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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Report of the Workshop on

The Phase Out of Leaded Gasoline in East Africa

Held at UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi, from 5 to 7 June 2002

Progress Towards Cleaner Fuel and Cleaner Air in East Africa

Nairobi, August 2002

A joint activity of



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Introduction

From 5 to 7 June 2002, a workshop on the Phase Out of Leaded Gasoline in East Africa was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi. The workshop was a follow up to a conference held in Dakar from 26 to 28 June 2001, where participants from 25 Sub Saharan African governments, the private sector, and civil society groups adopted the Dakar Declaration on the phase out of leaded gasoline in Sub Saharan Africa. The workshop was co-organised by USEPA, IPIECA, The World Bank, and UNEP.

Ninety-one representatives from governments, private sector, civil society and international organisations participated actively in the workshop. A detailed action plan for phasing out of lead from gasoline was the main outcome of the workshop. The action plan, agenda of the workshop, and list of participants are included in the annexes.

This report gives a brief overview of the discussions and outcomes of the workshop. For more details, please visit: www.unep.org/dpdl/urban-environment or contact:

Rob de Jong
Programme Officer
United Nations Environment Programme
P.O.Box 30552
Nairobi
Kenya
phone: +254-2-624184
fax: +254-2-624324
e-mail: rob.jong@unep.org

The Workshop

Urban air pollution from vehicle emissions is a serious environmental threat in developing countries and especially in Africa. It is estimated that the costs of environmental damage caused by air pollution in developing country cities can be as high as 5 - 10 % of urban income of these cities.

Airborne lead is one of the most serious urban air pollutants. The use of lead in gasoline is the prime source of airborne lead pollution in African cities. Lead pollution has severe effects on human health and children's mental development in specific.

The use of leaded fuel prevents the use of catalytic converters. Catalytic converters can be instrumental in improving the air quality in African cities as they reduce vehicle emissions by more than 90%. Introduction of clean fuels and vehicle technologies not only benefit the health and environment in the cities, but also contribute to addressing regional and global environmental issues such as transboundary air pollution and global warming.

The objective of the workshop was to develop an action plan for the phase out of leaded gasoline in East Africa. Representatives from various sectors; energy, transport, health, environment, industry, civil society, and research showed a strong commitment to the phase out of lead from gasoline as soon as possible. They all agreed that no major technical obstacles exist to removing lead from gasoline in East Africa, and they developed and adopted an action plan for the complete phase out of leaded gasoline in East Africa.

Outcomes of the Workshop

The main objective of the Nairobi workshop was to develop an action plan for the phase out of leaded gasoline in East Africa, providing a framework for all partners to implement initiatives to reduce the lead levels in leaded gasoline and to introduce unleaded gasoline.

To achieve this objective the workshop was organised in four main parts:

- 1- Keynote presentations;
- 2- Topic specific presentations;
- 3- Working groups;
- 4- Closing session (adoption of the action plan).

Keynote Presentations

Three keynote presentations were aimed at giving common background information to all participants. The presentations highlighted the environmental and health effects of the use of leaded gasoline, the technical reasons for adding lead to fuels, and highlighted the benefits and options of lead phase out.

Topic Specific Presentations

The keynote presentations were followed by nine specific presentations that gave additional information on technical aspects, the opportunities and the challenges of phasing out lead from gasoline in East Africa, the views of the different partners, and experiences on phasing out leaded gasoline in other regions. These substantive presentations clarified that there are no technical or financial reasons to continue using leaded fuel in East Africa. They also indicated that all partners involved, governments, private sector, and civil society organisations favour the phase out of lead in gasoline in East Africa. The case studies presented showed how other regions had successfully handled the phase out of leaded gasoline.

Working Groups

The presentations served as information for the working groups to enable them to develop an action plan for the phase out of leaded gasoline in East Africa. Three working groups were formed:

Working group I: the role of governments in phasing out leaded gasoline and introducing unleaded gasoline;

Working group II: the role of the private sector in phasing out leaded gasoline and introducing unleaded gasoline;

Working group III: the role of information, marketing, and communication in phasing out leaded gasoline and introducing unleaded gasoline.

Using the information given in earlier sessions, each working group had to prepare specific activities with time tables, indicating who was to take the lead.

Working Group I discussed the role of governments and called upon East African Governments to declare their intentions in phasing out leaded gasoline. It also called on the governments to harmonise fuel specifications in East Africa to ease the introduction of unleaded gasoline. Governments were requested to remove any barriers to enable the industry to provide unleaded gasoline and to develop policies for more stringent emissions standards, including monitoring and enforcement of these standards. Governments were called upon to work closely with the other partners, the industry and civil society organisations, and to support and promote awareness raising activities to promote the use of unleaded gasoline.

Working Group II discussed the role of the private sector in the phase out of leaded gasoline. The working group called upon the private sector to take the initiative in the phase out of leaded gasoline, in close cooperation with governments and other partners. The private sector should come out to the public and declare that leaded fuel is not necessary in East Africa and provide sound technical information to governments and other partners on the availability of alternatives. The industry should also initiate awareness campaigns addressed to their own staff such as fuel attendants, so they can properly inform consumers. The industry should also participate in awareness campaigns addressed to consumers and traders.

Working Group III advised on the need for overall public awareness focused on key health and environmental issues, as well as technical issues. It is important to clarify to the public at large that unleaded gasoline actually benefits most car engines, as well as having huge health and environment benefits. Although civil society can take a lead in developing such public awareness campaigns, it was found that all partners, including government and private sector, should be integrated in these.

Closing Session, including the Adoption of the Action Plan

The outcomes of each of the three Working Groups were presented during the closing plenary session. They formed the basic building blocks for the action plan for the phase out of leaded gasoline in East Africa. After discussions and amendments, all participants adopted the Action Plan. The Action Plan is included in annex 1.

The Assistant Kenyan Minister of Industry closed the Workshop and gave his full support to the action plan.

The Way Forward

Since the Nairobi workshop many partners have initiated actions to phase out leaded gasoline, and promote clean fuels and vehicle technologies in general:

- many oil companies providing leaded gasoline, have announced their intention to reduce lead in gasoline and phase it out completely by introducing unleaded gasoline;
- governments have taken action, in situations where the governments are providing fuel to the public, to reduce the lead level of the fuels provided;
- governments and the industry have started meeting to develop plans for future fuel specifications, including phasing out leaded gasoline, and set targets accordingly;
- the Government of Kenya is in close consultation with the private sector to develop a plan for the upgrading of the Mombasa refinery, the only working refinery in the East African region, to allow it to produce unleaded fuel;
- some oil companies have gone further and decided to introduce low sulfur fuels in East Africa;
- During the workshop, the United Nations Offices in Nairobi (UNON) introduced unleaded gasoline at the United Nation petrol station. This was officially launched during the workshop. UNON has decided to only use unleaded gasoline for its car fleet;
- Civil society organisations and the press have expressed great interest in this topic, and are preparing awareness raising activities in this regard.

At the global level, supported by the outcomes of the Nairobi workshop and other clean fuels and vehicles initiatives world wide, the major partners have come together to develop a global partnership for clean fuels and vehicles. The objective of this partnership is to promote clean fuels and vehicles for improved air quality. Specific objectives include the phase out leaded gasoline in countries where it is still used, to improve the quality of fuels, for example lowering sulfur levels in developing countries, and promoting the introduction of clean vehicle technologies such as catalytic converters. The members of the global partnership include the organisers of the Nairobi workshop. The partnership members will meet for the first time at the end of 2002 to develop their workplan.

Annex 1: The Action Plan



ACTION PLAN FOR THE PHASE-OUT OF LEADED GASOLINE in East Africa

Ninety-one participants representing governments, the private sector and civil society, met in Nairobi, Kenya, from 5 to 7 June 2002 to develop an action plan for the phase-out of leaded gasoline in East Africa.

Considering

that human exposure to lead is a major environmental health hazard which results in a broad range of serious and often irreversible health consequences, especially in children;

that leaded fuel prevents the introduction of cleaner engines and catalytic converters which are necessary to achieve significant reductions in air pollution;

Recognising

that lead phase out is the essential first step to a comprehensive air pollution control strategy in East African countries;

that by building linkages with existing and future initiatives as well as involving all the relevant stakeholders will ensure successful implementation of these strategies;

that most countries in the East African sub-region still use only leaded gasoline ;

that the undisputed health and environmental dangers of leaded fuels are a serious and growing threat in East Africa;

and that there is a broad consensus among government, industry and civil society partners in favour of urgently phasing out the use of leaded gasoline;

Taking Note of

the decision on phasing out of leaded gasoline at the UNEP Governing Council (Decision 21/6 of February 2001) and the Dakar Declaration on the phasing out of leaded gasoline in Sub-Saharan Africa (June 2001);

the priority given to the phase out of leaded gasoline world-wide during the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, August-September 2002);

and the three sub-regional Workshops on phasing out of leaded gasoline in Sub-Saharan Africa, held in Abuja (November 2001), Dakar (March 2002) and Cotonou (April 2002).

The participants agree

that in the East Africa context, considering health, environment, technology and economic factors, options are available to remove lead from gasoline;

that the only refinery in the sub-region is central to the phasing out of leaded gasoline in many countries in East Africa.

The Participants therefore recommend that the following actions be taken urgently to prepare for and execute the phasing out of leaded gasoline (actions are listed below with additional details given in the attached table):

1. for East African Governments to declare their intention to phase out the use of lead in gasoline and to organise a group of people to work on the specific modalities for the implementation of such phase out;
2. for multi-stakeholders to convene meetings in each country to develop road maps for the phase out of leaded gasoline (including fuel specifications, pricing and taxation, and enabling activities);
3. for respective authorities of East African Governments to work towards harmonisation of fuel specifications in the region to ease the introduction of unleaded gasoline and facilitate regional trade, recognizing different timeframes and needs;

4. the enactment of appropriate national legislation/ regulation to ensure more stringent fuel quality –including unleaded gasoline- and emission standards, and monitoring and enforcement of these standards;
5. the development of awareness campaigns to train and educate government officials, fuel pump operators, and service attendants, and others, to promote unleaded gasoline;
6. for industry (oil, automotive, and retailers) to declare that leaded fuel is not necessary in East Africa and to provide sound technical information and authoritative statements to government and public;
7. for Governments to remove any barriers to the provision of unleaded fuel, and for oil companies and retailers to take a leadership role in ensuring that unleaded gasoline is widely available throughout East Africa;
8. for Governments and international agencies to purchase unleaded fuel only for their own vehicle fleet consumption;
9. for civil society to encourage actions by governments and the private sector to accelerate the phase out of lead in gasoline;
10. to develop public awareness campaigns addressed to the whole population focussed on key health and environmental issues and reasons for phasing out leaded gasoline;
11. to develop awareness-raising campaigns addressed to car users, auto trade, mechanics, etc., focussed on vehicle performance, user benefits, etc. to dispel myths about unleaded gasoline;
12. to initiate programmes to gather and generate data and information in support of the awareness campaigns (ambient air quality, emissions, lead pollution, lead blood levels, vehicle population...);
13. for the National Environment Council in Kenya, as well as similar organisations in other East African countries, to put on their agenda the phase out of leaded gasoline.

To monitor progress in implementing this Action Plan,

a review, organised by UNEP, will take place during the second half of 2003 (or first half of 2004) in connection with the meeting of the African Ministers of Environment (AMCEN); as part of this review each government will prepare a short report on progress, IPIECA will prepare a report on actions taken by the private sector, and civil society organisations will be invited to report on activities

in relation to the action plan. UNEP will prepare a report of this review which will be sent to all participants of the East Africa Sub-Regional Workshop.

The international organisations that have supported this workshop, IPIECA, UNEP, USEPA, and The World Bank Group, will continue to support activities for the phase out of leaded gasoline in East Africa as well as in the rest of the world.

Nairobi, 07 June 2002

Annex 2: The Programme of the Workshop



SUBREGIONAL CONFERENCE ON PHASE OUT OF LEADED GASOLINE IN EAST AFRICA

UNEP HEADQUARTERS, GIGIRI, NAIROBI, JUNE 5-7 2002

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2002			
Time	Subject	Speaker	Remarks
09:00 – 10:30	Registration		
10:30 – 11:00	Conference Opening and Welcome	Mr. Sekou Toure, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Africa	
11:00 – 11:30	Keynote Speech: The Need For and Benefits of, Eliminating Lead From Gasoline	Mr. Michael Walsh, Consultant	
11:30 – 12:00	Keynote Speech: Introducing Unleaded: an Industry view	Mr. Kerry Wark, ExxonMobil/IPIECA	
12:00 – 12:30	Keynote Speech: U.S. Experience with Lead Phase-out	Ms. Jane Armstrong, USEPA	
<i>After this presentation, delegates should make their way to the UN service station</i>			
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunchtime Side Event: Launch of Unleaded Gasoline at the UN service station:- drinks and food will be served</i>		
<i>After the side event, delegates should return to the main hall for the afternoon session</i>			
14:15 – 14:30	Objectives of the meeting	Doug McCallum	
14:30 – 15:00	Downstream Petroleum Sector in Sub-Saharan Africa - A World Bank Perspective	Michel Muylle, World Bank	
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Short Break</i>		
15:15 – 15:35	Challenges and opportunities for Lead Phase out in East Africa: a government perspective	Jane Wanjiru Akumu Ministry of Energy, Government of Kenya	
15:35 – 15:55	Phasing out leaded fuel: the role of civil society organizations	Nyaguthii Chege Natural Resources Defense Council	
15:55 – 16:30	Questions and discussion (panel of presenters)		Moderated by Doug McCallum

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2002			
Time	Subject	Speaker	Remarks
09:00 – 09:25	East Africa Vehicle Fleet Implications: Lead Phase Out and Emission Control	Stuart Rayner, Ford/NAAMSA	
09:25 – 09:50	Refining and Supply options for the introduction of Unleaded Gasoline	Chris House, Kenya Petroleum Refinery Ltd	
09:50 – 10:15	Regional Marketing and Distribution infrastructure: preferred methodologies for ULG distribution	Eddie Day, Shell/BP group	
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee Break		
10:45 – 11:10	Regional fuel Standards and Specifications	Ms. Margareth Rotich, Kenya Bureau of Standards	
11:10 – 11:40	Lead phase out case studies: 1. Vietnam/Thailand 2. Bahrain	Nazeema Abrahams Rob Cox	
11:40 – 12:15	Questions and discussion (panel of presenters)		Moderated by Doug Mc Callum
12:15 – 12:45	Instructions to Break-Out Groups*	Doug Mc Callum	
12:45 – 14:15	Lunch		
14:15 – 15:15	Break Out Groups: formulation of Regional and Functional Action Plans		Led by designated rapporteurs & facilitators
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee Break		
15:45 – 17:00	Break out Groups: formulation of Regional and Functional Action Plans		Led by designated rapporteurs & facilitators
18:00 – 19:30	<i>Reception</i>		

* Breakout Groups structured as follows:
 Group I: The role of Government in introducing ULG
 Group II: The role of the private sector in introducing ULG
 Group III: The role of information, marketing and communication in introducing ULG

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2002			
Time	Subject	Speaker	Remarks
09:00 – 10:30	Report Back from Break out Groups (10 minute presentations followed by questions/clarifications)	Rapporteurs	Moderated by Doug McCallum
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00 – 12:30	Finalising Action Plan and Conference statement		Moderated by Doug McCallum
12:30 – 13:30	Closing statements Conference ends	Kenya Government/UNEP	