Some 26 journalists from East Africa gathered in Machakos for a UN-Habitat conducted workshop with an emphasis on Green building/architecture and journalist reporting across the East African region.

Mr. Robert Sangori, a representative from the State Department of Housing and Urban Development in Kenya, said: “According to the Economic Survey of 2015, the building and construction sector is one of the sectors that post high growth rates. This implies that, with the current style of construction and especially in urban areas, the energy consumption by the sector will continue growing in a way that may not be sustainable.”

Mr. Vincent Kitio, a representative of UN-Habitat, emphasized the need for considering local environment, the local economy and social context when it comes to building for this would reduce energy wastage, high electricity bills, air pollution and greenhouse gas emission. “Our cities consume more than 75 per cent of the energy and contribute up to 70 per cent of the greenhouse gas emission that cause climate change,” he said. “The recently endorsed Paris Agreements by..."
196 countries calls for a transformative approach on the way energy is generated and consumed.”

Musau Kimeu, Lecturer of Architecture at the University of Nairobi, emphasized the need for developing environmentally-friendly buildings and engaging with architects. “Glass buildings are very popular today, not just because of the views they boast, or the increased light they let in, but for their striking modern looking appearance. As global warming concerns become more real and widespread, the glass structure must come under scrutiny. Buildings account for more than 50 per cent of all CO2 emission globally, majorly from air-conditioning, and CO2 is the main cause of global warming and climate change. The media workshop is designed to help emerging environmental journalists understand the concept of green building, to strengthen skills for effective coverage of sustainable building principle, to share regional experiences and to create a pool of journalists who are dedicated to effective coverage of sustainable buildings.

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Kingdom of Netherlands, Sweden and UNDP affirm their support to Governance and Peace Building in Kenya

The Kingdom of Netherlands and Sweden have commended UNDP’s role in enhancing democratic governance and peace building efforts towards strengthening rule of law and social cohesion especially ahead of the 2017 general elections.

Speaking during the Joint Annual review meeting on the achievements and challenges faced by the implementing partners, the heads of the Swedish and Netherlands Development Cooperation, Ms. Sandra Diesel and Ms. Marielle Geraedts, said there is need to consolidate the gains made in the constitution process and respond to the needs of Kenyan citizens to enjoy a life of dignity.

Through joint funding from the two countries, UNDP supported the implementation of the constitution especially during the transition period in strengthening the devolved system of governance, promotion of elections planning and management, human rights and gender empowerment. In addition, peace and reconciliation efforts, UNDP supported enhancement of institutional capacity to formulate, implement and monitor peace-building, conflict prevention, cohesion, community security and arms control policies, strategies and plans at national and county levels. Consultative forums were also undertaken in the lead-up to the establishment and integration of County Peace structures in the targeted 17 Counties.

UNDP’s acting Resident Representative Mr. Michel Bulima lauded the support given to UNDP by Sweden and Netherlands and the partnership it has with the implementing partners but noted that there are still many challenges that hinder the development and growth. “Given our unique mandates and vantage points, we should engage in the emerging challenges of security threats brought about by terrorism and radicalizations, corruption and accountability, youth unemployment and various inequalities and climate change” he said.

The main implementing partners Independent Constitutional Commissions - including Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), National Gender and Equality Commission, Commission of the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC), National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and Commission on Administration of Justice (CAJ). Other support came from Office of the Chief Justice and the civil society.

Of concern was the fate of the implementation of the Constitution following the end of the five year term of the Commission of Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) and the Transition Authority. While most of their mandates have been spread out to other commissions, there were calls for a consultative meeting to bring all stakeholders together to build synergies and ensure that the gains made is not eroded.

The meeting also stressed the need...
for support of a strong and vibrant civil society engagement to protecting fundamental rights of all Kenyans. “A strong and enabled NGO sector will be more important as Kenya enters an election period, and which if unchecked, could lead to massive abuses and corruption with impunity. It is for this reason that we are currently in discussion with UNDP for support towards the second phase of the Amkeni Wakenya program ” said Ms. Geraedts of the Kingdom of Netherlands.

The support of The Kingdom of Netherlands and Sweden is part of UNDP’s work to strengthen institutional capacity in Kenya to create the building blocks that provide a platform for improving democratic governance, peace building and conflict prevention in line with Kenya’s Vision 2030 towards becoming a middle-income country by year 2030.


The much awaited Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP) or the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and related resolutions was officially launched by the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta, on behalf of the Government of Kenya as part of 2016 International Women’s Day celebrations organized by the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs on Tuesday 8th March 2015.

The KNAP is anchored on the constitutional values of gender equality, inclusion and participation and recognizes the importance of women’s contributions to conflict prevention and resolution, peace keeping and peace building in Kenya.

The Government of Kenya has this year adopted Huissha Wanawake Dumisha Amani (Involve women to sustain peace) as the theme for this year’s national International Women’s Day celebrations. The theme draws on the United Nations global theme “Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it up for Gender Equality” and the African Union’s theme “Year of Human Rights with Special Focus on Rights of Women”.

The celebrations started at Uhuru Park with a march flagged off by Hon. Justin Muturi, the Speaker of the National Assembly. In his brief remarks, he emphasized the important role that women play in society and stated that we cannot function optimally as a society if women are excluded hence the need to empower them. Hon. Muturi, signed up for the HeForShe Campaign - a global solidarity movement initiated by UN Women to uphold Gender Empowerment.

During the HeForShe sign up at Uhuru Park- Freedom corner, he pledged to honor the seven principles and to mobilize fellow male members of parliament to support the campaign initiated by UN Women.

Hon. Muturi further stated that he was ready to support gender equality to have more women elected in parliament and to enhance participation and electability of women into political leadership.

After the march, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya H E Margaret Kenyatta Addressed those gathered for the IWD celebrations at the Kenyatta International Convention Center. In her remarks, the First Lady emphasized the need to involve, women in conflict resolution and peace negotiations because women and children are most affected by insecurity. “Women, girls and children are vulnerable. When a woman suffers, her family, community and society at large

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
The Government of Kenya, the United Nations system in Kenya and development partners have reaffirmed their commitment to working together in promoting sustainable development in the country. This was the key message at the National Steering Committee meeting held on 15 March 2015 and co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, a.i., Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, Devolution PS, Saitoti Torome, Environment and Natural Resources PS, Dr. Margaret Mwakima and Treasury Director of External Resources, Mr. Jackson Kinyanjui.

The NSC is the organ that directly oversees GoK-UN co-operation on development as outlined in the United

The speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Justin Muturi signed on as a HeForShe champion on 8 March 2016 committing the Parliament to the HeForShe campaign. Following his historic signature 140 Parliamentarians signed up as HeForShe Champions affirming their commitment to the seven principles of the campaign. (Photo by Kennedy Olath/UN Women)

Heads of UN agencies, Government officials and other Development Partners on a group photo. (Photo by Victor Olouch/RC Office)
Panelists Zebib Kavuma - UN Women Country Director, Peter Mwangi - Law Student at Mount Kenya University and Mike Wachira, Deputy Director, Centre for Rights Education and Awareness during the dialogue on ‘Planet 50:50…my vision for gender equality in 2030’ (photo by Martha Wanjala/UNWOMEN)
observed that there was a real danger that the current crises of masculinity would continue into 2030. In order to halt this, it will be important for men to negotiate their role within this new world where gender equality is the norm. Peter Mwangi emphasized the fact that young men cannot afford to hold on to the idea that women are less equal or capable. He highlighted the fact that for most young men, in 2030 gender biases would have no place. In 2030 their world of work would mean having gender balanced teams with empowered women holding positions equal to theirs or more senior.

There was general consensus that the vision of achieving gender equality by 2030 would be achievable with more women in leadership; women working on empowering other women; treating the need for gender equality with a sense of urgency as well as transforming the minds and value systems of both men and women on their role in promoting this agenda.

As part of the event, participants also identified pledges from the 8 Pledge for Parity commitments which were captured in lively photos.

There was a call on all participants to be gender conscious, use their spaces of influence to contribute to a world in 2030 in which both men and women thrive.

The Chair of the UN Gender Working Group, Alice Ochanda (UNESCO) closed the event, thanking participants for an invigorating discussion.

Media Stakeholders Workshop on Journalists Safety Indicators in Kenya

UNESCO in partnership with African Media Initiative (AMI) organized a media stakeholder’s consultation on 23 February 2016 on the State of Journalists Safety and the Issue of Impunity in Kenya based on UNESCOs Journalists’ Safety Indicators. The one day meeting in Nairobi, Kenya aimed at reviewing and discussing issues captured in the draft study report on Journalists Safety in Kenya covering the period from August 2014 to July 2015 in Kenya.

Dr George Nyabuga, the lead researcher highlighted the salient elements of the report. The report is divided into categories of key indicators and provides an overview of the safety situation of journalists in Kenya. Participants were given an opportunity to provide their feedback on core elements and issues on the safety of journalists in Kenya, including the protection systems in place, the important actors or actions described in the report, and the greatest challenges that journalists face in Kenya.

One such challenge that came up during the meeting relates to coordination. According to Mr. Robert Wanjala, Programme Officer at Article 19 “The media has no coordinated mechanism to advocate and mitigate on issues related to safety of journalists in Kenya. It is therefore important for the Kenya Media Working Group to lobby and establish the necessary structures to help mitigate this issue.”

The Journalists’ Safety Indicators further identify the context of safety and the responsibility of various actors and institutions in addressing the issue of journalists’ safety in the country. Ms Akademia Wandibba, National Officer
Regional Meeting seeks International Collaboration to tackle Harmful Algal Bloom issue in Africa

Marine ecosystems in African are threatened by a plethora of natural and anthropogenic stressors such as pollution, overfishing, rising sea levels, warming and ocean-acidification. They provide a wide array of goods and services, supporting livelihoods and income-generating opportunities for millions of coastal inhabitants. They also contribute significantly to the regional economy.

The cumulative impact of natural and anthropogenic stressors may have detrimental effects on the growth and reproduction of organisms, or lead to declines in biodiversity, or increased benthic macroalgae and harmful algal blooms (HABs).
This is of particular concern to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which rely heavily on seafood as a major source of protein and in regional trade. Harmful algal blooms (HABs) produce toxins that can accumulate in seafood products, posing a health risk to human consumers. Such blooms, also known as red tides, have been increasing both in frequency and intensity over the last decades, in Africa as well as in other regions. As part of an initiative to address the challenge of HABs, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has launched a regional technical cooperation project to build capacity for monitoring HABs and their toxins, as well as their impact on seafood safety and the environment, using Radio-ligand Binding Assays (RBA). The project builds on the achievements of previous technical cooperation projects, which have supported the establishment of RBA technology in Kenya, Namibia, South Africa Tanzania and Tunisia, and in nine further countries outside Africa.

The IAEA isn’t alone in tackling the threat of harmful algal blooms – it has been joined by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. Over the past ten years, these organizations have implemented a range of regional activities on HABs, ranging from building technical capacity to developing regional manuals and guides. Moreover, IOC-UNESCO has supported the establishment of a regional network on HABs in North Africa (called HANA), in addition to the IOCAFRICA Group of Experts on HABs.

Driven by the common goal to address HABs, the IAEA has recently organized a coordination meeting for its regional TC project to coincide with a meeting of the IOCAFRICA Group of Experts on HABs. The two meetings were organized in collaboration with the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), and took place in Mombasa, Kenya from 22 to 26 February 2016.

In his opening address, Dr Renison Ruwa, Director of KMFRI, explained: “HABs are a global threat to living resources and have had significant impacts on the livelihood and the health of coastal communities for decades in a number of countries, including in Kenya where there are documented cases of fish mortalities and human illness after consumption of contaminated seafood. HABs occurrence and impacts are likely to increase in the face of the emerging issues such as climate change, rise in sea surface temperatures, eutrophication and ocean acidification. As scientists, we have the responsibility to generate and provide accurate information to the decision-makers on HABs occurrence, their triggers and possible impacts”.

Mr Michael Kiza, IAEA Programme Management Officer, speaking at the official opening of the meeting on behalf of Mr Shaukat Abdulrazak, Director of the Division for Africa of the IAEA’s Department of Technical Cooperation, described the scope of the challenge: “Toxins from harmful algal blooms and pathogen contaminations (particularly from the discharge of untreated sewage and animal wastes) continue to impact on global food safety and security. Hence, sustainable management of our oceans as well as other global development challenges require integrated collaboration.”

Mika Odido, Coordinator of IOC-UNESCO Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States, also spoke at the opening ceremony, highlighting IOC activities related to HABs and underscoring the importance of partnership in addressing the challenges. The IAEA meeting reviewed existing national capacities with the aim of strengthening and, where necessary, establishing new marine environment monitoring programmes to promote HABs-related seafood safety. The meeting revised the ongoing project work plan, and reviewed it to harmonize with the activities of the IOCAFRICA working group. The coinciding IOCAFRICA meeting initiated preparatory work for an inventory of HABs-related events, studies and publications in the region, as well as for the development of a detailed proposal for an IOCAFRICA HABs programme. Both IAEA and IOC programmes are closely linked to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal #14, namely to “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.”

A major outcome of the two meetings was the agreement between participants on the need to coordinate IAEA and IOC efforts to create greater impact. Opportunities for implementing joint activities were explored and agreed upon. The project work plan for the proposed IAEA project was reviewed accordingly to include new joint activities with the IOCAFRICA Group of Experts on HABs.

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UN Staff Run For Gender Equality

UN Women and the UN Gender Working Group organized a 5km run on March 4, 2016 as one of the events to commemorate International Women’s Day 2016. The event was flagged off by Ms. Sahle – Work Zewde Under-Secretary General and the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

In her remarks, Ms. Zewde noted that everybody, women, men, children – stand to benefit from greater gender equality and the meaningful participation of women in all facets of society. “Like today’s pre-run, our work on gender equality is something of a race. A race against the clock. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs, we only have 15 years to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, as reflected in Goal 5 of the SDGs,” she said.

In her opening remarks, Ms Zebib
Kavuma the UN Women Country Director thanked all those who had come to run because it was a show of support to the First Lady’s Half Marathon in aid of the Beyond Zero Campaign that works to end maternal and child deaths in Kenya.

“Working for gender equality is a team effort. ‘It needs us to be fit for purpose. It calls for solidarity across and within all our agencies,’ Ms Kavuma said.

UN Women, UNEP, UN Habitat, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNFPA, FAO, ILO,

IMO UNON, UNSOA, UNICEF, UNOCHA, UNV, UNSOS, ICAO, WFP, OHCHR, UNODC, GEF and the Embassy of Venezuela registered teams to participate in the race which started promptly at 9.00am. Some of the participants came from duty stations outside Nairobi including Nyandarua, Kiisi and Murang’a counties.

The huge turnout for the pre run was a great show of solidarity and commitment by all UN agencies to the agenda of advancing gender equality in Kenya.

Trade Mark East Africa Staff Marked International Women’s Day by Signing Up as HeForShe Champions

Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA) Chief Executive Officer Frank Matsaert on 7 March led his staff in signing up as HeForShe champions in an event jointly organized by UN Women Kenya and Trade Mark East Africa. Frank Matsaert signed up on a board as a HeForShe champion followed by senior staff and board members. Many TMEA staff signed up online. The event is a build up to the International Women’s Day 2016 celebrations and the theme of the event was “Spark a change… engage differently!”

The event took place in the TMEA Boardroom and was attended by Karin Andersson - TMEA Council Chair,

Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA) Chief Executive Officer Frank Matsaert, Karin Andersson TMEA Council Chair and Zebib Kavuma, UN Women Country Director alongside TMEA staff during the launch (Photo by Martha Wanjala/UN Women)
Patricia Ithau - TMEA board member and TMEA staff in Nairobi. TMEA staff in Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda joined by video conference.

In his remarks, Mr Matsaert noted that the role of gender in trade relations cannot be over emphasized. It applies in small business all the way to boardrooms. He publicly committed to upholding gender equality principles within TMEA and in all its programmes emphasizing that TMEA wants to be the leading and most gender sensitive institution on trade in Africa.

During the panel discussion, Zebib Kavuma, UN Women Country Director noted that there must be deliberate actions to close the gender gap by 2030. ‘We are called to action to provide equal access, opportunities and representation’ she noted.

Karin Andersson TMEA Council Chair, underlined the need for systematic policies to address women’s issues. ‘The plans should be long term as quick fixes do not work’ she said.

Patricia Ithau TMEA, board member noted that women are well represented up to middle level management. Then there is disconnect and they do not rise to leadership positions in as large numbers. She encouraged men to champion women’s empowerment and one way is by speaking out for them and encouraging them.

Joseph Mwangala joined the panel from Uganda via video conference and informed all who were present of their support for women in cross border trade. By becoming HeForShe champions, staff and partners committed to developing and launching an innovative male-focused gender mainstreaming curriculum for the partners they are working with and to carry out an employment survey of the representation of women across all levels, for the partners they are working with to further increase women in leadership roles.

By joining the HeForShe solidarity movement, TMEA staff has become advocates, agents, stakeholders and champions of gender equality.

UN Women Launches the Humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction Mainstreaming Manual

Annually, it is estimated that between one to two million people mostly women and children are in need of humanitarian assistance due to a combination of drought, floods and conflict. Kenya is regularly faced with natural and man-made disasters -phenomenon that is common to a number of countries in the Horn of Africa. Disaster impacts exert immense pressure on the country’s economy, undermining progress towards sustainable development whilst exacerbating existing vulnerabilities including gender inequalities, marginalization and poverty.

With experts warning of increased frequency and intensity of disasters due to climate change, rapid urbanization and population growth, disaster impacts if not adequately addressed will continue to undermine economic progress.

Despite being a force for transformative change and resilience with traditional knowledge, an understanding of existing vulnerabilities, in disaster situations, women are often perceived as victims that require support rather than voices that need to be engaged in humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction Processes.

It is in this regard that the UN Women in Kenya supported development of the humanitarian and disaster risk reduction mainstreaming Manual - Enhancing the Capacities related to Gender and Gender Based Violence in Humanitarian Actions was launched. The Manual is aimed at strengthening the capacity of key humanitarian actors and DRM institutions at national and county levels to integrate gender and GBV within their policies, plans and strategies; strengthen the capacities of women and women led organizations for effective engagement in humanitarian action; improve and strengthen coordination within the UN system and increase the capacities of key stakeholders especially women.

Through its on-going humanitarian and disasters risk reduction work, UN Women in partnership with OCHA and other key stakeholders will be rolling out trainings and capacity building programmes in support of the use of this manual. This will be done together with other tools such as the IASC.
The Lamu archipelago has five habitable islands which attract tourists from all over the world. The diverse range of picturesque beaches of the Lamu seascape, located at the northernmost part of Kenya’s coast line, are a tourists dream.

With a population of just over 100,000, the Lamu community is predominantly Bajun – a mix of Arab and Bantu ancestry. The area is widely recognized as the centre of Swahili civilization.

It is also one of the poorest counties in Kenya, and one of the six counties with the highest rates of maternal deaths.

It is a reputation that Geoffrey Mwaniki, who leads a group of community health volunteers (CHVs) with the Mapenya/Uziwa community unit, is determined to change.

Every weekday, Geoffrey goes from house to house, visiting close to 100 people every month to provide health education on the importance of antenatal and postnatal clinic visits, breastfeeding and other practices such as home-based care for HIV.

It is not a job without challenges. The distances that need to be covered are vast, but transportation is hard to come by. Though the CHVs carry out integrated outreaches, covering as many health issues as they can within a visit, it is difficult to reach as many people as they would wish.

As a result, follow up to ensure compliance is difficult.

“The most discouraging thing is that even with the correct intentions, some mothers have complications at child birth, and emergency care becomes difficult to access. According to official indicators, 40 percent of mothers here do not give birth in health facilities.

With the RMNCH programme that is spearheaded by UNFPA Kenya, things are looking up for Geoffrey and other community health volunteers.

The programme has supported the establishment of two Community Units

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
Hongwe and Langoni. In these units, 26 Community Health Committees (CHC) and 100 Community Health Volunteers (CHV) were trained, while a third unit at Baharini is being trained.

These units are also equipped to conduct integrated outreach services especially for the poorly served areas. Currently the outreaches are active in the whole of Lamu West and Mwangawanda-bori and Shanga, Kiangwe in Lamu East. Issues covered include reproductive health, family planning, HIV/AIDS, immunizations, ANC, preventive care, water, and sanitation.

“Previously the integrated outreaches were not done on monthly basis, as we depended on the limited support from the government’s Health Sector Support Fund, which was not enough to cater for all the scheduled visits,” says Abdiwahab Ahmed who is the Lamu County Coordinator for the RMNCH programme.

He says that now the CHV refer patients as a linkage to the health facilities for uptake of services and follow up with defaulter tracing. He explains that each CHV has a monthly target to cover 20 households under their care and conduct regular community dialogues.

“Since the community members are involved in all aspects of health matters, they are now taking care of the security concerns that might hamper the service delivery privileges rendered to them,” says Geoffrey.

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Celebrating Africa Environment Day and Wangari Maathai Day

Boosting Women’s Access to Natural Resources Critical for Africa’s Development

This year’s Africa Environment Day (AED) and Wangari Maathai Day Celebrations (WMD) were held in Addis Ababa under the theme ‘Strengthening Women’s access to, and control over natural resources’. This theme is in view of the 2016 AU Summit theme of the year which is ‘African year of Human Rights with a particular focus on women’s Rights’.

The role of women in sustainable natural resource access and management was the main focus of the day’s activities. The celebrations were seen as an opportunity for women to learn more on involvement in natural resource management and the available potentials for equitable growth.

In Nairobi the day was marked by planting trees at Lavington Primary School, an event organized by the Green Belt Movement and attended by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director, Mr. Achim Steiner among others. While addressing students at the school, Mr. Steiner emphasized the important role that Wangari Maathai had played in the environmental movement in Kenya. He said Professor Maathai began by herself, planting one tree at a time. She rose to fame and started a movement, not something that she aspired to, but by virtue of her courage, leadership and inspiration. The Green Belt Movement has since planted over 51 million trees in Kenya.

The late Prof. Wangari Maathai was the founder of the Green Belt Movement (GBM), who pioneered tree planting to improve the prospects of the poor. The GBM is an environmental non-governmental organization focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation, and women’s rights. The ‘Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign’, launched by UNEP in 2006, was inspired by Prof. Wangari’s belief that the simple act of planting a tree, provides hopes to ourselves and to future generations in ‘Healing the Earth’. This is by addressing environmental challenges such as deforestation, soil erosion and lack of water. The tree campaign also provided a platform for empowering women to become stewards of the natural environment which resonates with this year’s theme of AED/WMD.
Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- The greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are driving climate change and continue to rise. They are now at their highest levels in history. Global emissions of carbon dioxide have increased by almost 50% since 1990.
- The atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide have increased to levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years. Carbon dioxide concentrations have increased by 40% since pre-industrial times, primarily from fossil fuel emissions and secondarily from net land use change emissions. The ocean has absorbed about 30% of the emitted anthropogenic carbon dioxide, causing ocean acidification.
- Each of the last three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth’s surface than any preceding decade since 1850. In the Northern Hemisphere, 1983-2012 was likely the warmest 30-year period of the last 1,400 years.
- From 1880 to 2012, average global temperature increased by 0.85°C. Without action, the world’s average surface temperature is projected to rise over the 21st century and is likely to surpass 3 degrees Celsius this century – with some areas of the world, including in the tropics and subtropics, expected to warm even more. The poorest and most vulnerable people are being affected the most.
- The rate of sea level rise since the mid-19th century has been larger than the mean rate during the previous two millennia. Over the period 1901 to 2010, global mean sea level rose by 0.19 [0.17 to 0.21] meters.
- From 1901 to 2010, the global average sea level rose by 19 cm as oceans expanded due to warming and melted ice. The Arctic’s sea ice extent has shrunk in every successive decade since 1979, with 1.07 million km² of ice loss every decade.
- It is still possible, using an array of technological measures and changes in behaviour, to limit the increase in global mean temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- There are multiple mitigation pathways to achieve the substantial emissions reductions over the next few decades necessary to limit, with a greater than 66% chance, the warming to 2°C – the goal set by governments. However, delaying additional mitigation to 2030 will substantially increase the technological, economic, social and institutional challenges associated with limiting the warming over the 21st century to below 2 °C relative to pre-industrial levels.

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- Oceans cover three-quarters of the Earth’s surface, contain 97% of the Earth’s water, and represent 99% of the living space on the planet by volume.
- Globally, the market value of marine and coastal resources and industries is estimated at $3 trillion per year or about 5% of global GDP.
• Globally, the levels of capture fisheries are near the ocean’s productive capacity, with catches on the order of 80 million tons.
• Oceans contain nearly 200,000 identified species, but actual numbers may lie in the millions.
• Oceans absorb about 30% of carbon dioxide produced by humans, buffering the impacts of global warming.
• Oceans serve as the world’s largest source of protein, with more than 3 billion people depending on the oceans as their primary source.
• Marine fisheries directly or indirectly employ over 200 million people.
• Subsidies for fishing are contributing to the rapid depletion of many fish species and are preventing efforts to save and restore global fisheries and related jobs, causing ocean fisheries to generate US$ 50 billion less per year.
• As much as 40% of world oceans are heavily affected by human activities, including pollution, depleted fisheries, and loss of coastal habitats.

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