

Conference Report



Reflection on UNEA-2 outcomes and climate change adaptation through a multi stakeholder approach: post-UNEA-2 Workshop for East and Southern Africa

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1 INTRODUCTION

Climate change is a topic close to the core values and overall objectives of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), which involve conservation and protection of nature and environment besides promoting peace, freedom, solidarity and democracy.

Knowing that Africa is the most vulnerable continent with regard to the effects of climate change, the Rule of Law Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa of KAS partnered with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Kenya, the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) Nairobi and Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) to organise a two-day regional workshop on 20-21 September 2016 to reflect on the UNEA-2 resolutions with a focus on climate change as well as the Paris Agreement outcomes, while emphasising on the action points from these processes.

In February this year the Rule of Law Programme held a conference in Kigali on the topic of the Paris Agreement (COP21) and what it meant for the continent. By supporting and implementing this recent conference in Nairobi that sought to find practical solutions to mitigating the effects of climate change in Africa, the Rule of Law Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa of KAS was continuing its initiatives towards contributing to the establishment of partnerships and a policy framework necessary to combat the effects of climate change on the continent.

1.1 Background

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), held its second session (UNEA-2) on 23-27th May 2016. Member States adopted 25 resolutions, out of which one is of specific importance in the context of climate change: UNEP/EA.2/L.7, focussing on promoting the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. Moreover, all the resolutions aim at delivering on the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda, which is an action plan for 'people, planet and prosperity' aims to achieve 17 Goals, dubbed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with further 126 targets within 15 years. SDG 13 calls upon all stakeholders to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Although the phenomenon of climate change is global, its impacts are varied and mainly detrimental to the largely tropical arid and semi-arid areas such as those found in sub-Saharan Africa. About 70% of the people of Africa live in rural areas and mostly depend largely on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods. These livelihood options

are dependent on climate-sensitive factors making the people vulnerable. Already, population increase is putting pressure on food production and climate change adds further stress because food production is highly dependent on the environment. Therefore, in the context of Africa, change in climate is likely to negatively affect its natural ecological systems thereby retarding its capacity for human development and food security. Climate change is thus a development issue and not only an environmental concern for Africa.¹

Wildlife both animal and plants is part of the ecosystem and plays a major role in impacting climate change in terms of water, environmental habitat, land and its resources, animals and humans. All these factors individually play a key role in nature and interfering with their symbiotic relationship affects both climate and the environment. Wildlife contributes to seed dispersal, cross-pollination, land enrichment and regeneration, and taking out wildlife through illegal trade in wildlife, flora and fauna therefore impacts climate change. Further, climate change and global warming directly affect wildlife in both their distribution and behaviour, leading to dwindling numbers and poor health.

Regarding climate change in general, Africa's emissions are negligible, yet it is the most vulnerable to climate change due to various factors, including low socio-economic development. The Paris Agreement requires countries to take action against climate change (Articles 3). To achieve implementation effectively, action should be premised on simultaneously actualizing socio-economic development priorities of food security, job creation and economic growth while ensuring Africa also meets its climate objectives under the agreement.

The 25 Resolutions from UNEA 2:

1. Amendments to the rules of procedure
2. Role and functions of the regional forums of ministers of environment and environment authorities
3. Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training
4. Role, functions and modalities for UNEP implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
5. Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
6. Supporting the Paris Agreement
7. Sound management of chemicals and waste
8. Sustainable consumption and production
9. Prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste
10. Oceans and seas
11. Marine plastic litter and micro-plastics
12. Sustainable coral reefs management
13. Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication
14. Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products
15. Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict
16. Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being
17. Enhancing the work of UNEP in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity- related conventions
18. Relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariat
19. Midterm review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environment Law (Montevideo Programme IV)
20. Proposed medium-term strategy for 2018-2021 and programme of work and budget for 2018-2019
21. Sand and dust storms
22. Review of the cycle of sessions of UNEA of UNEP
23. Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
24. Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands
25. Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

1.2 Objectives

The workshop served as a debriefing session on the UNEA-2 resolutions and the Paris Climate Agreement. It also aimed at linking the outcomes of these two conferences to the SDGs in the African context. The workshop aimed at providing participants with the

¹ <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/ghana/10518.pdf>

opportunity to reflect on the role of non-governmental stakeholders in implementing these agreements, as well as on the implications of this commitment to developing countries in Africa. During this regional workshop, participants were to specifically focus on the nexus between climate change and food security, illegal wildlife trade and deliberate on the implications of these for Africa, together with the necessary policy action required to harness Africa's potential to adapt to climate change. The participants were also expected to identify which partnerships need to be forged and what policy and legal frameworks are necessary to combat climate change and achieve food security in Africa.

Main areas of focus:

- Role of partnerships in implementing UNEA resolutions, the Paris Agreement, SDGs and Agenda 2030 focusing on climate change and food security.
- Solution based analysis of the Paris Climate change agreement in particular Ecosystem Based Adaptation approach to ensuring food security.
- An action plan to implement UNEA resolutions and the Paris Agreement in East and Southern Africa.

2 PARTICIPANTS

The two-day meeting was attended by a total number of 172 participants, consisting of a wide range of stakeholders from East and Southern Africa including: Government representatives, Civil society representatives, private sector, United Nations organisations, Media, members of the judiciary, and other stakeholders with an interest in climate change, food security as well as other areas relating to environmental conservation and governance.

The Rule of Law Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa of KAS supported the event in terms of inviting experts from the SADC-bloc to share their perspectives from that region. They included:

Prof. Rev. Aidan Msafiri, Climate Change Ambassador for Tanzania (Tanzania)

Hon Eddie Cross, MP, National Assembly (Zimbabwe)

Prof Tumai Murombo, Director, Mandela Institute, School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)

Mr. Tafadzwa Dhlakama, Head of Climate Change and Energy Programme, Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (Zimbabwe)

Ms Maureen Kondowe, Legal Practitioner (Malawi)

Mr Topiwa Sandler Chilume, Partner, Chilume and Company Legal Practitioners (Botswana)

Mr Patrick Mulowayi, Legal Practitioner (DRC)

Mr. Tom Ogola, Legal Practitioner (Kenya)

Mr. Edward Wabwoto, NEMA (Kenya)

3 SUMMARY OF THE TWO-DAY WORKSHOP

The programme of the first day focussed mainly on introducing the UNEA-2 outcomes to the participants from various perspectives. Following the opening remarks, given by Alexander Juras, Chief of UNEP's Major Group and Stakeholder Branch, Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary of Governing Bodies and Stakeholders (UNEP) summarized the overall outcome of UNEA-2 and highlighted the objective of this stakeholder workshop to move from agreements to actions and find viable solutions for implementing the resolutions by working together as partners towards the achievement of the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Afterwards, **UNEP cluster coordinators made presentations to outline the relevant action points from sixteen UNEA-2 resolutions** most relevant for the stakeholders and

also explained their division's focal points. The speakers represented various departments comprising the Economic, Law, Ecosystems, Ecosystems Services Ecosystem Unit and Terrestrial Ecosystems Division as well as Information, Public Relations, Communications & Campaigning.

After having been introduced to the various resolutions that aim at conserving the environment, mitigating climate change and its negative consequences for human beings and wildlife, it was the participants' turn to reflect on their role in the implementation of the UNEA-2 outcomes. In **six groups**, they introduced their own work and progress in this area so far, discussed their own roles and how to implement the UNEA-2 action points in their work, identified opportunities for making contributions and taking action, analysed the challenges as well as identified synergies amongst the various stakeholders that could be established, used and expanded. Following this, the groups presented their reports to the **plenary for discussion**.

Resolutions discussed by the groups:

- Group No. 1: Issue of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products
- Group No. 2: Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication
- Group No. 3: Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training
- Group No. 4: Combating desertification, land degradation, and drought promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands
- Group No 5: Supporting the Paris agreement
Sound management of chemicals and waste
Sustainable production and consumption
Prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste
- Group No 6: Oceans and seas
Marine plastic and microplastics
Sustainable coral reef management



The group work no. 3 (monitored by KAS-team) focused on the Resolution 2/3: Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training.

The second day focused specifically on the current situation in East and Southern Africa: Presentations and panel forums highlighted the perspectives from various stakeholders throughout these regions as well as the current progress and challenges of the work on the ground in terms of implementing the resolutions with regard to climate change, agriculture, food security, conserving wildlife and the respective legal policies. A first **presentation given by Richard Munang (UNEP) summarized the Paris Agreement and salient features for Africa, and effects of Climate Change in Africa**. Afterwards, Daniel Asher from Consumer and Trust Society (CUTS) Kenya introduced the work of his organization and its projects and thereby provided the participants exemplarily with

detailed insights into the specific case of a project dealing with the nexus of climate change, food security and trade in East Africa.

The presentations were followed by a **panel discussion on the impact of climate change on wildlife and illegal trade in wildlife**, whose most important findings can be summarized by the following statements given by the four panellists:

- There is a conflict arising between human and wildlife coexistence throughout the regions and across international borders. Therefore, a joint planning all over the regions is necessary. (*Kitili Mbathi, The Director General, Kenya Wildlife Service*)
- Legislative operations need to be given by the jurisdictions in terms of impact of climate change in the nations. Also with regard to illegal trade in wildlife, the different jurisdictions need to address cross-border issues. (*Rodah Ogoma, Senior Ass. Director, Officer of the Director of Public Prosecutions*)
- The local people who live along with the wildlife must be involved and must be part of this law enforcement and must be provided with educational training programs. (*Kahindi Lekahaile, Director Public Affairs, Africa Network for Animal Welfare & University Lecturer*)
- It is not only the organizations, governments and other official stakeholders who need to make a contribution in addressing environmental issues: The citizens of the various countries are also in charge and need to live up to their responsibilities. (*Hon. Lady Justice Jaqueline Kamau, Judge of the High Court of Kenya*)

The second **panel discussion** was facilitated by the Rule of Law Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa of KAS. It focussed on **existing policy frameworks to address climate change and its impact in Africa** and aimed at identifying gaps and areas of action. The three panellists consisted of experts from the SADC-bloc, who came from Tanzania, South Africa and Zimbabwe to share their experiences and expertise from their respective professional perspective. The most important conclusions they came to can be summarized as follows:

- *Hon. Eddie Cross (MP National Assembly, Republic of Zimbabwe) – From the legislative and economic perspective:*
Ways to tackle this issue in African countries comprise mitigation and adaptation. Areas of action concern transport, industry, power generation and wildfires. Suggested measures that mitigate negative consequences of climate change involve aspects like water recycling, use of climate friendly technology and industry, coordination of water management as well as the change of land use and relocation of affected communities. When it comes to adaptation, a change of behaviour and attitude in societies is required. The biggest challenge and fundamental aspects comprise good governance and a coordinated response mechanism to climate-caused issues.
- *Prof. Rev. Aidan Msafiri (Climate Change Ambassador for Tanzania) – From the Multidisciplinary Perspective:*
Climate change is predominately a moral issue, that results from a certain lifestyle, lack of conscience, ignorance and irresponsibility. It is the people's habit that needs to be changed in order to achieve a progress in terms of implementing the resolutions and achieving the SDGs.
- *Prof. Tumai Murombo (Director Mandela Institute, School of Law University Witwatersrand, South Africa) – From a regional perspective:*
Imperatives, that lead human beings to take action: their life is under threat or there is a law that demands their action or the person has a strong ethical conviction

to act in that specific way. Since the Paris Agreement rather involves political agreements than legal ones, the political will of every government is required in order to ensure the enforcement of the resolutions. Hence, legal instruments should be developed that hold the institutions accountable which are in charge of the enforcement of the resolutions to tackle environmental issues and ensure the SDGs will be achieved.



Dr. Arne Wulff, Director Rule of Law Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa of KAS (in the center), moderated the panel forum, which comprised the experts Prof. Rev. Aidan Msafiri (Climate Change Ambassador in Tanzania), Prof. Tumai Murombo (Director Mandela Institute, School of Law University of Witwatersrand, South Africa) and Hon. Eddie Cross (MP National Assembly, Republic of Zimbabwe).

Plenary discussion: Partnerships to deal with the impact of climate change in Africa

After having gained insight from the various stakeholders' perspective on challenges and opportunities throughout the previous sessions of the two-day workshop in form of presentations and panel forums, the participants sought to find strategies in a **concluding plenary session** for building partnerships to implement the resolutions, work towards achieving the SDGs and measure the impact of their work. It was agreed, that the approach needs to be multidisciplinary and concerns the policy and legal framework, economic issues, scientific ones as well as social and ethical issues – this means: each organisation that is represented here can see how they fit in. The climate change issue affects various aspects – from development to economic matters, human rights, food security to health – and is also a cross-border issue that affects every nation in Africa. Hence, regional and national actions are required in order to achieve the resolutions and SDGs. Everyone has a role to play, as individuals and as organizations, as state actors and non-state-actors, policy makers as well as judiciary, governments as well as civil society and the private sector.

A clear definition of target groups, strategies and objectives is required for every stakeholder. **Various target groups need to be involved in the process and need to be considered by the stakeholders:** there is a need for targeting the **civil society and the youth** through activities in order to raise awareness and empower them, e.g. through capacity building. Since youth are the future of the country and the future leaders will come from that generation, a collaboration with universities and youth is essential in order to implement the SDGs in a sustainable and long-lasting efficient way. But also **policy makers** need to be addressed because they will establish the policy the organizations need to work with. Moreover, the **private sector** needs to be taken into account, since it is necessary to know what drives them. Sensitization is also required on the part of the **judiciary**. Legal training is essential on how the rule of law can be used to infester environmental protection and mitigate climate change. Moreover, also the litigation in terms of environmental issues should be better organized and structured.

A country program is required that involves every stakeholder. The first step in this process is the ratification of the agreement by every country. This is considered as the essential decision for each country, which will pave the way for an efficient

cooperation amongst the various partners to implement the resolutions together. On the scientific side, there is a group needed to be formed to analyze **scientific aspects of climate change and the impact for the respective country**. Afterwards, several other groups shall break these results down with regard to urban/pastoral/industry priorities etc. **Those groups involved in each of those sectors can occupy themselves then with that to get engaged in the progress on the ground**. Therefore, **funds** need to be allocated, which should be regulated through the budgeting process of the **parliament**.

In order to raise the importance of the issue of climate change as priority on the politicians' agenda, it needs to be **mainstreamed as cross-cutting issue within many sectors**. **Politicians** need to be integrated and involved in the deliberations and conclusions on dealing with climate change in order to ensure the **enforcement and implementation** of the resolutions. Therefore, a process needs to be found that makes the decision makers to listen to the people and understand their needs. A suggested way forward is to **facilitate the dialogue amongst the various stakeholders**, also amongst state and non-state actors, as well as various organizations which are engaged in the field of environmental issues and climate change. Therefore, NGOs should work together as a team to achieve a common goal and have quarterly meetings where they **share the information** with the civil societies. They should report and consult and share their experiences and results in terms of challenges and progress. Furthermore, **technical groups** could be formed in terms of knowledge management of climate issues. **A forum might be organized as platform to address policy makers**: thereby, MPs are invited to get engaged with NGOs and the civil society to discuss suggestions regarding solutions to environmental issues and climate change.



The plenary session (co-moderated by Mr. Peter Wendoh, Project Advisor Rule of Law Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa of KAS) sought to bring about precise action points and forge partnerships.



4 SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND ACTION POINTS

In summary, the overall outcomes of the stakeholder conference linked to the SDGs in the African context are as follows:

- **collaborations and networking of CSOs as key:** they should analyze and use synergies
- participants should emphasize to **create a culture where people care about the issues of environment**
- Proposed strategies to be adhered to by the stakeholders: Awareness, Advocacy, Action, **Community engagement, capacity building**
- **development of information and communication materials**
- UNEA should prepare a toolkit, that can be used by the stakeholders in terms of capacity building, advocacy and related measures
- **research based evidence to engage all stakeholders** (e.g. crops that are resilient can be looked at)
- sharing of best practice
- **evidence-led litigation**
- **judiciary:** need for joint effort, need for information sharing, evidence that is used in the judicial processes, synergies
- **need for involvement of civil societies in policy making processes**
- communities in need shall address the government with the challenges that they are facing with regard to environmental conservation
- **political will** must be attained by political leaders: governments need to be engaged to **allocate budgets and provide incentives to implement climate-change mitigation factors**

5 CONCLUSIONS

The workshop provided the stakeholders involved in issues related to climate change with a platform for networking, sharing experiences and finding solutions together. Opportunities for building partnerships were analysed in order to enable the proper implementation of UNEA-2 resolutions, Paris Agreement and Sustainable development goals in Africa and also influence policies accordingly. Moreover, first action points and ideas for joint strategies that involve various stakeholders including private and public sector, state and non-state actors as well as the judiciary, NGOs and communities were found in order to combat climate change and achieve food security in Africa. As announced by Jorge Laguna-Celis in his closing remarks, forums like this will be replicated in other areas where UNEP is operating. In this regard, the workshop proved to be an efficient opportunity to stir further establishments and strengthened partnerships that shall be extended in the future.

Nevertheless: although this workshop brought about important ideas for further action points, it just laid a foundation – it is now up to the various stakeholders from all sections to implement the strategies and mechanisms they agreed upon on the ground and in their daily work in order to work together as partners towards the achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of the UNEA-2 resolutions in the Sub-Saharan African countries. Partnerships amongst stakeholders need to be expanded in the future and proper mechanisms for a coordinated cooperation need to be established that also comprise a well-structured framework with clearly defined missions and agenda, monitoring and evaluation as well as reporting and continuous information sharing amongst all stakeholders. As Jorge Laguna-Celis called upon the participants during his closing remarks: in the future, all the stakeholders need to increase their engagement and commitment even more also in terms of holding governments to account to agreements they have made with regards to environment-related issues.

Throughout the conference, the participants appraised the outcome especially with regard to the knowledge they were able to gain, the networks they were enabled to build and

partnerships they were enhanced to strengthen. Thus the conference succeeded in enhancing the knowledge of the participants on opportunities for implementing the resolutions from UNEA-2 and deal with issues of climate change. This builds the foundation for working towards the achievement of one of the most important intended outcomes of the conference: to influence policy decisions in the region and promote the mainstreaming of climate change mitigations and adaptation measures across the various sectors in the African region. An important next step is now for the various stakeholders to transmit and use this knowledge and function as multipliers to push the issue of climate change forward in their country, to take action and involve further stakeholders and stir as well as contribute to an improvement in their respective country.

6 PUBLICATIONS ON THE WORKSHOP

All presentations given during the two-day conference as well as an overall report that includes the outcomes in detail will be accessible for free downloading on the UNEP website. Apart from that, videos interview with facilitators, partners and selected participants will be published.

(<http://www.unep.org/civil-society/PostUNEA2Workshop/tabid/1061567/Default.aspx>)

7 ANNEX: PROTOCOL OF RESULTS FROM DISCUSSIONS IN DETAIL

Suggested ideas to be included in the NGOs' work on the ground:

In order to create awareness on climate-related issues, the language used needs to be simple. Everybody needs to understand and be aware of the negative consequences of climate change. So far, the people do not see that climate change is an urgent issue. But only when people understand the importance of environmental issues, they can deal with the problem. Therefore, the complex scientific aspects of climate change shall be explained in a way that is easily understood by everybody, e.g. in the form of cartoons or pictures. Environmental issues need also to be included in school curricula and need to be emphasized by the ministries of education. Moreover, publications on the issue of climate change and solutions to environmental issues need to be distributed amongst the various target groups and also need to be accessible online for free. The various target groups (e.g. civil society, government, private sector, judiciary) need to be addressed appropriately, get empowered through measures that involve capacity building, awareness creation and advocacy. Furthermore, the capacity building within the system must be designed in an inclusive way that underlines the approach of solidarity and addresses all stakeholders. It shall be conducted for all sectors and should transmit holistic and all-encompassing values. In order to achieve the SDGs and implement the resolutions, all kinds of values need to be inculcated in the societies, which embrace all perspectives and transmit those values by including political, religious and economic aspects. Apart from that, there is a need for education of communities on the ground and a commitment given by all of us to change the way how we live. At the grass-root level this means, a change of behavior and attitude is required, which can be approached by strategies that comprise awareness, advocacy and action. Creating awareness and capacity building can also be fostered by using the multiplier effect and working together with people on the ground who are trained to train their community (training of trainers). The whole process needs to be inclusive, which means that communities need to be highly involved in decision-making and should also be given the chance to take the lead. Actors at the grass-root level need to own the process, the resolutions and the agreements that were made on behalf of them.

Starting points for the participants and options for support by UNEP as overall organizer of the workshop:

The establishment of partnerships amongst the various stakeholders shall be facilitated by sharing contacts of the participants, which allows them to get in touch, create WhatsApp groups and organize joint meetings. Partnerships can be formed country by country, region by region and/or area by area as well as based on common central issues that the

stakeholders are addressing. A comprehensive report of this workshop will be uploaded on the UNEP-website and shall function as guideline for a way forward. In order to improve the efficiency, the stakeholders should make use of reporting, monitoring and evaluation. An efficient platform for collaboration and data collection as well as shared planning shall be envisaged.

Regarding UNEP as facilitating organization, participants asked for support in terms of communications and information material: UNEP should provide the stakeholders with a toolkit that helps the various organizations to learn from best practice and analyze what to improve. Moreover, UNEP should flag initiatives in its program and work, whereby reporting is considered an essential tool that ensures proper information sharing, knowledge management and allows everybody to learn from each other. The reports on the respective initiatives could be summarized by the Director at the UNEA meetings. Further suggestions for improvements involve a timely information of participants on events that can be attended by stakeholders in order to get engaged with other stakeholders comprising state actors as well as various non-state actors to exchange ideas.

Certain supporting mechanisms for the Stakeholders are already existing and were explained to the participants:

- *MYUNEA*: interactive online hub, where best practices can be shared, whereby a compendium can be created jointly with regard to mutual accountability to reach the goals and implement the resolutions (<https://www.myunep.org/>)
- *UNEP Live*: platform that can be accessed by country, team, region, publications, etc. and fosters multi-Stakeholder partnerships (<http://uneplive.unep.org/>)
- *Wild for Live* (campaign): campaign that every person can contribute to. On the website, there is a section, where countries that have subscribed, can outline their work and the progress they have made so far (<https://wildfor.life/>)