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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

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) for the Enhancement of Collaboration on South-South Cooperation in Addressing climate change. The MOU provides a frame-

work of cooperation and understanding, within which China and UNEP will harness their "strengths, capacities and resources" to assist countries of the Global South combating 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. UNEP-IEMP played an instrumental role in initiating and preparing for the MOU. Photo © UNEP

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UNEP-IEMP 2nd Steering Committee Meeting Concluded

The Steering Committee of the UNEP-IEMP held its second meeting on June 4, 2014 in Beijing, China. The Steering Committee is the governing body of the UNEP-IEMP and is composed of leading entities of UNEP and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), as well as representatives from the Chinese government, international organizations, and academic institutions. Co-chaired by Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP and Mr. Tieniu Tan, Deputy Secretary General of CAS, the meeting achieved the following: (1) evaluated the progress made in 2013/2014, (2) reviewed and approved the work plan for 2014/2015, including proposed core budget and staff (3) discussed and provided guidance on key challenges related to management and operations, and (4) discussed and approved of the Corporate Structure and Working Mechanism of the Steering

Committee and Science Advisory Group. Members of the Steering Committee acknowledged the progress that had been made since the last Steering Committee meeting in August 2013 including, the inauguration of UNEP-IEMP Steering Committee meeting which approved its Mid-term Development Strategy (2014-2017) and Biennial Work Plan (2014-2015), a Ministerial Forum on Ecological Civilization and Green Transformation during the Nairobi Global Expo on South-South Cooperation and a Ministerial Roundtable on Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in the context of South-South Cooperation at the margins of UNFCCC COP19 in Warsaw. Other significant milestones include, the launch of the UNEP-NDRC project funded through GEF-SCCF on ecosystem-based adaptation and climate change resilience.

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Members/Observers of the UNEP-IEMP Steering Committee (front row): Left to Right: **Xiaozhi Song**, Ministry of Environment Protection of China; **Yi Liu**, Deputy Director General, IGSNRR; **Masataka Watanabe**, Chair, APAN; **Dingding Tang**, Director General of International Cooperation Department, MEP China; **Zakri Abdul Hamid**, Founding Chair, IPBES; **Tieniu Tan**, Deputy Secretary General of CAS; **Kaveh Zahedi**, Regional Director, UNEP/ROAP [on behalf of *Ibrahim Thiaw*, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP]; **Yiyu Chen**, NSFC; **Arthur Hanson**, CCICED; **Wenhong Huang**, NDRC; **Shigang Zhang**, UNEP China Office Coordinator; **Qing Chang & Yutian Zhang**, UNEP-IEMP Senior Advisors. © Liang Wu.

Through these activities, UNEP-IEMP has developed and/or strengthened several partnerships and working relations with more than 10 countries from Asia-Pacific, Africa, West Asia and Latin America regions, and worked substantively with more than 10 CAS institutes, 4 UNEP regional offices in the developing world, 10 UN and international organizations including UNDP, UNFCCC, GEF, IUCN, IPBES, TNC and CGIAR Centers.

During the discussions, the Committee members noted the importance of enhancing capacity building in the South and commended UNEP-IEMP for its key activities of such kinds. In addition, the work on enhancing South-South Cooperation and providing a significant profile for China to reach out to the rest of the developing world did not go unnoticed. With UNEP-IEMP,

China has a window to showcase its research work and expose scholars and scientists at the global level. 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.

In conclusion, the Steering Committee endorsed the Work Plan for 2014/2015 including the proposals for core funding, staff requirements, management options and main activities to effectively implement its portfolio of projects. The next meeting was agreed to be scheduled in March/April 2015.

UNEP-NDRC Project Holds its 2nd Steering Committee Meeting and a M&E Training Workshop



Front-Left: **Ram Hari Panth**, Ministry of Environment and Science and Technology, Nepal; **Nimhan Senaratne**, Director of the Coastal Adaptation and Management Section, Seychelles; **Fareeha Iqbal**, Climate Change Specialist, GEF Secretariat; **Wenhong Huang**, Director of International Cooperation, Climate Change Department, NDRC China; **Ermira Fida**, Head of GEF Climate Change Adaptation Unit, UNEP; **Jinhua Cao**, Deputy Director General for International Cooperation, CAS; **Youssef Nassef**, Head of Adaptation Programme, UNFCCC; **Jian Liu**, Director of UNEP-IEMP

The 2nd Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting for the GEF-SCCF project "Enhancing Capacity, Knowledge and Technology Support to Build Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Developing Countries" was held on May 10, 2014. Co-chaired by representatives from the National Development and Reform Commission of China (NDRC) and UNEP, and attended by the members of the PSC, the objectives of the meeting were three fold:

- [1] To review/evaluate the progress of the project in Year 1;
- [2] To review and approve the findings of the baseline studies, including proposed revisions of the results framework;
- [3] To review and approve the workplan and budget for Year 2, including procurement plan.

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. The completion of baseline studies in the three pilot countries (Nepal, Mauritania, and Seychelles) was a positive development and an important milestone towards implementation of EBA activities on the ground. It is envisaged that this project would result in a learning process and capacity building that will complement global climate change adaptation efforts, for example, within the developing area of adaptation planning for National Action Plans.

Within its first year of implementation, the project has achieved several outputs and key milestones including; the development of an international platform for promotion of EBA through the project, successful organization of a high-level 'round table' discussion on EBA and SSC at COP19 hosted by the UNFCCC, an ongoing development of an internet-based platform for sharing information and methodologies on EBA and supporting ongoing and future initiatives related to EBA and adaptation, hosted through the UNEP-IEMP website, completion of workplans for each pilot country which will inform the implementation of each pilot country project, development of a range of strategic partnerships with UN bodies, international organizations, governmental institutions, research & education bodies, private sector, as well as the media, and generation of knowledge products such as reports and technical briefs.

In addition to the initial funding of USD 5million from the GEF Special Climate Change Fund (GEF-SCCF), the project successfully secured co-financing commitments from multiple institutions, including; (I) NDRC - providing in-kind financing to pilot countries, including for procurement of solar electricity systems for households, streets, schools and other facilities; (II) CAS - supporting project activities through technology transfer, capacity building, and longterm monitoring/research through seven of its institutes including five CERN field stations; (III) UNEP - providing knowledge-sharing and capacity-building support, including through networks such as GAN (at a global level), ROLAC, AAKNet and APAN (at a regional level); (IV) Pilot Country Governments - supporting baseline studies, data collection and stakeholder coordination.

During the meeting, representatives from the three pilot country were given the opportunity to provide updates on the status of project activities in their respective countries and plans for the next year of project implementation. Though at different stages, each pilot country has made significant achievements in implementing project activities in its first year. At the conclusion of the meeting, all proposed revisions to the project's results framework including indicators, targets and baselines were approved. In addition, the revised workplan and annual budget for the project was unanimously approved for adoption. It was agreed that the next PSC meeting should be held in one of the pilot countries in late 2015.

Project M&E Training Workshop



Participants discussing with local scientists on climate change, ecosystem management conservation and livelihood research at Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden © Jiayi Zhang

An important output of the project component is the exchange of lessons and sharing of knowledge on EBA through inter-regional thematic training workshops. The information exchanged through these training workshops will support the development of detailed protocols and planning tools to plan and implement EBA. On this note, the first M&E Training Workshop for the UNEP-NDRC project was held from 8-9 May, 2014 in Yunnan Province, China.

This workshop was an interactive process and included presentations on M&E procedures, participative review of the project's results framework and development of an M&E implementation plan for each of the project components. The aim was to enable all countries to monitor and report their progress according to the project requirements within



Participants around a system for in-situ observation of soil carbon flux among a rubber plantation at the Naban River Watershed National Nature Reserve © Jiayi Zhang

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East Africa Project Field Mission to Maasai Mara



China team experts visiting local communities in the Maasai Mara National Reserve © Liang Wu



Protected areas have expanded rapidly in recent decades, especially in developing countries where the biodiversity is rich. However, sustainable management of these protected areas has been a huge challenge despite increasing commitment from developing country governments in contributing to global and regional biodiversity conservation.

The Maasai Mara National Reserve, situated in south-west Kenya and one of Africa's Greatest Wildlife Reserves is no exception. Kenya has been and still is a champion in managing protected areas, and through the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), it manages 23 National Parks, 28 National Reserves, 4 Marine National Parks, 6 Marine National Reserves and 4 national sanctuaries, while the Kenya Forest Service manages over 201 Forest Reserves, all of which conserve critical species and ecosystems of global significance. Despite these significant efforts, challenges and constraints in conservation still persist. Challenges such as human population increase, land degradation and fragmentation for livelihood support, deforestation, and climate change have exerted increasing pressures on these protected ecosystems. A lot of work is on-going on the ground but we are far from sustainability.

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. With initial funding from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), the project will be piloted in Kenya and will run from 2014-2018. The team of UNEP-IEMP is the executing



Participants during the field tour © Liang Wu

institution of the project, in close collaboration with KWS. In order to get baseline data on the current situation on the ground, the UNEP-IEMP team conducted a two-day reconnaissance tour to the Maasai Mara National Park, Mau Forest and surrounding communities within and outside protected areas to analyze and assess the challenges and conflicts and promote new standards and models for sustainable management of protected areas in developing countries. During the mission, interviews were conducted with communities in Naiboso and Siana Conservancies, Maasai Mara Chief Game Warden, Forest Zone Manager, and officials from the Water Resource Management Authority.

The field mission was followed by a two and a half day project inception workshop. More on this in the next bulletin.



Wildebeests and Hippos in the Maasai Mara National Park © Liang Wu



Participants walking along the forest trail amongst a multi-use shrub at the Reserve © Jiayi Zhang



Participants standing around the landscape model of the Reserve discussing on the habitats, livelihood and climate change of Lancang-Mekong upper region © Jiayi Zhang

a systematic framework that can be monitored, evaluated and adjusted over the implementation period. In addition, workshop supported all project participants to implement EBA activities within a scientifically rigorous long-term research programme. The improved capacity to participate in monitoring and evaluation of the project's activities will provide a platform for appropriate and effective decision-making on climate change adaptation in the future.

To complement the M&E workshop, the participants went on a two-day field tour to see China's EBA practices for forest restoration and sustainable livelihood in tropical areas.

Addendum to photo caption

We would like to provide this addendum to the photo caption in the previous bulletin (Vol. 3, Iss. 1, Pg. 2). The caption should read:

"Ecosystem Based Adaptation in Mountain Ecosystems Project Workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal - Baseline Assessment Mission team members invited to attend."

New staff



Ms. Sylvia Cazzetta joins the UNEP-IEMP team as the Communications Specialist for the UNEP-China collaborative climate change project. Silvia holds academic qualifications in applied economics and urban studies. Most recently, she coordinated the EU-funded project *AfriCAN Climate*, an innovative web-based platform bringing together African and European researchers to share scientific knowledge and good practices on climate change adaptation and mitigation.



Ms. Jinchu Liu joins UNEP-IEMP as an intern. She is currently undertaking an undergraduate degree in Environmental Arts Design from the Hebei Agricultural University in Hebei Province, China. Her interests lie mainly in arts and graphic design. At UNEP-IEMP she will work closely with the Communications Officer in designing various outreach materials for the Centre.



Mr. Hassaan Khan joined UNEP-IEMP as an intern. He is currently undertaking his MSc in International Management at King's College London, having completed his Bachelors from the University of Manchester in Accounting and Finance in 2013. At UNEP-IEMP, Hassaan's work involves assisting in reviewing the organizations niche, management principles and procedures as well as facilitating the organization in setting out its long-term development strategy. Previously, Hassaan has worked at the United Nations Offices at Nairobi as an intern at the Budget & Financial Management Services.

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Dense vegetation of a mixed forest at the Naban River Watershed National Nature Reserve, in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, China.

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