UNDP Intensifies Wildlife Conservation Efforts in Africa

UNDP has reiterated its renewed support to frontline conservation efforts to help African countries protect their wildlife through a new Global Wildlife Programme being initiated with funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The programme, which will see UNDP and the GEF investing $60m into Africa is intended to help create incentives for conservation and ensure better management of wildlife protected areas.

“Wildlife poaching and the illicit trade of wildlife and forest products are abhorrent,” said UNDP Administrator Helen Clark at the Space for Giants forum, a high-level conservation event in Kenya. “This multi-billion dollar worldwide trade is a security issue, an environmental issue,

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and a development issue. It is pushing vulnerable and endangered species toward extinction. The illicit trade is also fuelling corruption and conflict, destroying lives, and deepening poverty and inequality.”

As part of the new wildlife programme, UNDP will fund activities to help tackle poaching through more investments in community conservancies, law enforcement, improving the capacity of judicial systems, and putting in place stronger wildlife laws and policies.

Ms. Clark was in Kenya to promote wildlife conservation on the African continent and participated in the world’s largest destruction of elephant tusks and rhino horns, spearheaded by the Kenyan government. Speaking at the event the Kenyan President, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta stated that by killing elephants, the continent risked losing its natural heritage in addition to destroying the highly beneficial tourism industry which has faced numerous threats in the recent past.

Kenya burned 105 tonnes of ivory and 1.3 tonnes of rhino horns to make a statement that the world must stop the trade in wildlife trophies in order to protect its threatened heritage. “Ivory is worthless unless it is on a living elephant” said President Uhuru Kenyatta.

African countries are currently fighting to protect their natural heritage, including wildlife, which has traditionally made an important social and economic contribution. Kenya has a thriving tourism industry with over one million tourists visiting its game parks and wildlife sanctuaries, contributing close to 12% of Kenya’s GDP and directly employing more than one million people. Out of an elephant population of 500,000 it is estimated that 25,000 to 30,000 elephants are killed every year.

**UNDP Work On Wildlife Crime**

UNDP supports efforts to combat the illegal trade in wildlife, both fauna and flora through programs that support countries to eradicate poverty, protect the environment, empower women, and build strong institutions, all of which support the rule of law. UNDP work focuses on diversifying rural livelihoods, managing human-wildlife conflict, and sharing the benefits of sustainable wildlife management.

One such project is the ‘Empowering Women to Conserve Wildlife in Amboseli project’, which is as a result of a partnership between UNDP and the Office of the First Lady initiated by Ms. Helen Clark in June 2014. It seeks to support local communities to identify and nurture alternative sources of income that will improve the general wellbeing and wealth of communities residing within the Amboseli ecosystem. Under the pilot project, Amboseli National Park is being used as a showcase of excellent conservation partnerships between host communities, government, scientists, NGO’s and international partners.

Combating the illegal wildlife trade is central to making progress on the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The new global platform for development recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is a global challenge that we must all work hard to achieve, and that maintaining the integrity of the natural ecosystems is critical for global development and poverty reduction.

UNDP also works with various global partners like the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the World Bank, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to enhance conservation and protection of wildlife through financial and technical support.

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**President Uhuru Kenyatta on Official Visit to UNESCO**

The discussion covered a wide range of programmes that Kenya is leading in cooperation with UNESCO -- including initiatives on digital literacy and the integration of information and communication technologies (ICT) in education. On this occasion, Irina Bokova and the Kenyan Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Amina Mohamed, who accompanied the President, signed an agreement to reinforce collaboration in this field.

The President and Director-General explored a wide range of activities, including education, literacy and non-formal education, as well as science programmes concerning water resources, UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and Geoparks.
In their talks, the President highlighted the essential role of education in facilitating respect for diversity and inclusiveness. He also spoke of his country’s commitment to sustainable development and advocacy in water issues.

At UNESCO, President Kenyatta also attended a ceremony at which the Director-General designated Mwai Kibaki, the former President of Kenya, as a UNESCO Special Envoy for Water in Africa. The designation comes in recognition of the former President’s efforts to highlight education as an important tool for the success of water-related projects and activities, promote water management in a sustainable manner, support initiatives aiming to make potable drinking water accessible to communities, notably in his capacity as a Patron of the Millenium Water Alliance.

As a Special Envoy for Water in Africa, Mwai Kibaki will lend his support to UNESCO in mobilizing the international community, Heads of State and Government, as well as civil society actors to recognize the importance of sustainable water resources management in Africa.

During his official visit, the President was accompanied by Fred Okeng’o Matiang, Cabinet Secretary for Education, Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Eugene Wamalwa, Cabinet Secretary for Water and Irrigation, Henry K. Rotich, Cabinet Secretary for Finance; Joseph Nkaissery, Cabinet Secretary for Interior Affairs, Charles Keter, Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum, Najib Balala, Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, and Willy Bet, Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture.

Impact Investment Showcase in Kenya highlights social enterprise supporting SDGs

Efforts towards achieving the SDGs through innovative business models received significant recognition when a showcase event on impact investment for social enterprises occurred at Tangaza University College, Nairobi on May 4th.

The event, co-hosted by the E4Impact Foundation, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and the SDG Philanthropy Platform, featured development stakeholders such as UNDP, Rockefeller and Ford Foundations, Acumen, Educate Global Fund, and highlighted social enterprise models that supported social transformation. Her Excellency Mrs. Rachel Ruto, spoke on the social impact of her Joyful Women Organization.

The event was marked by discussions and presentations on building impact investment capacity through approaches such as the Master’s programs across multiple African countries supported by E4Impact, how to blend domestic and international expertise and experience for greater impact, complementary roles of diverse actors and emerging opportunities for collaboration.

UNDP Resident Representative a.i., Mr. Michel Balima emphasized the need for partnerships that transcend all boundaries in order to realize the SDGs. “Successful implementation of Agenda 2030 with the adoption of SDGs will rely on developing an inclusive global partnership based on active involvement and commitment of governments, philanthropic institutions, civil society, private sector, academia and development partners including the UN. The role of philanthropy and the private sector is going to be more critical than ever before to sustainably improve quality of life,” he said.

Similar sentiments were shared...
by speakers who also advocated for collaboration within the development ecosystem. “It is not just our money, but strategic partnerships that allow organizations to create an enabling environment in which development aspirations can be achieved,” said Mr. Mamadou Biteye, Rockefeller Foundation’s Managing Director for Africa.

At the end, a number of social entrepreneurs received awards from the E4Impact Foundation for business models that catalyze social transformation. With the estimated global cost for implementing the SDGs standing at $4 trillion annually, actors such as the SDG Philanthropy Platform at the UN in Kenya have remained active in facilitating greater scale up of sustainable social enterprises through linkages between philanthropy, impact investors, private sector and government stakeholders.

Raising awareness on climate change step by step

In an effort to drum up support leading the 22 April Paris Agreement signing event in New York, UNIC Nairobi went on a clarion for action to raise awareness of the rapidly diminishing glaciers on Mt. Kenya. Africa’s second highest mountain (17,330 Feet) has lost 92% of its ice cap in the last century and Global Warming is seen as the main culprit.

To that end, two UN staffers, Newton Kanhema and Bo Sorensen managed to climb Mt. Kenya where they captured images of the fast retreating icecaps long identified with this famous mountain. They also took the UN and Sustainable Development Goals flags to symbolize international efforts that are underway to halt the impact of climate change on the African continent.

Mount Kenya, one of the few equatorial mountains with an ice cap, is both a major tourist attraction and the origin of many rivers that are a major source of water and hydrological power for this nation of 45 million people. It is an important water catchment area and rivers such as Naro Moru emerge from the melting glacier.

Mt. Kenya glaciers are certainly melting faster than ever. Gregory and Krapf glaciers are almost disappeared and Lewis Glacier, the biggest of them all, retreated by more than 800 meters between 1893 and 2004 and lost almost 16 m water equivalent of its thickness between 1979 and 1996. “At this rate they will be gone in 10 year,” said Levente Szasz, of Dimitrie Cantemir University, in an article written for Environmental Problems and Development.

The Acting UN Resident Coordinator for Kenya, Sid Chatterjee said the world is at the cross roads to choose to do business as usual or take action that mitigates the rapid climate change that points to a disaster for people who today feed and depend on the water from Mt. Kenya.

“The most vulnerable people and poorest – mostly those who have done least to cause climate change – need global support to reduce their exposure to climate impacts,” said Chatterjee.
UN-Habitat last month hosted and honored the first cohort of Emerging Community Champions.

These are young people who have made remarkable achievements and continue to inspire hope, provide leadership at community level and seek to better the world.

Over 60 young people selected from about 350 nominees, and drawn from diverse backgrounds and sectors got trained at the UN Habitat’s One Stop Youth Resource Centre in Kenya, and were presented with certificates of recognitions for their outstanding achievements in community service, particularly improving youth livelihoods, promoting social and economic transformation and community development.

Speaking to the honorees, Farah Eck, Alumni & Volunteer Relations Director, at President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), encouraged young people to “Take Action”. Farah demonstrated how young people’s little actions could impact towards the change that we want to see around us. She highlighted through a formula how young people should treat and maximize arising opportunities.

“Do not be afraid of taking action, you – young people are the hope of Africa” she said her presentation helped the participants to magnify the impact of small deeds, which most young people tend to shy away from.

Delegates had a wonderful moment to share their experience championing different causes in the society. One of the emerging aspects was the power of volunteering and the fulfillment that comes with it.

Pauline Muthoni, one of the delegates, and a fellow of Mandela Washington Fellowship 2014 spoke on how effective applications are done and bluntly explained the effects of engaging in cliché projects. She raised the issue of mentorship stating: Mentorship is critical for the development of young people, but we must do it in the right way to achieve the desired results.”

Brenda Mhaja Lubang’a from West Pokot in Kenya addressed the issue of early pregnancies, which is what prompted her to be a community champion towards ensuring young girls, and boys take up sex education. “Young people’s action is like a bushfire, when it starts, it is unstoppable” she said.

On his part Raphael Obonyo, a former UN Habitat’s Youth Advisory Board member, and the founder of Emerging Community Champions, insisted that all it takes is for young people to identify individuals with common goals and work together towards achieving that particular goal. “Young people have the potential and power to overcome the challenges in their communities and in the world” he said.

The Youth Unit Leader at the UN Habitat Mr. Doug Ragan, who presided over the event described as the pass out parade, urged young people to pay attention to things that influence the impact of the programmes they run. “Youth are the greatest asset, and the hope in our society, and we must build on them” He also emphasized on working together to realize the desired change. “If young people genuinely work together as champions of change, then the future can only be so bright,” he added.
UN Calls for Increased participation of Youth and Women in Devolved system of Governance

The Third Annual Devolution Conference held in Meru county, lived up to its theme of celebrating the promise of devolution, where counties showcased the gains made in bringing services closer to the people.

The various stake holders including National and County Governments, Civil Society, donor agencies and the public assessed the implementation of devolution for the past three years, even as Counties revealed how devolved services such as health, agriculture and infrastructure had improved, while provision of water, roads and distribution of electricity has had a positive impact in all the counties.

There were however fears that the level of corruption was at an all-time high, and was undermining efforts of devolution through enriching few people and leaving majority poor. In a speech read on behalf of President Uhuru Kenyatta by the Cabinet Secretary in Charge of Devolution, Mwangi Kiunjuri, corruption has also been devolved to the counties, with cases of wastage and mismanagement of public funds being witnessed; indicating the Ksh. 1 trillion dollars already disbursed should have ensured better results.

"Of course we have difficulties in fighting corruption but that is not an excuse for you to pick the vice and run with it or fail to fight it with all your might," said the president.

Speaking at the event, the acting UNDP Resident Representative who is also the chair of the Devolution working group, Michel Bulima, said development partners are willing to partner with counties and national governments to address devolution challenges and ensure the hopes and aspirations of Kenyans are realized.

"Devolution is about change and change does not come easy. It requires enormous effort, teamwork, and, at times, a fighting spirit and willingness to tackle the most difficult of issues. The delivery of equitable and efficient services requires proper planning, budgeting, and timely execution,” he said.

During a panel discussion, UNDP Deputy Country Director and Head of Programs Ms. Sheila Ngatia also raised concern over the seemingly lack of action against corruption, that is now making it look lucrative to the youth.

"We need to ensure that corruption is punished and the penalties are so punitive so as to deter the corrupt, otherwise we will be setting a bad example to the youth, and we will not be able to attain the sustainable development Goals”

“Corruption is a foe with deadly kicks. To win this war, we all have to be committed to fight corruption” added the chairperson of Kenya national commission of human rights, who was also on the same panel.

The United Nations has also been supporting various counties and constitutional commissions mandated to spearhead the devolution process, calling on counties to improve on the
UN Women and Africa UNiTE Launch “Violence Thrives in our Silence” Documentary

UN Women and Africa UNiTE Kenya Chapter on Monday 25 April 2016 launched a documentary titled “Violence Thrives in our Silence” at Reuben Center, Mukuru slums in Nairobi. The documentary seeks to impart knowledge on the various forms of violence and calls for victims and those who witness violence to speak out and take action.

Zebib Kavuma UN Women Kenya Country Director in her remarks noted that sexual and gender based violence (GBV) happens all over the world and that one in every three women in the world are victims of sexual gender based violence. “GBV is a societal, behavioral and attitude problem. We must speak out and take action” she emphasized. She noted that national statistics point to a rising trend in the occurrence of GBV in Kenya. The prevalence of physical violence among ever married women aged between 15 -49 years is 38.4 percent in 2014 (KDHS, 2014).

The chief guest at the event, Hon. Sakaja Johnson who is the chairperson of the Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association talked about his commitment to women empowerment. He introduced the two thirds gender bill in parliament. He promised to have a meeting with the men and security personnel to speak about gender based violence in Mukuru and offered to contact and inform the Governor of Nairobi County on the need for a trauma center in Mukuru.

Katherine Muoki Director of Gender, state Department of Gender at the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender noted that the documentary was created to raise awareness on GBV and asked all those present to learn a lesson from it and share it as widely as possible.

After the launch of the documentary, community members had a discussion on the various forms of gender violence that happen in Kwa Reuben among them being underage girls being married off, sodomy and rape.

Reporting of cases of sexual and gender based violence was also mentioned as a steep challenge because when perpetrators are arrested and released on bond, they threaten the victims. The quality of life of its citizens by creating fair opportunities and choices for all. The acting UN Resident Coordinator and Country Director of UNFPA Siddharth Chatterjee urged counties to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals to achieve this.

He also called for inclusion of youth in the development agenda. “The youth can be critical agents of positive social economic change if appropriate investment is made; If not they can become a demographic disaster,” he said.

Participants at the conference agreed that increased public participation should be encouraged to contribute and share development priorities for the counties.
law in its current form was seen as a challenge. Alice Wanini, a Women’s leader and a gender defender, noted that there is urgent need for a trauma center in Mukuru kwa Reuben.

Winfred Maingi, a teacher at Reuben Baptist Primary School, noted that children are exposed to sexual activity at home because families live in single rooms and urged parents to be cautious. She also expressed her disappointment at mothers some of whom are known to her, who are encouraging their daughters to get involved in sex for money.

Rachel Shiramba, a child protection officer, called for concerted efforts to fight sexual and gender-based violence. It is important that victims and those who witness sexual and gender-based violence speak out. Quick action by duty bearers so that perpetrators face the law will go a long way in addressing the vice. Coordinated, harmonized, and strategic partnerships are necessary to respond to gender-based violence.

Africa UNITE, a network of civil society actors in Kenya, has done a tremendous job in enhancing awareness on GBV, especially around prevention and engagement of men to end the Violence. This simple community advocacy and easy-to-use tool was launched as part of the celebrations to mark the “April Orange day” – celebrated every 25th of the Month.

### Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

- Official development assistance (ODA) stood at approximately $135 billion in 2014.
- In 2014, 79% of imports from developing countries entered developed countries duty-free.
- The debt burden on developing countries remains stable at about 3% of export revenue.
- The number of internet users in Africa almost doubled in the past four years.
- As of 2015, 95% of the world’s population is covered by a mobile-cellular signal.
- 30% of the world’s youth are digital natives, active online for at least five years.
- Internet penetration has grown from just over 6% of the world’s population in 2000 to 43% in 2015.
- But more than four billion people do not use the Internet, and 90% of them are from the developing world.

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