



International Ecosystem Management Partnership
国际生态系统管理伙伴计划



ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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The UNEP-International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP) is the first UNEP Collaborating Centre in the South and for the South mobilizing science to support policy setting for sustainable ecosystem management in all developing countries. It has been mandated to supporting UNEP's Ecosystem Management and Climate Change Sub-programmes, promoting a green economy and enhancing South-South Cooperation. It is supported by three initiatives; Capacity Building and Technology Transfer, Making the Case through Assessment and Demonstration, and Enhancing Science-Policy Interface. Our niche rests on ecosystem management and encompasses science-policy interface and South-South Cooperation.

OUR VISION

Enhance the role of ecosystem management as a vital approach to working with nature for a world with a green economy.

OUR MISSION

To provide science, policy , and capacity support to developing countries to integrate ecosystem management approaches into national policies and development plans to enhance the delivery of ecosystem services for human well-being

A UNEP Collaborating Centre in the South and for the South



“UNEP-IEMP needs to be a true global centre in the South and for the South providing technical and policy support to developing countries and promoting ecological civilization.”

*Prof. Chunli Bai
President
Chinese Academy of Sciences*



“UNEP-IEMP is a foundational pillar of UNEP’s South-South Cooperation initiative that enables UNEP to deliver environmental capacity building and technology support to regions of the South.”

*Mr. Achim Steiner
Executive Director
United Nations Environment Programme*



“The Ministry of Environmental Protection will support the host Chinese organization, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, for the establishment of UNEP-IEMP.”

*H.E. Shengxian Zhou
Minister
Ministry of Environmental Protection*

2010: With China as one of the leading emerging economies in the world possessing vast experiences, knowledge and technology on ecosystem management, and UNEP as the leading institution on environmental issues, leaders of both UNEP and the Chinese Academy of Sciences agreed on the strong need to establish a collaboration to enhance ecosystem management in developing countries.

2011: The Ministry of Environmental Protection of China confirmed its support to the Chinese Academy of Sciences for the new set-up of UNEP-IEMP which was officially launched as an international programme of UNEP in November 2011.

2012: After a year of operation, an agreement was signed by UNEP and CAS that transformed UNEP-IEMP from an international programme to a UNEP Collaborating Centre in the South and for the South.

2013: UNEP-IEMP entered its development phase (2013-2015) as a UNEP Collaborating Centre. First Steering Committee meeting was held in August 2013 which approved the Medium-Term Development Strategy and Biennial Workplan.

2014: UNEP-IEMP focused its work on South-South Cooperation and conceived its future direction on ecosystem and livelihoods.

UNEP-IEMP STEERING COMMITTEE (SC) AND SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEMBERS

CO-CHAIRS:

- **Mr. Tieniu Tan**, *Deputy Secretary General, Chinese Academy of Sciences (Co-chair SC)*
 - **Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw**, *Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (Co-chair SC)*
 - **Mr. Yiyu Chen**, *Chairman Life Science Division of CAS and immediate past President of National Natural Science Foundation of China (Co-chair SAG)*
 - **Dr. Arthur Hanson**, *International Chief Advisor and Member, China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) and former President of IISD, (Co-chair SAG)*
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- **Dr. Bojie Fu**, *Professor of Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Fellow of the Academy of Sciences for Developing World (SAG member)*
 - **Dr. Gisela Alonso**, *President of the Cuban Agency of Environment, and Honor Member of the Cuban Academy of Sciences (SAG member)*
 - **Mr. Haisheng Li**, *Director General of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Environment Protection (MEP) of China*
 - **Dr. Kathy MacKinnon**, *Vice-Chair of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of IUCN/WCPA and Vice-Chair on Climate Change, Board Member of Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Member of the Supervisory Council of Wetlands International (SAG member)*
 - **Mr. Masataka Watanabe**, *Chair, Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN)*
 - **Dr. Qinghua Xu**, *Deputy Secretary General, China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (SAG member)*
 - **Dr. Salif Diop**, *Water Specialist, Member of the African Academy of Sciences (ASS) and Member of The World Academy of Sciences for the Advancement of Sciences in the Developing Countries (SAG member)*
 - **Mr. Wei Su**, *Director General of Climate Change Department, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China*
 - **Mr. Yi Liu**, *Deputy Director General, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), CAS*
 - **Ms. Yolanda Kakabadse Navarro**, *WWF's International President and the former Minister of Environment of Ecuador*
 - **Mr. Zakri Abdul Hamid**, *Chair, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)*

A Word from the Director



Jian Liu
Director

Guided and supported by its Steering Committee, UNEP-IEMP has made remarkable progress in 2014 in accomplishing its Annual Work Plan, laying the foundation for implementation of its Mid-term Development Strategy (2014-2017). First of all, the Chinese Academy of Sciences has appreciatively granted us a provisional core budget and a quotation of core staff, which are key cornerstones in securing our future sustainability.

Secondly, we have started delivering concrete support and services to both policy-makers and communities in Africa, Asia and West Asia, through implementation of projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and Ministry of Environment Protection (MEP).

2014 has opened a new page for us in advancing the global agenda on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change, notably through the signing of the MOU between UNEP and China for which UNEP-IEMP, and our partners of NDRC and UNEP, played an instrumental role. We organized the **South-South Cooperation on Climate Change Forum** in the interval of COP20 of UNFCCC. Attended by more than 200 participants including ministers, principals of UN and international organizations, heads of development agencies, and leaders of science, business, and civil societies, the Forum recognized the importance of South-South cooperation as a key element of the global response to climate change and an important complement to North-South Cooperation. 2014 also saw the kick-off of our East Africa project focusing on wildlife conservation and improvement of community livelihoods, aiming to address the root causes of illegal trade in wildlife, through supporting the development of sustainable and alternative livelihoods for communities affected.

2014 conceived the strategic thinking of the future directions of UNEP-IEMP in the next 10 years. This has led to the initiation of our Flagship Programme on ecosystem, climate and livelihood and of a long-term multi-lateral platform for promoting South-South Cooperation.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to the UNEP-IEMP family who have contributed significantly to the success of the Centre. I am looking forward to your continued support and cooperation on the aforementioned various fronts in 2015 and beyond.



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ANNUAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The UNEP-IEMP Steering Committee met for the second time on June 4, 2014 in Beijing, China to:

- (1) to evaluate the progress made in 2013/2014,
- (2) review and approve the work plan for 2014/2015,
- (3) discuss and provide guidance on key challenges related to management and operations, and
- (4) discuss and approve of the Corporate Structure and Working Mechanism of the Steering Committee and Science Advisory Group.

Co-chaired by Mr. Tieniu Tan, Deputy Secretary General of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP (represented in the morning by Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Regional Director, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific), the meeting was attended by its members from the Chinese Ministry of Environment Protection (MEP), National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Network (APAN), National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED).

During the discussions, members of the Steering Committee (SC) noted the importance of enhancing capacity building in the South and commended UNEP-IEMP for its key activities of such kinds. They applauded the Centre for its work on enhancing South-South Cooperation and providing a platform for China to reach out to the rest of the developing world. The meeting focused its discussion on a number of key issues facing the Centre including financial and human resources and explored various avenues for increased mobilization of funds and staff.

Members of the SC highly commended UNEP-IEMP on the milestones achieved in 2013, and endorsed the proposed Work Plan for 2014/2015 including core budget and staff requirements, management options and main activities to implement a portfolio of 15 projects.



A photograph of a dense forest with tall, thin trees and a path leading through ferns. The text "YEAR in review" is overlaid in the center.

YEAR in review

JAN 9

Strengthening Collaborations

A UNEP Delegation team led by the Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) visited UNEP-IEMP office to explore avenues for stronger collaboration between UNEP regional offices and Collaborating Centres and enhance their capacities to deliver and support countries.

MAY 8-9

M&E Training Workshop

The first M&E Training Workshop for the UNEP-NDRC project was held to support the development of detailed protocols and planning tools to plan and implement EBA within a scientifically rigorous long-term research programme.

MAY 10

UNEP-China MOU

MOU for the Enhancement of Collaboration on South-South Cooperation in Addressing climate change was signed that provides a framework for harnessing strengths, capacities and resources between UNEP and China.

MAY 10

2nd Project Steering Committee

UNEP-NDRC project Steering Committee met for the second time to review the project's progress in Year 1 of operation and approve Work Plan and budget for Year 2.

JUN 4

Steering Committee Meeting

The 2nd UNEP-IEMP SC met to review the Centre's progress for 2013 and approve the Work Plan, budget and staff requirements for 2014/2015.

JUN 29-30

Field Mission to Maasai Mara

In collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Service, the project team conducted a field mission to the Maasai Mara to assess the challenges and conflicts in protected areas and collect baseline data.

JUL 1-2

Project Inception Workshop

The workshop provided a platform for sharing ideas and expertise from experts working on-the-ground to provide strategic direction for effective implementation of the project.

JUL 14-15

Annual Retreat

Still in its early stage of its Mid-term Development Strategy, the retreat focused on revisiting its niche and future directions of the Centre.

SEP 9-11

IPBES Scoping Meeting

In collaboration with IPBES and MEP China, UNEP-IEMP hosted a scoping meeting for a thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration that laid the foundation for a scoping report.

OCT 1-3

EBA Inter-regional Workshop

The UNEP-NDRC project conducted an inter-regional training workshop on accessing climate change adaptation finance and mainstreaming ecosystem-based approach to adaptation (EBA).

NOV 9-12

Supporting Regional Assessments

In collaboration with UNEP/ROAP and UNEP/WCMC, a capacity building workshop was held to promote better understanding of the basic concepts of an ecosystem and build confidence for application of the ecosystem assessment framework.

DEC 8

Climate Change Forum

The South-South Cooperation on Climate Change Forum emphasized the importance of SSC as an integral part of global action on combating climate change, and outlined the options and mechanisms for promoting it.





2014
HIGHLIGHTS

Advancing agenda on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change

UNEP-China MOU on South-South Cooperation

On 10 May 2014, during the visit of Chinese Premier H.E. Mr. Keqiang Li to Kenya, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between H.E. Mr. Shaoshi Xu, Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

This MOU is for the “*Enhancement of Collaboration on South-South Cooperation in Addressing Climate Change.*” The MOU provides a framework of cooperation, within which China and UNEP will harness their “strengths, capacities and resources” to assist countries of the Global South to combat climate change. “This new agreement sends a powerful message on their commitment to enhance South-South Cooperation within the global arrangement for addressing climate change.” This MOU will build concrete joint efforts already taking place in support of other developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region in this crucial area. This agreement demonstrates China’s readiness to work with UNEP to profoundly engage in the development of a strong post-2015 development agenda and the evolution of far-reaching Sustainable Development Goals. For many years, the Chinese government, with their far-thinking environmental vision, has been helping to shape this new dimension of international cooperation on the critical issue of climate change.

Other issues discussed during this visit included cooperation on the Green Economy and China’s newly declared “war” on pollution and haze weather. Ecological civilization and economic reform have been taking an increasingly prominent role in China’s development in recent years, with efforts to combat climate change and pollution at the forefront of the country’s environmental activities.

With close collaboration with NDRC’s Climate Change Department, UNEP-IEMP played an instrumental role in initiating and preparing the MOU and facilitates activities for China to support other developing countries.



Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP and Chinese Premier H.E. Keqiang Li after signing of the MOU

“This new agreement sends a powerful message on China’s commitment to enhancing South-South Cooperation within the global arrangement for addressing climate change - an area in which it they can count on UNEP’s unflagging support.”

*Achim Steiner
Executive Director, UNEP*



High-level Opening Ceremony and Ministerial Dialogue participants

South-South Cooperation on Climate Change Forum

As part of its work to promote South-South Cooperation, UNEP-IEMP organized the South-South Cooperation on Climate Change Forum (SSCCC) in the interval of the UNFCCC COP20 in Lima, Peru on December 8, 2014. With more than 200 participants present including Ministers, governmental representatives, principals of UN and international organizations, heads of development agencies, scientists and business leaders, and civil society representatives, the Forum was co-sponsored by NDRC, UNEP and UNDP, and supported by our partners, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), WWF-China, UNEP-Tongji-IESD, UNFCCC, INTASAVE-CARIBSAVE Group and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Contributing to the post-2015 climate agreement by promoting South-South Cooperation as an integral part of global action on combating climate change was the main agenda at the Forum. Commencing with an Opening Ceremony and Ministerial Dialogue attended by Ministers and other high-level governmental delegates from China, Egypt, Gabon, Mongolia, Nepal, and Seychelles, as well as Heads of UNEP, UNDP, UNFCCC, UNCCD, GEF, and SDC, the Forum proceeded with five high-level interactive Panels covering a wide range of critical issues that reflected perspectives of practitioner, policy-maker and academicians, enabling conditions: science, policy, fund and institution; climate resilience and livelihood; capacity building for decision makers and practitioners; technology transfer for clean energy; and ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation. China's leadership in bringing finance and technology transfer to the South-South cooperation mechanism was highly commended and the experiences and lessons learned on tackling climate change can be shared with other countries of the South.

Key Messages from the Forum

1. The Forum called for the establishment of the basic value proposition and importance of South-South cooperation;
2. The Forum also called for identification of the enablers and constraints for South-South cooperation and of its options and mechanisms;
3. Participants called for scaling-up current mechanisms and establish new mechanisms for South-South cooperation such as a new platform for capacity building, knowledge sharing and technology transfer;
4. South-South cooperation should be built into projects and programmes supported through multilateral and bilateral sources;
5. China announced the creation of a new South-South Cooperation Fund by doubling China's financial contribution to South-South cooperation;
6. UNFCCC Secretariat announced the creation of a new window under the UNFCCC Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation;



Photo with the Executive Director and Deputy ED of UNEP



Some Peru university colleagues who attended the Forum



Some participants in the Forum group photo



High-Level Panel on Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Mitigation

Developing countries are more dependent on ecosystem services. When they respond to climate change, ecosystem-based approach is a more important and efficient way for their adaptation and mitigation. That is why Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EBA) and Mitigation (REDD) are the most welcomed means in developing countries, and hence key components for South-South cooperation. UNEP-IEMP and UNEP co-organized, inter alia, a high-level Panel discussion at the SSCCC Forum that reached the following key conclusions:

1. Ecosystem based approaches for mitigation and adaptation, in particular their synergies are an integral part of the climate change solution equation
2. Effective ecosystem based approaches for mitigation and adaptation requires strong policy and financial support
3. Ecosystem based mitigation and adaptation are not novel approaches, a lot can be learnt from traditional practices and South-South Cooperation can play a key role in sharing this knowledge.



Reducing Vulnerability of Least Developed Countries to Climate Change through EBA

The UNEP-NDRC's GEF-funded project on **Enhancing Capacity, Knowledge and Technology Support to Build Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Developing Countries** has concluded its second year of implementation. Key activities include the launch of ground work on Ecosystem-based Adaptation in three pilot countries; Nepal, Mauritania, and Seychelles, covering three ecosystem types; mountain, arid, and coastal respectively by providing capacity, knowledge and technology support. The project comprises three main components to be implemented over a four year period (2013-2017);

- i) Inter-regional coordination and capacity building for African and Asia-Pacific developing countries to plan and implement EBA;
- ii) Inter-regional online EBA knowledge support; and
- iii) The transfer of EBA technologies to pilot African and Asia-Pacific countries supported by national and local level capacity building and knowledge support.

The project is of significant importance in the context of global efforts to implement EBA and to increase the transfer of adaptation technologies through South-South Cooperation. The project has made good progress and valuable contributions towards upscaling and mainstreaming the EBA approach to generate its multiple social and economic benefits.

After a year of implementation, the project's **Steering Committee** met for the second time where they reviewed the progress of the project in Year 1, approved the findings of the baseline studies conducted in the three pilot countries, including proposed revisions of the results framework, and reviewed and approved the Work Plan and budget for Year 2. The completion of **baseline studies** in the three pilot countries was a positive development and an important milestone towards implementation of EBA activities on the ground. Draft EBA protocols for each pilot country have been developed to guide on-the-ground implementation activities.



Project Steering Committee participants

PROJECT IN THE NUMBERS

Project activities being implemented in **3 pilot countries**

US\$4,900,000 - Total contribution from the GEF Special Climate Change Fund

Inter-regional activities encompass **4 developing regions**; Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and West Asia

Total co-financing of **\$34.7million** for the project

*More than **150** people from over **25** countries have been trained in **4** workshops*

2 high-level events attended by over **150** people organized to promote EBA in the context of South-South Cooperation

Inter-regional training workshop on Accessing Climate Change Adaptation Finance

In collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network, an interregional training workshop on *Accessing Climate Change Adaptation Finance and Mainstreaming Ecosystem-Based Approach to Adaptation* was organized in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The workshop mainstreamed EBA into planning and financing processes in developing countries of Africa and Asia-Pacific, by sharing and exchanging knowledge on EBA and lessons learned on its planning and implementation. Over 30 participants from over 10 countries including national policy-makers and technical staff from developing countries engaging in financing and implementing EBA initiatives attended the workshop. Outputs of the workshop include a Discussion Paper on EBA finance and a Policy Brief highlighting the challenges and policy recommendations for accessing and implementing funds for EBA projects.

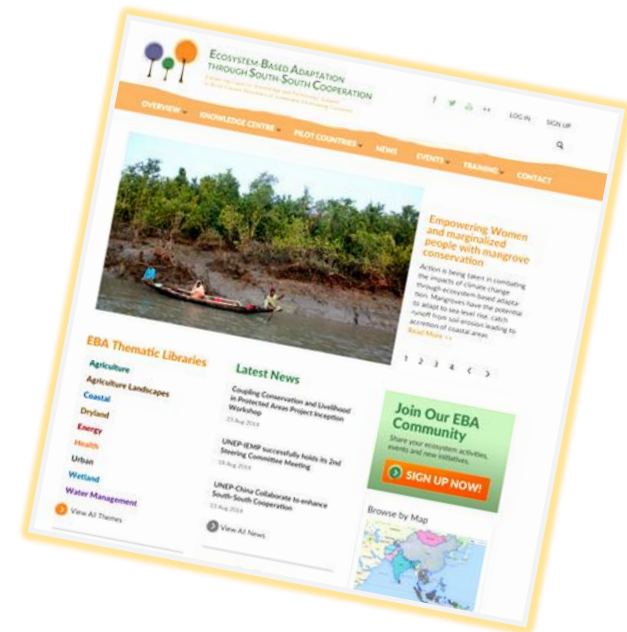


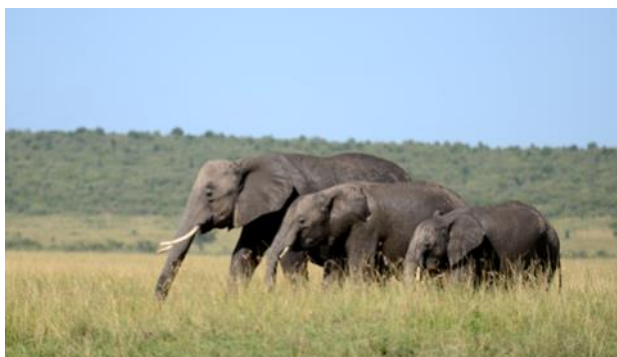
Participants at the training workshop

As part of the project's components, an **inter-regional training workshop** on accessing Climate Change adaptation finance was conducted in collaboration with project partners (see above for more details).

In recent years, the role knowledge sharing can play in improving access to climate change information and appropriate adaptive practices has been acknowledged. **Online climate change knowledge sharing platforms** proliferate on the internet - targeting researchers, policy makers, NGOs and other stakeholders at the global level. As part of the project's interregional activities, and building on the expertise and results of successful knowledge sharing initiatives with a focus on climate change adaptation, a new web-platform has been launched, "*Ecosystem-based Adaptation through South-South Cooperation*" (www.ebasouth.org).

This online knowledge sharing platform serves to not only becoming an online "hub" for promoting the concepts and principles of EBA, for enhancing awareness of its benefits, and for sharing good practice examples of on-the-ground EBA interventions, but to also intends to support the creation of an online community of EBA experts and stakeholders "in the South and for the South", sharing experiences and lessons that are of particular interest to developing countries.





Sustainable Management of Protected Areas

The world's protected areas have grown exponentially over the past several years, particularly in developing countries that manage a large number of the world's biodiversity. Concurrently, the mandate of protected areas has evolved beyond just biodiversity conservation, but to also improving human livelihood. However, sustainable management of protected areas is facing huge challenges despite increasing commitment of developing country governments in contributing to global and regional biodiversity conservation. This is no exception to Kenya's protected areas. Kenya is a champion at managing protected areas in East Africa, and is a great example for other countries in the developing region. Nonetheless, they are still facing numerous challenges and constraints in their conservation efforts. Development and human population pressure on these protected ecosystems have increased rapidly in recent years, including increasing number of tourists and land degradation and fragmentation for livelihood support in adjacent areas to the Protected Areas.

As part of a joint initiative between the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and UNEP through South-South Cooperation, the project "**Coupling Conservation and Livelihood in Protected Areas of East Africa**" aims to look into the success stories and failures in addressing the balance between conservation and livelihoods, and using multi-disciplinary sciences to understand the dynamics of ecosystem services and human activities and design an evaluation system for effective management of protected areas. With funding from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), the project will be piloted in Kenya and will run through to 2018. As the project's executing agency, UNEP-IEMP is working and will continue to work closely with KWS and other partners, including CAS and UNEP-ROA to ensure effective implementation of project activities.

A two-day reconnaissance tour to the Maasai Mara National Park, Mau Forest and surrounding communities within and outside protected areas has been conducted to assess the current work on the ground. The field mission was followed by a two and a half day project inception workshop held in Narok County, Kenya.

KENYA'S PROTECTED AREAS

SOME FACTS

1. About 10% of Kenya's land mass is protected area for wildlife conservation;
2. Protected areas include various ecosystem types: forests, wetlands, savannah, marine, arid and semi-arid;
3. Protected areas comprise of 23 terrestrial National Parks, 28 terrestrial National Reserves, 4 marine National Parks, 6 marine National Reserves and 4 national sanctuaries;
4. To ensure the effective management of all the protected areas, the KWS has created 8 conservation areas across the country, each with several parks and reserves;
5. Kenya's first protected areas, the North and South Game Reserves, were established in 1896

Project Inception Workshop

The project was launched with an inception workshop in Narok County in July 2014. Attended by over 30 participants representing institutions like Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, UNEP, Chinese scientists and professors, the workshop was graced by Mr. Kassim Farah, Narok County Commissioner as the chief guest.

The workshop contained presentations covering a wide range of relevant issues such as water, forest, and wildlife management in Narok County, opportunities for long-term research, and a look at the work that other organizations are undertaking in the project area. The project workplans were presented and provided a significant platform for exchanging ideas and knowledge from experts working on-the-ground to provide strategic direction for effective implementation of the project. The kick-off of this joint initiative will help address the root causes of illegal trade in wildlife, through supporting the development of sustainable and alternative livelihoods.



East Africa project inception workshop participants



Posing for a photo with the women of the Maasai tribe



Children playing outside their homes

Supporting IPBES

Scoping meeting on land degradation

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) provides policy relevant knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services in response to requests made by governments and other stakeholders. Decision IPBES-2/5 called for the undertaking of the scoping for a thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration for consideration by the Plenary at its third session. Land degradation, most of which is attributed to human activity, is a major global problem resulting in negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing. Land degradation especially affects people and communities whose livelihoods directly depend on the land. The avoidance of land degradation and the restoration of degraded lands were acknowledged by the Rio+20 Conference as priority actions for the alleviation of hunger and poverty, and reduction of environmental risk. Preventing land degradation and restoring damaged lands were also identified as priority actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change, protect biodiversity, control desertification, and support a range of ecosystem services.



In order to respond to the Plenary decision and with financial support from the Ministry of Environment Protection of China, UNEP-IEMP in collaboration with the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) of IPBES organized a **scoping meeting for a thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration** in September 2014 in Beijing. The meeting brought together a selected group of 35 experts with a mandate to produce a scoping report for a future thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration. The assessment aims to enhance knowledge, provide guidance and build capacity amongst policy and decision makers, in order to reduce social, economic and environmental costs of land degradation, increase the value of ecosystem services and implement the most appropriate, economically efficient methods for land restoration. The meeting produced the first draft of the scoping report which will be submitted to the 3rd IPBES Plenary for approval, and, if so, be followed by a full assessment on land degradation and restoration, to be initiated in early 2015.



Participants at the IPBES scoping meeting

Training workshop on ecosystem assessments

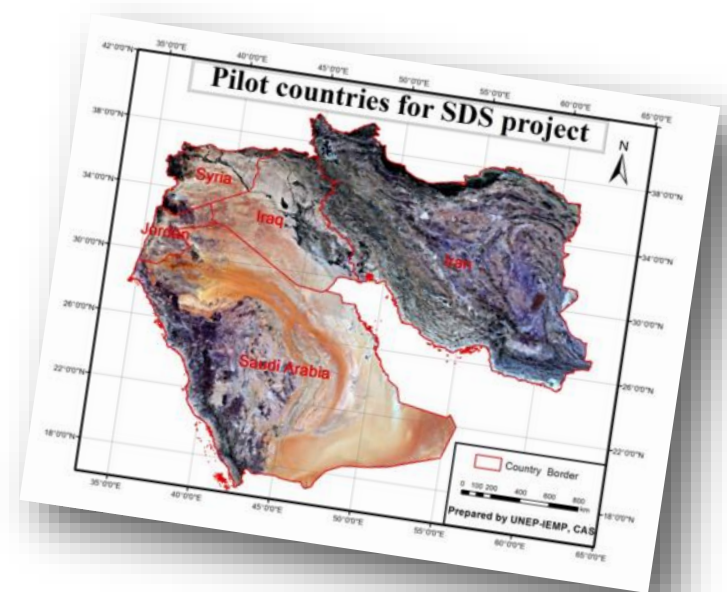


UNEP-IEMP, in collaboration with the UNEP-WCMC and UNEP-ROAP, hosted a **capacity building workshop** undertaking “*Ecosystem Assessments in the context of IPBES in the Asia-Pacific region,*” in Beijing in November. The workshop was attended by technical experts, stakeholders, governmental representatives, policy makers, and donors representatives. Participants shared experiences and lessons from assessing ecosystems and their services at different geographical scales for sound decision making. The workshop promoted better understanding of the application of the “Ecosystem assessment framework” and how it can be used to integrate policy and behavioural changes.

Combating Sand and Dust Storms in West Asia

UNEP-IEMP and UNEP-Regional Office for West Asia entered into an Agreement in 2013 to Contribute to the Regional Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) in West Asia. The Programme is a comprehensive and integrated package of support to countries to take actions at the regional and national levels with regard to SDS monitoring, early warning and combating. Sand and dust storms which happen in arid and semi-arid areas, could render areas uninhabitable and bring direct damage to human health and infrastructure through transport and deposition of sediments.

UNEP-IEMP is contributing to programmatic design interventions in the hotspot sites using ecosystem approaches for land and water management as well as increase in climate resilience, using knowledge sharing support from Chinese institutions. The project has identified potential hot spots in the region based on satellite images and desk studies. A set of examples and case studies of ecosystem-based practices to combat desertification and dust storms from China and elsewhere in Northeast Asia are being collected and compiled to provide best approaches to West Asia with a set of projects and interventions at the landscape, policy and research level. A paper on identification of dust storm source areas has been published in the *Journal Science of the Total Environment*.







INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Working at UNEP-IEMP

Efficient delivery of project results is the only way to build the credibility of UNEP-IEMP as a reliable service provider not only to donors and sponsors, but also to recipient countries and communities. The significant progress we have made to date is attributed to our highly competent and skilled workforce hired in large part through various international staffing programmes of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). During 2014, the Centre's workforce, composed of part-time and full-time staff increased by approximately 28.6%. All the programme coordinators are part time, working as in-kind support from CAS. UNEP-IEMP appreciates continued support to our staff development from the Chinese Academy of Sciences through its *Visiting Professorships, Fellowships for Young International Scientists* and *Visiting Fellowship for Researchers from Developing Countries Programmes*.

We aim to continue investing significantly on enhancing our internal capacity to maintain a competent and effective team through capacity building activities such as annual team retreats. At the 2014 retreat, the team re-visited the niche and identified the future strategic direction and potential flagships to form the basis for our long-term vision of being an international repository of knowledge on ecosystem management and South-South Cooperation.



The Team



Jian Liu
Director



Linxiu Zhang
*UNEP-IEMP Manager &
Science for Policy Programme Coordinator*



Xiubo Yu
*Capacity Building & Technology
Transfer Programme Coordinator*



Bingfang Wu
*Assessment & Demonstration
Programme Coordinator*



Qing Chang
Senior Programme Advisor



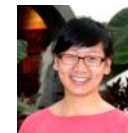
Yutian Zhang
Senior Policy Advisor



Catherine McMullen
Senior Consultant



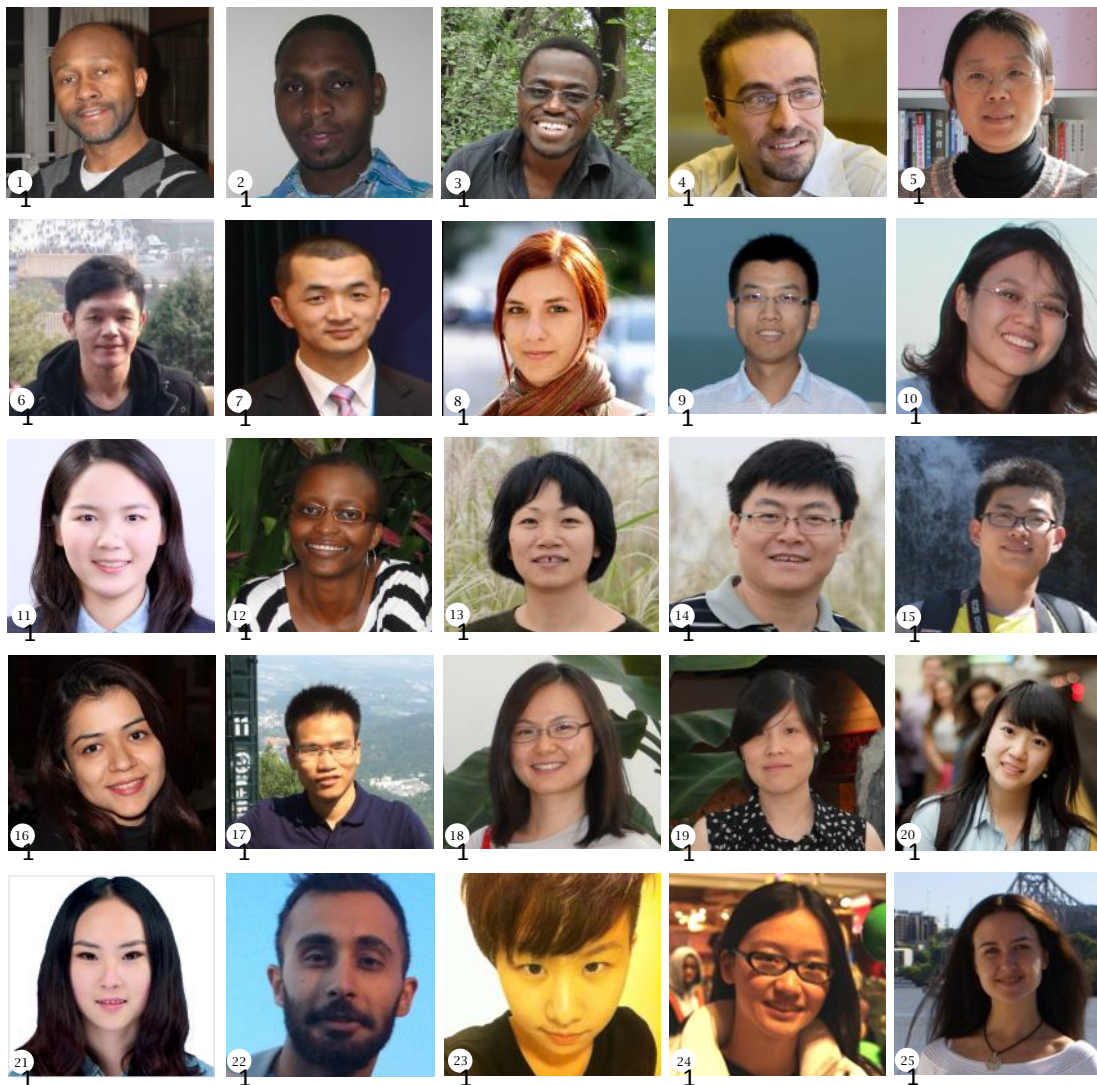
Fadong Li
Rwanda Project Coordinator



Guoqin Wang
GEF Project Manager



Yun Huang
GEF Project Manager (til July 2014)



- 1 Ahmed Khan - International Young Scientist
- 2 Armand Yavedi - International Young Scientist
- 3 Belarmain Fandohan - International Young Scientist
- 4 Farshad Amiraslani - International Young Scientist
- 5 Liu Ye - Post-Doctoral Research Fellow

- 6 Minjet Loo - Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
- 7 Liang Wu - Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
- 8 Silvia Cazzetta - Research Fellow
- 9 Chao Fu - Research Fellow
- 10 Hongmei Yi - Research Fellow

- 11 Diwen Tan - GEF Assistant Project Manager
- 12 Karen Mrema - Communications Officer
- 13 Xigui Huang - Finance & Administrative Officer
- 14 Yu Ma - Special Assistant to Director
- 15 Cao Hui - PhD Candidate

- 16 Hina Aslam - PhD Candidate
- 17 Huaping Long - PhD Candidate
- 18 Jialin He - PhD Candidate
- 19 Shaoxia Xia - PhD Candidate
- 20 Xinwei Jiang - Intern

- 21 Jingchun Liu - Intern
- 22 Hassaan Khan - Intern (*til August 2014*)
- 23 Liang Yunjie - Intern (*til May 2014*)
- 24 Jiayi Zhang - Intern (*til June 2014*)
- 25 Olga Kislyakova - Intern (*til May 2014*)

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