of forest management. He said government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is showing commitment to restore its forest cover by the third millennium through afforestation and preservation of existing forests. The country has already embarked on this road, and launched the Millennium Project ("Two Trees for 2000"), in which every family will plant two trees, culminating in the planting of an estimated 60 million trees by the end of the campaign. The government also approved a new forest development, conservation and utilization policy and strategy in April 2007. In this regard the House of Representatives approved a "Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization Proclamation". The minister asserted that these are important steps towards laying

a legal framework for development conservation and utilization of the country's forest resources.

There are also other plans and strategies that the government is going to implement among which are the Agricultural-Led Industrialization (ADLI) which is the leading development strategy of the country, and the Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP).

In addition to these policies and initiatives, there are a number of federal and regional offices involved in programs and projects related to forestry such as Participatory Forest Management (PFM), Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), Country Partnership Program for Sustainable Land Management (CPPSLM), Managing Environmental Resources to Enable Transition to Sustainable Livelihoods (MERET Project), and Agricultural Sector Support Program (ASSP).

### ***What needs to be done?***

The immediate problem that needs urgent solution is the rate of deforestation in the country. Ato Neway suggested that one attempt could be to look into existing forest policies and practices in the country and identify the constraints and opportunities. He said that it is also important to build awareness about the issues involved and to properly identify the problems.

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