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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. 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

Future direction of UNEP-IEMP



Participants of UNEP-IEMP and UNEP Beijing Office joint annual retreat 2014.

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UNEP-IEMP as a UNEP Collaborating Centre with the Chinese Academy of Sciences has since 2013 started its development phase through to 2015, after its successful launch in 2011 and an inception phase 2011-2013. Solid foundation has been built, much more needs to be done. Still in the early stage of its Mid-term Development Strategy (2014-2017), it is seen as an opportune time to revisit the niche and future directions of UNEP-IEMP, which becomes the focus of 2014 Annual Retreat.

The retreat was organized in Beijing, jointly with the UNEP Beijing Office from 14-15 July 2014. Additional to staff of both offices UNEP-IEMP and Beijing Office, Dr. Arthur Hanson co-chair of UNEP-IEMP Science Advisory Group, and Mr. Vijay Samnotra, interim coordinator of UNEP Ecosystem Management Sub-programme, also attended the meeting and guided the discussions.

Based on a prepared stocktaking report, the retreat covered wide grounds such as issues of post Rio+20, post 2015 SDGs and UNEA, UNEP-China cooperation, and UNEP Mid-term strategy etc., which provided a basis for zooming into strategic directions, such as **ecosystem conservation, restoration and livelihood**. These could evolve to be flagships of UNEP-IEMP in the next 10 years. The meeting further defined pillars of the Niche of UNEP-IEMP, such as an international repository of knowledge and a center for disseminating good practices on ecosystem management worldwide, a global think-tank and a champion on South-South cooperation, and a partner of choice with which governments and international organizations want to collaborate. These proposals will be presented to the next meetings of Science Advisory Group for review and Steering Committee for approval in 2015.

IPBES Scoping meeting on land degradation



Participants at the IPBES Scoping Meeting in Beijing, China. © Wu Liang

UNEP-IEMP, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and Ministry of Environment Protection of China, organized a scoping meeting for a thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration in Beijing, China from 9-11 September, 2014. Bringing together about 35 experts from each of the 5 UN regions, IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel & Bureau Members, IPBES Secretariat, China Ministry of Environment Protection, the meeting laid the foundation for the production of a scoping report for a future thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration. This assessment, which was a response to a decision (IPBES-2/5) of the IPBES plenary, falls under Objective 3b of the IPBES Work Programme on

“Thematic assessments on land degradation and restoration; on invasive alien species; and on sustainable use.” The overall scoping exercise assessed; (1) global status and trends in land degradation by region & cover type, (2) effect of degradation on biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being, and (3) state of knowledge by region and land cover type of ecosystem restoration extent and options. Throughout the 3 day meeting, participants discussed various sections of the scoping report, including introduction, scope, rationale, utility and assumptions, and chapter outline. The meeting produced a first draft of the scoping report which will be submitted to the 3rd IPBES Plenary for approval, and, if approved, be followed by a full assessment on land degradation and restoration, to be initiated early 2015.

Coupling Conservation and Livelihood in Protected Areas of East Africa Workshop

Protected areas have expanded rapidly in recent decades, especially in developing countries where the biodiversity is rich. However, sustainable management of protected areas is facing huge challenge despite increasing commitment of developing country governments in contributing to global and regional biodiversity conservation. The mandates of protected areas have also expanded from conservation and protection to improving human livelihood. The need for multiple functionalities of protected areas increases the difficulty of measuring its effectiveness. This requires attention on how to set up and promote new standards and models for sustainable management of protected areas in developing countries.

Kenya is a champion at managing protected areas not only in East Africa, but also the rest of developing world. Nonetheless, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and other relevant Kenyan agencies are facing challenges and constraints in their conservation efforts. Development and human population pressures on these protected ecosystems have increased rapidly in



Participants at the workshop. *Front-Left:* **Richard Kaguamba**, Programme Manager, UNEP; **Ken Seno Saitoti**, Narok County Executive, Tourism and Wildlife; **Jian Liu**, Director, UNEP-IEMP; **Kassim Farah**, Narok County Commissioner; **Linxiu Zhang**, Professor & UNEP-IEMP Manager; **George Osuri**, Assistant Director, Central Rift, Kenya Wildlife Service.

recent years, including increasing number of tourists and land degradation and fragmentation for livelihood support (settlements and farmlands) in adjacent areas to the Protected Areas. Funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the project “**Coupling conservation and livelihood in Protected Areas of East Africa**”, a joint initiative by KWS, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and UNEP aims to look into the success stories and failures in addressing the balance of conservation and livelihood, through deploying cutting-edge, and multi-disciplinary sciences to understand the dynamics of ecosystem services and human activities.

Wildbeests and hippos in the Maasai Mara National Park, Narok County, Kenya



Group discussion sessions in parallel focusing on the conflicts, challenges and opportunities for conservation and livelihood in protected areas of Kenya, including identification of knowledge, capacity and policy gaps. © Wu Liang

The project's inception workshop was held in Seasons Hotel, Narok County from July 1-2, 2014. The occasion was graced with presence of Mr. Kassim Farah, Narok County Commissioner as the chief guest. The workshop was attended by approximately 30 participants representing various institutions including the Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, UNEP, Chinese scientists and professors, to mention a few.

The workshop contained several presentations covering a wide range of issues such as water, forest, and wildlife management in Narok County, opportunities for long-term research, and some of the current work that other organizations are undertaking in the project area. The project workplans were also presented and provided a significant platform for sharing ideas and expertise from experts working on-the-ground to provide strategic direction for effective implementation of the project. In concluding the workshop proceedings, three main focus areas were agreed upon; conflict between livestock and wildlife conservation, conflict between tourism and wildlife, and establishment of an information sharing platform. The kickoff of this joint initiative will help address the root causes of illegal trade in wildlife, through supporting the development of sustainable and alternative livelihoods for communities affected by the illegal trade in wildlife and its adverse impacts with the full engagement of the communities in and adjacent to wildlife habitats as active partners in conservation and sustainable use.

Field Visit to Seychelles - By Guoqin Wang, Project Manager



Consultation with Seychelles Experts on EBA protocol development

As part of the EBA-SSC project, "Enhancing Capacity, Knowledge and Technology Support to Build Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Developing Countries", a field mission was made to

Seychelles, one of the pilot countries in the project from 1-5 September, 2014. The mission focused on consultation and field visit to jointly develop a long term Ecosystem

based Adaption (EBA) protocol for the coastal sustainability through Mangrove restoration, which includes the governing frameworks, vulnerability mapping, restoration good practices, sustainable restoration partnership building, monitoring plans, marketing and capacity building plans. The project team visited University of Seychelles (UniSey) who expressed their interest to work with Ministry of Energy and Environment (MEE) on this project, including the long term research and implementation on maintain a mangrove nursing site at the campus. Various selected sites for EBA interventions were visited the project team also met with local experts on mangrove restoration and social-economists.



*Top left and above photos - Mangrove restoration sites in Seychelles
© Guoqin Wang*

The team also visited the Ramsar site of Mangrove reserve to learn the good practices of mangrove conservation and develop partnership for community participation on mangrove restoration.

After meeting with and briefing the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Energy and Environment of Seychelles on the project implementation progress, Seychelles expressed their desire to host the next Project Steering Committee Meeting to be held in May 2015. In addition, the Seychelles Government will second two candidates for a 3-week training at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing on ecosystem monitoring and management, remote sensing and GIS technologies.

Field Visit to Nepal - By Guoqin Wang, Project Manager

As part of the EBA-SSC project, a week-long mission to Nepal was made from 18-25 September, 2014. The main aim of the mission was to ensure that project implementation activities were running smoothly, and to carry out sensitization and capacity building with local stakeholders and communities. Project team met with several joint secretary from the Ministry of Science Technology and Environment to discuss project updates and further strengthen the China-Nepal collaboration. During the consultation workshop, the draft mountain EBA protocol was discussed with multi-stakeholders and experts, particularly the forest management interventions in 300ha of land. It was agreed that in early December, seed selection and procurement will begin, followed by plantation in June 2015 by local community groups.



Participants at the EBA implementation consultation workshop in Lamjung, Nepal .



Community consultation for EbA project implementation

Project team also visited EBA intervention sites in Lamjung and met with local stakeholders, updated them on project activities and explored the proposal of forming a local coordination committee that will ensure smooth implementation in the Lamjung site. Long-term research cooperation partnership between Turibhuvan University - Chinese Academy of Sciences - Ministry of Science Technology and Environment (TU-CAS-MoSTE) was strengthened through a visit to the university.

CAS and TU have already established a "Sino-Nepal joint research center-Geography" at the university, with lab equipment and research funding donated by CAS. University staff and students will assist in setting up of long term research and monitoring sites in the field, data collection, conducting designed research, and publishing papers.

New staff



Ms. Hina Aslam joins the UNEP-IEMP team as a PhD candidate funded by CAS-TWAS President's Fellowship 2014. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences from Pakistan and a Master's in Environmental Science and Engineering from China. She has extensive experience in multidisciplinary fields ranging from environmental impact assessments to environmental awareness programs, ecological restoration, climate change adaptation and promotion of sustainable development. Her interests lie in renewable energy sources and noise pollution related to its effect on climate and other environmental changes.



Mr. Huaping Long joins UNEP-IEMP as a PhD candidate. He recently completed his Masters degree in Agricultural Economics from the Beijing University of Agriculture, China. His interests lie in ecosystem management and wildlife conservation. At UNEP-IEMP, his research will focus on undertaking value assessments of ecosystem services.

New Publication

Cao H, Amiraslani F, Liu J, *et al.* 2015. Identification of dust storm source areas in West Asia using multiple environmental datasets [J]. *Science of The Total Environment*, 502: 224-235.

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Bamboo plantation site at Lamjung, Nepal. © Guoqin Wang

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