

Friday

From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The role of natural resources and the environment (Launch Event)

Since 1990, at least 18 violent conflicts have been fuelled by the exploitation of natural resources like timber and diamonds, or the scarcity of key resources such as land and water. UNEP's new flagship report examines this nexus and outlines how natural resources can concretely contribute to peace building processes.

Key note speakers: Pekka Haavisto, Member of Parliament and Special Representative of the Finnish Foreign Minister to African crisis areas; Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Programme Director for Africa, IELRC; Mark Halle, Executive Director IISD-Europe; David Jensen, Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, UNEP.

Chair: Ibrahim Thiaw, Director, DEPI, UNEP.

ROOM 12 - ROSEWOOD

Agriculture and Food Security: Will the next revolution be more sustainable?

New developments on the issue of food security, agriculture, environment and the role of ecosystems have been addressed in two recent high level assessments: The International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) and The Rapid Response Assessment Report of the Food Crisis.

Key note speakers: Bob Watson, DEFRA; Christian Nelleman, UNEP/GRID-Arendal; Carol Markwei, University of Ghana, Legon (tbc); Erika Rosenthal, Earthjustice; Roger Leakey, James Cook University, Queensland (tbc); Lindela R. Ndlovu, National University of Science and Technology, Ascot/Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Chair: Dennis Garrity, ICRAF.

ROOM 13 - OLIVE

Saturday

GC-25/ GMEF Field Excursion: Olkaria geothermal power plant, Naivasha

On the occasion of the 25th Session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum, UNEP invites you to visit the Olkaria geothermal power plant, which provides a good example of the potential of the Green Economy to create jobs while mitigating harm to the environment. Olkaria has benefited from GEF funding under a UNEP project on Joint Geophysical Imaging (JGI), executed by KenGen. Drive through the stunning Hell's Gate National Park and enjoy lunch at the beautiful lakeshore Elsamere Conservation Centre. Registration begins on Monday 16 February at 1.00 p.m. at the Field Excursion desk in the Main Lobby and closes on Thursday at 12.00 p.m. Make note there is limited space on the buses.

7.00 a.m. Pick up at selected hotels
8.00 a.m. Drive to Naivasha
10.30 a.m. Visit Olkaria geothermal power plant
12.30 a.m. Drive through Hell's Gate National Park
13.30 a.m. Lunch at Elsamere Conservation Centre
15.00 a.m. Drive to Nairobi
17.30 a.m. Drop off at selected hotels

Special Events Programme

During the 25th Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-25/GMEF), from Monday to Friday, Special Events are held between 1.30-2.30 p.m. in conference rooms 11 (Acacia), 12 (Rosewood) and 13 (Olive). There is also a Field Excursion on Saturday. The Special Events are open to all delegates. Small refreshments will be served outside the conference rooms prior to the events.

List of Special Events:

- The Chemical Challenge: Maximum benefits, minimum risks - A GEF Programme for African LDCs and SIDS
- What is the role of Biosequestration and REDD in moving towards the Green Economy?
- Presentation of the final report "Mercury Fate and Transport in the Global Atmosphere: Emissions, Measurements and Models" of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership on Mercury Air Transport and Fate Research
- The Green Customs Initiative: Capacity building for environmental security
- Green Economy – Country perspectives
- Building Resource Efficient Economies and Sustainable Societies
- Towards a Low-carbon Future: Making the climate neutral case to the public
- Access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters – UNEP guidelines for enhancing implementation of Rio Principle 10
- Cities: Leaders towards a Green Economy
- From Conflict to Peacebuilding: the Role of Natural Resources and the Environment (Launch Event)
- Agriculture and Food Security: Will the next revolution be more sustainable?
- Field Excursion to Olkaria geothermal power plant

Note: Key note speakers and chair of event may be subject to change

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GMEF

NAIROBI
16-20 FEBRUARY
2009



List of Special Events:

Monday

The Chemical Challenge: Maximum benefits, minimum risks - A GEF Programme for African LDCs and SIDS

LDCs and SIDS face disproportionate chemical exposure risks. Meeting their needs to implement international chemicals and wastes agreements will require strong partnerships. UNEP, UNIDO and the GEF are initiating a programme in Africa to enhance and sustain Stockholm Convention implementation, with particular emphasis on human health and the informal sector.

Key note speakers: Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Director, DGEF, UNEP; Donald Cooper, Executive Secretary, Stockholm Convention Secretariat; Sekou Toure, GEF Secretariat; Mohamed Eisa, Deputy Director, UNIDO.

Chair: Representative of Liberia (tbc).

ROOM 12 - ROSEWOOD

What is the role of Biosequestration and REDD in moving towards the Green Economy?

Biosequestration of carbon involves the long term removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by living organisms, mitigating climate change. While our knowledge on the processes is still limited, it is now part of the international debate on REDD and the Green Economy. Its potential contribution to the issue is increasingly appreciated.

Key note speakers: Prof. Wangari Maathai; H.E. José Endundo Bononge, Minister, Ministry of Environment of DRC (tbc); Kevin Konrad, Special Envoy and Climate Ambassador, Papua New Guinea (tbc).

Chair: Pavan Sukhdev, Green Economy Project Leader, DTIE, UNEP.

ROOM 13 - OLIVE

Tuesday

Presentation of the final report "Mercury Fate and Transport in the Global Atmosphere: Emissions, Measurements and Models" of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership on Mercury Air Transport and Fate Research

Presentation of the final report of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, entitled "Mercury Fate and Transport in the Global Atmosphere: Measurements, Models and Policy Implications", a state-of-the-art assessment on the cycling of mercury in the atmosphere.

Key note speaker and Chair: Dr. Nicola Pirrone, Institute for Atmospheric Pollution, Italian National Research Council and Chair of UNEP-MFTP.

ROOM 11 - ACACIA

The Green Customs Initiative: Capacity building for environmental security

An overview of the challenges of illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities and introduction to the Green Customs Initiative and its activities and cooperation achieved to combat these problems through awareness-raising on all the relevant international agreements and enforcement. Jointly hosted by the Government of the Czech Republic and UNEP.

Key note speakers: Karel Bláha, Deputy Minister of the Environment, Czech Republic; Hassan Mundu, Deputy Comptroller of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service; Representative of Ozone Secretariat; Representative of Kenya Customs Agency.

Chair: Rajendra Shende, Head, OzonAction, DTIE, UNEP.

ROOM 12 - ROSEWOOD

Green Economy – Country perspectives

A discussion on the relevance of the concept at the country level in the context of the unfolding economic crisis, the specific needs of the countries that are interested in exploring the potential of moving towards a Green Economy, and how best UNEP together with its partners can respond.

Key speakers: Pavan Sukhdev, Green Economy Project Leader, DTIE, UNEP; Prof. Edward Barbier, University of Wyoming; Dr. Ren Yong, Ministry of Environmental Protection, China; Yong-Jin Kim, Director for International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea.

Chair: Hussein Abaza, Chief, ETB/DTIE, UNEP.

ROOM 13 - OLIVE

Wednesday

Building Resource Efficient Economies and Sustainable Societies

How can the Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production and the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management contribute to solving the food, energy and water crises? How can these processes and mechanisms support the decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation and the construction of a Green Economy?

Key note speakers: Jos Delbeke, Deputy Director General, DG Environment, European Commission (tbc); Li Ganjie, Vice-Minister of Environment, China (tbc); Tariq Banuri, Director, Division on Sustainable Development, UNDESA (tbc); Latin American Minister (tbc); Ernst von Weizsacker; Co-Chair of International Panel on Sustainable Resource Management.

Chair: Angela Cropper, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP (tbc).

ROOM 12 - ROSEWOOD

Towards a Low-carbon Future: Making the climate neutral case to the public

A growing number of countries, cities, companies and organizations are committing to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. One year after the launch of UNEP's Climate Neutral Network and with less than 300 days to go before the crucial Copenhagen conference, it is time to take stock of the experiences so far.

Key note speakers: H.E. Erik Solheim, Minister of Environment and International Development, Norway; H.E. Roberto Dobles Mora, Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica; Torill Rolstad Larsen, Mayor, Arendal Municipality; Stephen Emmott, Head of Computational Sciences, Microsoft Research; Mathis Wackernagel, Executive Director, Global Footprint Network.

Chair: Satinder Bindra, Director, DCPI, UNEP.

ROOM 13 - OLIVE

Thursday

Access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters – UNEP guidelines for enhancing implementation of Rio Principle 10

The international community underscored the importance of access to information, public participation in decision-making processes and access to justice in environmental matters in Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration. UNEP has developed draft guidelines for the development of national legislation on these matters to meet this important goal.

Key note speakers: Sir Robert Carnwath, Lord Justice of Appeal/ Senior President of Tribunals, UK; Donald Kaniaru, Chair National Environment Tribunal, Kenya; Bakary Kante, Director, DELC, UNEP; Jeremy Wates, Secretary of the Aarhus Convention, UNECE; Achim Halpaap, Associate Director, UNITAR; Augustine Njamnshi, National Coordinator of The Access Initiative, Cameroon.

Chair: Jan Dusík, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic.

ROOM 12 - ROSEWOOD

Cities: Leaders towards a Green Economy

The event will highlight the role cities are playing in moving towards low carbon, green economies and address key issues as: What are cities' opportunities for action? What has been achieved by cities so far? How can cities partner with national governments in a shift towards a Green Economy?

Key note speakers: Angela Cropper, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP; Konrad Otto-Zimmermann, Secretary General, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability; Gulelat Kebede, UN-HABITAT; Pavan Sukhdev, DTIE, UNEP; Stephen Kabuye, Mayor of Entebbe, Uganda, and Vice President of ICLEI; Martha Delgado, Secretary of Environment, Government of Mexico City (tbc).

Chair: Sylvie Lemmet, Director, DTIE, UNEP.

ROOM 13 - OLIVE