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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. Science-Policy Interface

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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

Launch of decade-long flagship programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CEL) at COP 22

CEL aims to seize the ‘power of integration’ for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); will be led by UNEP



Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment announcing CEL at COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco. Photo: Jialin He

UN Environment’s Deputy Executive Director, Ibrahim Thiaw, joined by several ministers and heads of UN and government agencies announced CEL at the opening ceremony of The High-Level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change (SSCCC), held on the sidelines of the UN Climate Conference COP 22, in Marrakech, Morocco. “It’s the poor in developing countries who are most vulnerable to the impact of climate change on the ecosystems they depend on to for food, shelter and livelihoods,” said Mr Thiaw. “That is why I am delighted to announce the new 10-year programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods along the Silk Road. It will not just benefit national targets, it will benefit real people.”

THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT CEL

- It focuses on the nexus of climate change, ecosystems and livelihoods
- It is a major South-South initiative of UN Environment and China
- It will assist countries in the Global South with effective delivery of the SDGs and climate targets

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The High-Level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change at COP 22

Leaders and experts hail the growing importance of South-South cooperation; EbA South lauded by several ministers at the Forum



Dr Jian Liu, Director, UNEP-IEMP speaking at the 'Keynote Session: Pragmatic South-South cooperation to build the capacity of developing countries.' Photo: Jialin He

KEY MESSAGES :

- Emphasized the growing importance of South-South cooperation for implementing SDGs
- Commended China's leadership in boosting South-South cooperation
- Mentioned that Global South should enhance exchange to share best practices and communicate policies with each other to complement each other

Top officials from UN and government agencies participating in The High-Level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change (SSCCC) emphasized the growing importance of South-South cooperation for the effective implementation of SDGs and the Paris Agreement. The Forum was hosted by the Governments of China and Morocco, and the United Nations. It was co-organized by the United Nations Southern Climate Partnership Incubator (SCPI) Initiative and UNEP-IEMP, and brought together top UN and government officials and ministers from more than a dozen countries.

SSC and the important role of China:

"We need to promote South-South cooperation more," said Xie Zhenhua, Special Representative on Climate Change Affairs, China, calling on international organizations to act as "bridges." He also called on the developing countries to cooperate globally and turn challenges into opportunities to progress together. Salaheddine Mezouar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Morocco and COP22 President said China's initiative to spur South-South cooperation is acknowledged and much welcomed. The South-South cooperation is "not in opposition to North-South or South-North cooperation. We want to assure that countries of the South are taking charge, that they have much to share and much to bring to each other." Dr David Nabarro, Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Change, UN, thanked China for its leadership and generous support to advance South-South cooperation, and "for bringing together action on climate and action on sustainable development in such a decisive way." Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC said South-South cooperation has the potential to make significant contribution and is rapidly becoming an integral component of international cooperation on climate change. Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility (GEF) mentioned that South-South cooperation



UNEP-IEMP delegation at COP 22. Photo: UNEP-IEMP team

can drive implementation rapidly forward and it is important to seize this opportunity.

EbA South appreciated by ministers:

The GEF-funded project 'Ecosystem-based Adaptation through South-South Cooperation' (EbA South), implemented by UN Environment and executed by the National Development Reform Commission of China (NDRC), received appreciation and acknowledgement in the Forum's distinguished dialogue, particularly from ministers of the countries where the project is piloted. "EbA South project is an example of successful South-South cooperation", said Amedi Camara, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritania. He commended the project for coupling on-the-ground action with long term research. Wills Agricole, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Seychelles praised EbA South's role in enhancing resilience and reducing vulnerability, and stated it is an example of "innovative partnerships" in South-South cooperation. Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary, Ministry of Population and Environment, Nepal highlighted that the project is an example of SSC with "concrete results."

Advanced Training Workshop on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in Arid Areas

Enhancing capacity to address climate change adaptation in the Global South



Group Photo of the participants of the Advanced Training Workshop on EbA in Arid Areas in Beijing, China. Photo: CERN Secretariat

The 14 day 'Advanced Training Workshop on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in Arid Areas', co-organized by UNEP-IEMP and the Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN), was held at the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR). It is a part of the training workshop series launched by National Development and Reform Commission of China (NDRC) for developing countries to implement the capacity building initiatives announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping during UNFCCC COP 21, and to promote South-South Cooperation on Climate Change (SSCCC).

The workshop focused on the long-term monitoring and good practices of ecosystem-based adaptation in arid and semi-arid areas, climate change vulnerability assessment and resilience building, geographic information system and remote sensing applications etc.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Jian Liu, Director, UNEP-IEMP, followed by a presentation on the relationship between climate change and ecosystems and how they could help us adapt to the impacts of climate change. After briefly highlighting the purpose of setting up UNEP-IEMP, he provided a detailed overview of Centre's work, including EbA South and the Flagship Programme on Climate, Ecosystems, and Livelihoods (CEL).

Twenty-five (25) participants from 14 developing countries including Benin, Vietnam, Cameroon, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Kenya, Niger, Seychelles, Senegal, Zambia, Mongolia, Iran and Russia attended the training workshop. The participants included a mix of government officials, researchers, practitioners, NGO heads and students.

During the workshop, the participants had the opportunity to learn and exchange ideas with experts from CERN, CAS, UNEP-IEMP among others.

They also received China's experiences and lessons learnt on ecosystem-based adaptation in the past decades, which enhanced their understanding of how scientific approaches and ecosystem management strategies can help developing countries adapt to climate change.

The participants felt that the proceedings have contributed to their skills and expertise. They also discussed avenues for future collaborations and expressed keen interest in sharing knowledge and research in their respective countries.

They also explored various opportunities to collaborate with UNEP-IEMP and CERN, including staff exchange programmes and postdoctoral position within Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), joint research project application on EbA, collaboration with Africa on the 'Great Green Wall' initiative in Senegal; dust storms monitoring and its prevention measures in West Asia; further capacity building on GIS & RS in Seychelles; and building sustainable green farms in Pakistan etc.



Dr Jian Liu, Director, UNEP-IEMP addressing the participants of the workshop in Beijing, China. Photo: CERN Secretariat

Health benefits from Urban Green Space (UGS) Recreation Service have the potential to save cost from public health sector

A study conducted by UNEP-IEMP's researcher recommends using the UGS recreational service conceptual model as a framework to conduct UGS recreational service assessment



Visitors at the Beijing Olympic Park.
Photo: Liang Wu

UNEP-IEMP's Ph.D candidate Jialin He successfully completed her doctorate on "Urban Green Space (UGS) Recreational Service – A Case Study of Beijing Olympic Forest Park." The study was conducted from 2012 to 2016. It assumes significance as the current understanding of UGS recreational service is limited since it has not been examined from an ecosystem service perspective. The dissertation proposed a conceptual model of UGS recreational service aligning with the ecosystem service generation, bridging the knowledge gap and supporting the use of ecosystem management approach in the UGS sector.

The key findings are as follows:

UGS recreational service conceptual model: The model consisted of four modules a) UGS features b) population characteristics c) recreation behavior d) recreation benefits under three broad categories: service potential, service mobilization and service realization. The proposed model is a tool for UGS management. Results from UGS recreational service assessment can be referred while making UGS management interventions, particularly pertaining to improving efficiency in generating recreational benefits and enhancing

equity for recreational use.

Health benefits: The study observes that an additional visit to the park in a month leads to 0.03 decrease in perceived stress score, indicating improvement in physiological health. Over-weight people are inclined to visit the park frequently. However, if it actually led to weight reduction needs to be further studied.

Policy implications: a) The study recommends using the proposed conceptual model as a framework to conduct UGS recreational service assessment. Such assessment will help brief the policy makers with the information on the status of UGS use, scope and ways of improvement to enable better UGS management. b) UGS visiting frequency can be improved by creating a friendly environment for walking and cycling.



Aerial view of the Beijing Olympic Park. Photo: Google Images



Jialin He (second from right) with other team members during a survey conducted in the Beijing Olympic Park.
Photo: Cao Hui

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“It will not only cement China’s commitment to global leadership in tackling climate change and the environment, but also our shared determination to generate even more results through South-South cooperation”.

It will assist countries in the Global South with effective delivery of the SDGs and climate targets, while protecting their ecosystems and improving the livelihoods of the people.

CEL is a crucial element of long-term cooperation between China and UN Environment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)- a set of 17 global objectives ranging from eliminating poverty and hunger to protecting biodiversity and combating climate change, to be achieved by 2030.

“This flagship programme is a testimony of our determination to make a real impact and provide long-lasting assistance in improving livelihoods through ecosystem conservation and restoration, while responding to the impacts of climate change,” said Dr Jian Liu, Director, UNEP-IEMP. “We are committed to dedicate all our efforts to work with people and institutions in the poorest and most vulnerable settings, with assistance from both Northern and Southern partners.”

CEL will draw on the globally relevant knowledge, expertise and other resources of its core team and network of international partners. For example, the Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN), one of the largest national ecosystem monitoring and research network in the world will provide technical support for the programme.

The flagship programme will protect the most fragile ecosystems, such as drylands, river basins and coastal zones in Asia, West Asia and Africa.

It will be rolled out in three phases: Assessment (2016-2018), Development (2019-2021) and Scaling up (2022-2025)

The first phase of the programme will see a thorough survey of three types of “hotspots”- fragile ecosystems, biodiversity-rich areas and communities vulnerable to climate change and ecosystem degradation.

The survey will be focused on the countries lying along the land and sea routes of the ‘New Silk Road’- an international connectivity and cooperation framework proposed by China.

During the entire duration of the programme, UNEP-IEMP will be providing countries with assistance in monitoring and assessment, capacity building, technology demonstration, and science for policy.

Ministers such as those from Mauritania and Seychelles also extended their unstinted support to CEL.

“I express our support and our interest in the flagship programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods by UN Environment”, said Amedi Camara, Minister, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritania.

Wills Agricole, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Seychelles said “The programme will bring significant benefits to countries like Seychelles.”

UPCOMING EVENT

January 2017- Beijing, China

UNEP-NSFC Bilateral Meeting

STAFF UPDATE OUTGOING

Ms Xinwei Jiang, Ph.D Candidate, UNEP-IEMP

Xinwei Jiang was a Ph.D candidate in UNEP-IEMP. She has moved to Canada to pursue her further studies from Concordia University. UNEP-IEMP family wishes her all the success in her future endeavours.





Lupinus field near Milford, New Zealand. Photo: Yisong Guan

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