



July - Sept 2015

Volume 4
Issue 3

UNEP-IEMP *Bulletin*

MISSION

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

MANDATE

To synthesize science findings for decision-making on ecosystem management and is supported by three inter-related initiatives:

1. Capacity Building and Technology Transfer
2. Making the Case through Assessment and Demonstration
3. Enhancing Science Policy Interface

UNEP-IEMP Bulletin will be issued on a quarterly basis to inform you of our achievements and lessons learned through activities and projects executed. Please feel free to share with us your feedback to further improve our work and the information shared with you. Please forward these directly to info@unep-iemp.org

ROAD TO PARIS 2015

Strategic Dialogue on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change



Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren, President of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and Minister of Environment and Green Development, Mongolia; **Mr. Wei SU**, Director General of Department of Climate Change, NDRC; **Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri**, Former Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) during the SSCCC dialogue in Beijing, China. © Huaping Long

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World renowned scientists, senior officials and high-level representatives of international organizations met in Beijing, China, on August 27th for a Strategic Dialogue on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change.

In recent years, South-South cooperation has been widely recognized as a new dimension of international cooperation on climate change. This was resonated by ministers and principals of UN agencies at the first South-South Cooperation on Climate Change Forum held in the interval of COP20 of UNFCCC in Lima last year. Whilst the world is highly expecting a global agreement capable of responding effectively to climate change at COP21, the niche and strategic directions of

South-South cooperation are yet to be defined in the overall portfolio of future climate actions. Hosted by UNEP-IEMP, the Strategic Dialogue offered a platform to brainstorm the value proposition, functions and mechanisms of South-South cooperation in the climate context.

In terms of the niche, experts highlighted the necessity to better define the comparative advantage of South-South cooperation – not in opposition to, but as a complement of North-South cooperation. In this respect, Dr. Sanjaasuren, emphasized the importance of

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Supporting Africa's Great Green Wall Initiative

The 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Pan African Agency on the Great Green Wall (PAGGW) met in Nouakchott, Republic of Mauritania on July 27, 2015. The conference, with membership comprising of all Heads of state and Government of the eleven member countries of the Great Green Wall, is the highest decision making body of the Great Green Wall.

The Summit took stock of the progress made in the implementation of the Great Green Wall, with the objective of combating the effects of climate change, desertification and biodiversity loss, aims to build a vegetation barrier 7000km long and 15km wide - traversing the eleven countries of the Sahara-Sahel region from Senegal to Djibouti. Amongst the proposals discussed by the Summit was the Green Wall for Tarim Highway in the Taklimakan Desert presented by the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG), Chinese Academy of Science. The presentation showcased China's experience in establishing the Wall and the possibilities of adapting these experiences in establishing the Great Green Wall in Africa.

The XIEG dedicates itself to research on resources, ecology and the environment in arid areas with a focus on sustainable development. China's unique experience in the shelterbelt constructed along with Tarim desert highway with biological sand control could serve beneficial to Mauritania and the GGW initiative. During the mission, the Chinese delegation met with Minister H.E Amedi Camara, and Secretary General H.E Mady Taleb of Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) as well as project teams and researchers, to exchange ideas on a more effective implementation plan of the EbA South project in Mauritania as this will serve as the demo for the GGW initiative.



Participants at the 3rd Pan-African Great Green Wall (GGW) Summit

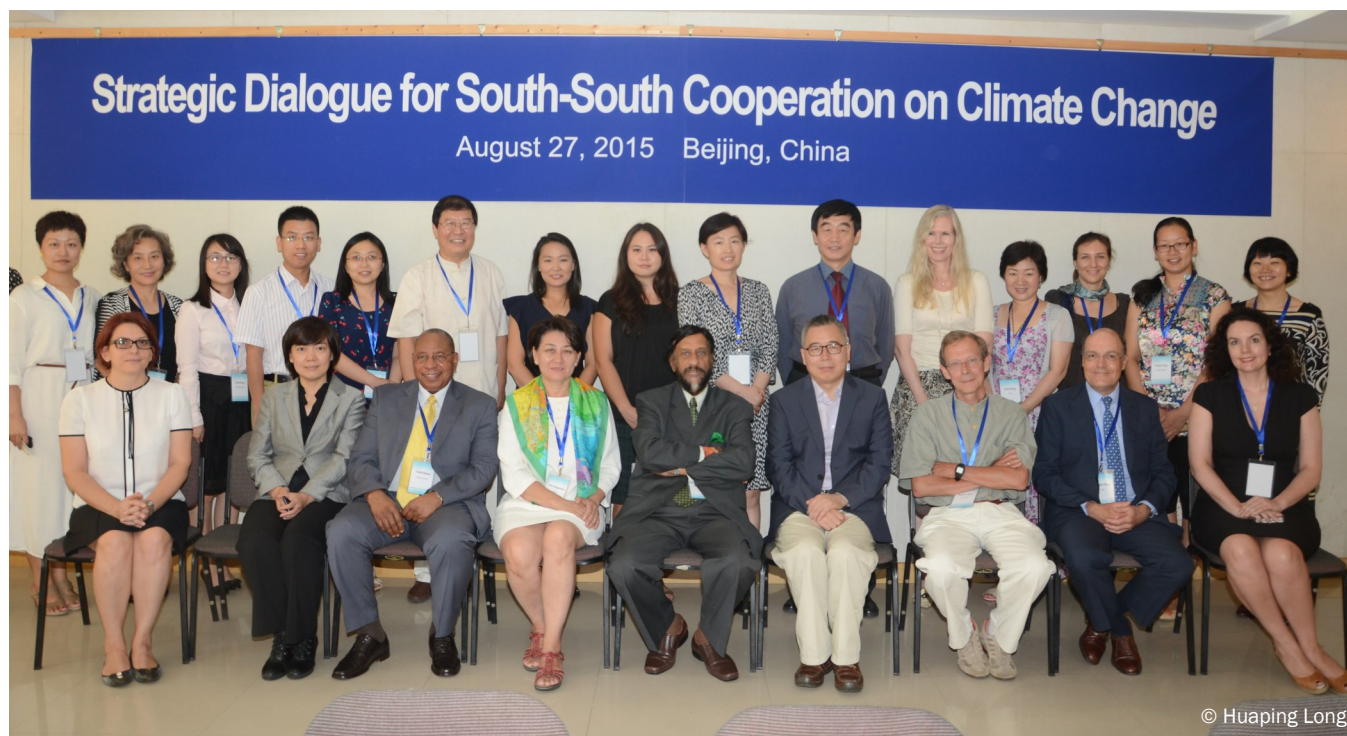


Dr. Liu, Director of UNEP-IEMP (far left) meeting with Minister H.E Amedi Camara, Secretary General H.E Mady Taleb, and other Mauritanian officials.



EbA South project meeting - Mauritania component

Cont'd from front page



Front row (left to right): Emira Fida, Climate Change Sub-Programme Coordinator, UNEP; Ding Ding, Director, International Cooperation, Climate Change, NDRC; Youba Sokona, Senior Advisor Climate Change, South Centre; Oyun Sanjaasuren, President of UN Environment Assembly (UNEA); Rajendra Pachauri, Former Chairman of IPCC; Wei Su, Director General, Climate Change Department, NDRC; Knut Alfisen, Norway Center for International Climate and Energy Research; Philippe Zahner, Switzerland Counselor for Climate Change, SDC; and Rebecca Nadin, Director, INTASAVE Caribsave Group Asia-Pacific.

climate change and to promote environmental sustainability. She further noted that countries in the South have many lessons to share on green development policies and strategies. Despite the strong political will to choose the 'green way', there are still knowledge gaps. SSC has the potential to fill these gaps, by supporting developing countries to move towards more sustainable patterns of growth. In a discussion session dedicated to the strategic directions of South-South cooperation, former IPCC chair Dr. Pachauri recommended to start from the identification of strategic areas of intervention which are of priority importance for countries in the global South. Key sectors may include household energy for the poor, land degradation, small and medium-sized enterprises and youth entrepreneurship.

"Countries in the South have many lessons to share on green development policies and strategies. Despite the strong political will to choose the 'green way', there are still knowledge gaps that South-South Cooperation can fill."

Oyun Sanjaasuren
President of UNEA and Minister of the Environment
and Green Development, Mongolia

One of the issues analyzed in depth was how to unlock more finance in support of developing countries' visions for green growth, and also to enhance Southern engagement in international scientific efforts. Demonstrating the advantages of green development is often challenging, as deploying green solutions

is not always the most profitable option. However, one possible direction to address this challenge is a green transformation of the financial system. South-originating climate finance can play an important role in promoting South-South cooperation through knowledge sharing, capacity building and policy support. China's pioneering efforts in this direction were acknowledged and commended. Recapitulating the main messages arising from the meeting, UNEP climate change sub-programme coordinator Ms. Fida underlined the potential of a South-South cooperation dimension as a catalyst of change – to be achieved through sensitizing policy makers on the risks of 'business as usual'. Climate change must be aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with particular consideration on technology and finance.

Participants agreed that South-South cooperation must be given appropriate political weight, and be integrated into global action against climate change. The dialogue identified three areas as the niche for South-South Cooperation:

1. Capacity-building for readiness
2. Research and knowledge generation
3. Solution development and knowledge sharing

As we are now looking forward to the fast approaching UNFCCC COP21 in Paris, it is important to set an agenda to promote South-South cooperation under the new post-2015 climate agreement. A new South-South Cooperation on Climate Change Forum is expected to be held in December for leaders from developing countries and UN agencies to agree on the way forward.

EBA South Project and Nepal post-earthquake assessment

The joint UNEP-NDRC global EbA South project undertook a Rapid Assessment in Nepal in early August 2015 as a result of the devastating earthquake that hit Nepal. The Rapid Assessment aimed to assess the 7.6 magnitude earthquake impact and re-evaluate the project's strategic planning. Through stakeholder consultations and field surveys, identified earthquake-induced risks under this project included:

1. Reduced institutional capacity;
2. Reduced access to markets as a result of road damage;
3. Increased deforestation as building materials for reconstruction are sourced from local forests; and
4. Future geological hazards.

While it was found that the project targets remain feasible, adjustments of current project activities was proposed. Activities to be prioritized include inter alia: i) increasing the project's emphasis on enhancing and diversifying livelihoods to provide local communities through EbA interventions & research; ii) capacity building and improved coordination for project implementation; iii) including sustainable timber harvesting in awareness-raising activities to reduce the likelihood of deforestation. The survey also found a high demand of renewable energy and high energy-efficient devices in Nepal. There was a critical need not only for urgent household lighting in remote areas, but also for long-term benefit of national sustainable development. The Nepalese Government highly appreciated China's co-financing support for renewable



Landslide, damaged house and temporary bamboo built house @ Diwen Tan

energy. Despite the earthquake, significant project progress was made by the Nepalese national partners in 2015. For restoring the identified small watershed in Lamjung district, nurseries of 19 native climate-resilient species were well managed in this spring, and over 60ha private lands were reforested. In addition, 157 households were involved in ginger, bamboo and banana plantations on the slope and riversides for soil conservation and livelihood diversification; and 90 households in local community received training for EbA implementation.

22nd Working Conference of the Chinese Ecosystem Research Network



Participants during the 22nd working conference of the Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN) in Lhasa, China

The 22nd working conference of the Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN) was held in Lhasa, China from August 3-5, 2015. The Conference was attended by over 200 participants, including Directors of the Synthesis Research Center and Sub-Center, and heads and researchers of the Ecosystem Research Stations. CERN was founded by the Chinese Academy

of Sciences in 1988 and has to date remained a core innovation platform and a network for long-term ecological monitoring, research, and demonstration work based on scientific results.

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Prof. Chen Yiyu, Director of CERN Science Committee making his keynote speech at the 22nd working conference of the Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN)

During the conference, Prof. Chen Yiyu, Director of CERN Science Committee encouraged researchers in the eco-stations to adhere to the long-term ecological monitoring of Centennial scale, and carry out network research and principles to guide practice and serve the society. Mr. Meng Deli, Deputy Secretary of the Tibet Autonomous Region Party Committee and an Advisor to the Chinese Government emphasized on the extensive work conducted by CAS and CERN over the years which have provided a strong basis for the decision-making of the Autonomous Region CPC and the government and valuable consultations and advices for the Tibetan social and economic development. Dr. Liu, Director of UNEP-IEMP was invited to make a keynote speech and proposed the transformation of CERN from a national to international platform for ecosystem research and management, through, *inter alia*, UNEP-IEMP as one of the multilateral mechanisms.

Currently, CERN consists of a Synthesis Research Center, 5 disciplinary sub-centers (for water, soil, atmosphere, biology and aquatic systems), and 44 field stations covering nine major ecosystems in China: cropland, forest, grassland, desert, marsh, lake, bay, and urban ecosystems.

New e-discussion programme on EBA launched

The EbA South project (ebasouth.org) has recently partnered up with UNEP-REGATTA's initiative EbA Community of Practice (ebacommunity.com) to develop a new e-discussions & webinars programme targeting Ecosystem-based Adaptation practitioners and stakeholders. The programme was kicked-off on September 12, 2015 in celebration of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, with the launch of new thematic modules. In the spirit of South-South cooperation, the EbA Community, previously active as a regional initiative in Latin America, is welcoming new participants, particularly from Asia Pacific and Africa. A "Meet & Greet" webinar was held on September 14, 2015.

On this occasion, new community members were welcomed by Juan Torres, EbA Community moderator, and Sonia Perez, UNEP-REGATTA platform coordinator. Dr. Jian Liu, Director of UNEP-IEMP, was invited to give a presentation on EbA and South-South Cooperation. The partnership between EbA South and the EbA Community, previously also endorsed by the Secretariat of the Global Adaptation Network, was commended. The e-discussion programme is accepting registrations on a regular basis and will run till July 2016.

For more information, please visit:
<http://ebacommunity.com/en/>

New UNEP-NSFC approved projects

Following the announcement in 2013 from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) to invest approx. US\$8 million (RMB 50million) in the next five years to which UNEP as the collaborating partner is eligible for up to 30% of the total, 3 project proposals have been approved in 2015:

1. Study on the changes in water and land use and adaptive management of ecosystems in the Greater Mekong River drainage basin (2016-2020)
2. Mechanics of soil and water loss and demonstration of rain-fed agriculture on the slope land in hilly and mountainous area in the Upper Nile (2016-2020)
3. Soybean exports, food security and water vulnerability under climate change conditions in the Zambezi Basin

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A production of the UNEP - International Ecosystem Management Partnership

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