UNESCO Nairobi Office Bulletin
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Editorial

On 1st November 2012, a day after I retire, a major change occurs to the Nairobi Office. It will no longer be the Regional Office for Science and Technology in Africa. For over 35 years the office has exercised the responsibility to plan, develop and oversee the implementation of UNESCO’s science programme in sub-Saharan Africa. Starting this biennium (2012-13), that responsibility will now be shared by five Multi-Sectoral Regional Offices, located in Nairobi, Dakar, Yaounde, Abuja and somewhere in Southern Africa (yet to be decided). Because the offices are Multi-Sectoral (meaning they cover Natural Sciences, Education, Culture, Social and Human Sciences as well as Communication and Information sectors), the leadership will no longer be restricted to someone with strong academic background in science as has been the case for close to 40 years.

A new Director, Mr. Mohamed Djelid, takes over in the Nairobi Office on 1st November 2012. I take this opportunity to welcome him to Nairobi and the editorship of the bulletin.

This Bulletin will be the penultimate edition in the current version where Africa-wide science programmes are discussed extensively. The edition covering the period from January 2013 will concentrate on Education, Science, Culture, Social and Human Sciences (SHS) and Communication and Information activities in the thirteen (13) countries in Eastern Africa and the Indian Ocean (i.e. Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, South Sudan, Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles and Mauritius.)

Finally, I say to all our readers “Good-bye”. I hope the paths of our intellectual discourse will cross again.

Once more, thank you for your support.

For additional information on all the activities presented in this bulletin, please contact Alice A. Ochanda at: a.ochanda@unesco.org
Science Policy and Capacity Building

Expert Group Meeting and 1st Africa Ministerial Conference on Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Youth Employment, Human Capital and Inclusive Growth

UNESCO has been advocating for African countries to transform their economies through harnessing science, technology and innovation for sustainable development of the continent. They however need to develop a common agenda to pursue this course. Two flag ship events were organized, namely: i) the 1st African Ministerial Conference on Science, Technology and Innovation for Youth employment, Human Capital Development and Inclusive Growth, and ii) International Experts Group meeting on STI for sustainable development of Africa. The two-day Experts’ Group Meeting and one-day high level Ministerial Conference were organised by UNESCO in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union Commission (AUC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), ADEA and the Government of Kenya, from 1 to 3 April, 2012, in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Expert group meeting on Water, Energy, e-health, ICT, Food security, Youth Employment and Private Public financing was attended by over 500 participants comprising scientists, engineers, academics, policy makers, private sector, NGOs, journalist, development partners and youth groups. Over forty countries from Africa, Europe, North America and Asia attended both the Experts and Ministerial conference. There were experts/participants from International Development organisations, NGOs, universities and private innovation companies from Europe, Malaysia, Japan, and the USA to share their experiences and good practices. Twenty Youth groups mounted Exhibitions to showcase their innovations and forge collaborations and business partnerships. Awards were presented to four (4) Young Innovators in recognition of their inventions.

The three-day deliberations were climaxed with a one day Africa’s first Inter-Ministerial Conference on STI, Youth Employment and Inclusive Growth. The conference brought together over fifty (50) Senior Ministers and/or Advisors of Education, Science and Technology as well as Finance and planning from thirty African countries. The UNESCO Director General, Ms. Irina Bokova joined the distinguished guests, accompanied by two of her Assistant Directors General for Natural Sciences (Professor Gretchen Kalonji), and Africa (Ms Lalla Ben Baka). The President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Mr Donald Kaberuka, the African Union Commissioner, Mr. Jean Pierre Ezin and His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki of the Republic of Kenya were also present at the conference. President Kibaki presided over the official opening ceremony.

The four main outputs of the experts’ group meeting and Ministerial conference are:

i) A catalogue of Young African Innovators with innovations for potential market launch

ii) Trained Journalists in Science journalism and communication;

iii) Recommendations on Africa’s potential opportunities in Energy, Water, ICT, Health, and Business Innovations for sustainable development of the continent to enhance Africa’s global competitiveness;

iv) Ministerial Declaration from Ministers of Education, Science and Technology, Finance and Planning, to guide Africa’s development agenda. In particular African Ministers pledged to strive together to: Enhance the linkage between (STEM) Education and Labour Markets in Africa, by implementing specific actions at the national and regional levels; Strengthen Scientific Research in Africa by promoting and increasing investment in collaborative research; Harness STI for Sustainable development and put in place adequate mechanisms, to facilitate knowledge production and technology transfer.

African Governments, Development Partners and Development Banks, together with the Youth pledged to Strive individually and collectively towards the development, review and implementation of STI policies, law, strategies, programmes and action plans at regional and national levels.
for enhancing STI for youth Employment, Human capital Development and Inclusive Growth.

This 1st Africa Ministerial Conference was a great success and was attended by over 700 participants comprising ministers, delegates and youth groups with over a million people streaming in via Face book, You-tube, Tweeter and visits to the websites developed by all partners and Governments.

African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI)

The African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions continues to partner with regional networks in providing leadership and technical assistance to countries to review/develop science, technology and innovation policies for sustainable development of the continent. The ANSTI Coordinator participated in two such regional meetings:

2nd CAAST-Net Stakeholders Conference on Africa-Europe Science and Technology Cooperation

In recognition of ANSTI’s role in coordinating scientific and technological institutions in Africa, CAAST-Net invited the Coordinator to participate, present a paper and chair one of the four thematic workshops on: Steps to Innovation- Promoting Industry-Academia Relationship and Entrepreneurship. The conference was held from 24 to 25 April, 2012 in Dakar, Senegal. The objectives of the Industry Academia Relationship and Entrepreneurship were:

i) To find out the potential for Industry-Academia Partnerships to foster the transfer of research results into practical applications — understanding the needs, bottlenecks and the potential role of EU-Africa cooperation;

ii) To identify success factors, mechanisms and support structures to strengthen interfaces between Academia, Industry (major enterprises) and SME;

iii) To identify further activities.

The conference and the workshop provided opportunity for stakeholders to dialogue and identify Gaps and needs, provide examples of good practices, potential bi-regional cooperation and policy, and recommendations for the way forward. One of the main outcomes of the conference was a policy paper presented to African governments and the European Union on areas of collaboration and focus in steps to innovation.

Meeting of the Jury for the UNESCO/L’Oreal Fellowships for Women in Science in Africa Awards

A team of experts in Science, technology and engineering met in Nairobi on 21 May 2012, to assess the applications with research proposals presented by female women scientists and engineers in pursuant for the award of the UNESCO/ L’Oreal Fellowships to distinguished women scientists in sub-Saharan Africa. This year, the ANSTI secretariat received 227 online applications from 28 countries in Africa: 18 Francophone and 209 English speaking countries. The 227 proposals were assessed by an Adjudication team which selected 30 for further assessment by the Jury team using a set of criteria which includes but not limited to relevance of proposal and its applicability to Africa, quality of proposal, academic excellence among others.

After a day’s deliberations, the Jury selected ten (10) candidates from six countries; Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania. The proposals from the selected candidates pursuing PhD programmes range from pharmacogenomics, evolutionary genomics, drug resistance, HIV-1 specific CD8+T-cell response during acute HIV-1 infection, climate change impact and remote sensing, database forensics, and composite polymeric materials and nanoalloys for construction of hybrid solar cells. The awards were to be officially presented at an elaborate ceremony organised by L’Oreal Co-operate Foundation in July, 2012 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
Workshop on Earth Observations and Capacity Development for Integrated Water Resources Management Guidelines at River Basin Level

UNESCO and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) co-organized “The Workshop on Earth Observations and Capacity Development for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at River Basins in Africa” from 12 to 16 January 2012 at UN Gigiri Complex in Nairobi, Kenya. Based on the recognition that data availability and capacity development are two essential wheels of IWRM implementation in Africa, the workshop has provided precious occasion of exchange of knowledge, experience as well as training of experts. All major River Basin Organizations (RBO) in Africa were invited and more than seventy experts from RBO, space agencies, governments, donors, UN entities and other stakeholders actively participated in the workshop. This was a session on African Water Cycle Coordination Initiative whose aim was to share the various water resource management needs and capacities among several river basin authorities and initiatives, space agencies, and overseas development agencies (ODAs). The session was also meant to inform the participants on how Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) can serve as a framework for delivering observations, services, data integration and capacity building in support of informed decision-making with a view to responding to the needs.

A two-day Capacity Development session served as the African launch of the UNESCO IWRM Guidelines at River Basin Level Initiative and allowed participants to share their experiences or good example of IWRM and discuss the key to success in implementing IWRM as well as to familiarize themselves with the guidelines, including case studies with the spiral model for IWRM process, and to share experiences in IWRM between Africa and Asia. The Spiral approach and the dynamic process of IWRM implementation was well presented through case studies from the IWRM Guidelines at the River Basin Level and follow up actions for application of Spiral to river basins in Africa were anticipated. Interregional cooperation between Africa and Asia was enhanced through the contribution of the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO). A short excursion/field trip to Naivasha lake basin was also organized to observe stakeholders involvement in catchment area conservation.

Towards the Operationalization of the Africa Drought Monitor for West African Countries

As a follow up to the meeting held in Paris in December 2010 on the drought monitor in Africa, a training workshop on the drought monitor was convened from 30 January 2012 to 3rd February 2012 in Niamey at the AGRHYMET regional centre in Niamey, Niger. The workshop also provided an opportunity for a meeting of G-WADI sub-Saharan Africa. The workshop was officially opened by the Director General of AGRHYMET regional centre. Before the official opening, few remarks were made by the Regional Hydrologist on behalf of the Director of UNESCO Nairobi office. Prof. Eric Wood, representing the team from Princeton University, Mr. Will Logan, Deputy Director of the International Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM), representing the G-WADI secretariat and Prof. Becaye Gaye Coordinator of the Experts Group of G-WADI sub-Saharan Africa also addressed the meeting. More than twenty hydrologists and water officers from Eastern and West Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Senegal, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali) and representing River basin organizations from the region (OMVS, OMVG, NBA and LCBC) participated in the workshop.

Presentations were made on the drought monitor tool and the activities of drought monitoring by the regional centres of AGRHYMET and ICPAC. Following the presentations made by countries and river basin organizations representatives, challenges and opportunities related to drought monitoring in Africa were discussed with data monitoring identified as one of the key challenges. Before the training, the drought monitor tool was installed on one of the AGRHYMET servers. The training...
On 3rd February, the first meeting of the G-WADI sub-Saharan Network Experts’ core group took place and provided an opportunity for the preparation of the work plan of the network for the next two years.

3rd Africa Water Cycle Symposium

UNESCO has been involved in the initiative on Africa water cycle led by the University of Tokyo within the framework of Global Earth Observation (GEO), since the first symposium held in Tunis in January 2009. UNESCO as a member of the task force and partner contributed to the organization of the preparatory meetings and workshops and also hosted the 2nd Symposium in Addis Ababa. In line with the preparation of the 3rd symposium, UNESCO hosted and co-organized a workshop on capacity building on IWRM for river basin organization in Africa. The 3rd symposium took place from 27 to 29 February 2012, at the Meridien Conference Centre in Libreville, and was officially opened by the Gabonese Minister for Energy and Hydraulics. In addition to the speech of the Minister, remarks were also made by the Director of the GEO Secretariat, the Director of the Gabonese Geo-Spatial Agency, the Director of UNESCO Libreville office, the representative of UNECA, the deputy Secretary General of ECCAS and the representative of AMCOW. The importance of geo-information and remote sensing data for water resources management was clearly highlighted within the different speeches and remarks. More than sixty people participated in the workshop, with a total of thirty participants coming from outside Gabon. The African river basin organizations represented were: NBA, OMVS, LCBC, OKACOM, Zambezi Authority.

Various presentations were made including among others: the background on the Africa water cycle initiative, a presentation on GEO, Integrated water resources management in Africa was made by the Regional Hydrologist and others on river basin organizations. Elements for the preparation of an implementation action for the water cycle initiative were discussed in working groups and in plenary. A Libreville declaration on the importance of Geo-information and remote sensing was adopted to be presented during Rio+20 by the Government of Gabon. A roadmap for the preparation of 2013-2014 work plans for the African Water Cycle Coordination Initiative was also adopted. The work plan will be discussed and adopted during the 4th African water cycle symposium.

IHP Africa Contributions to the 6th World Water Forum

On the invitation of the Institute of Research for Development (IRD), the Regional Hydrologist participated in the 6th World Water Forum from 11 to 16 March 2012 in Marseille, France. The World Water Forum is a worldwide event that is organized every three years with the objective of raising awareness at global level and identifying actions to address water challenges facing the world. The 6th World Water Forum has time for solutions to address water challenges facing the world at different levels as its theme. The main objective of the Forum is to enhance exchange of experiences and recent developments on water and sanitation with a focus on solutions and good experiences which can be replicated elsewhere. The Forum was opened at the park Chanot Complex in Marseille by the Prime Minister of France on behalf of the President of the Republic of France, Mr. Nicholas Sarkozy, in the presence of at least ten Heads of State and Governments and Heads of UN agencies which included the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova. The Forum was attended by more than 30,000 delegates from all over the world. More than 300 symposia, seminars and side events were organized covering various topics related to water. UNESCO Nairobi Office was represented at the following events among others:

- Official launch by the UNESCO Director-General of the 4th World Water Development Report which had managing water under uncertainty as its theme;
- Panel on Global changes and water resources of the river Niger as panellist;
- Global changes and water resources management
- Water scarcity in Arid areas;
- Groundwater governance: from national and regional needs to global solutions;
- Launch of the tripartite research programme – Africa-Brazil-France to combat desertification;
- The Pan African Water and Sanitation, M&E and reporting on Sharm El Sheik Commitments;
- Strengthening of international cooperation for the sustainable and peaceful management of trans-boundary aquifers.

The office was also represented by the Regional Hydrologist at the special IHP Bureau which took place on 14th March at the Holiday Inn and focused on IHP VIII. The next 7th World Water Forum will be held in Korea in 2015.
**Contribution to the Regional Seminar on National and Transnational Water Resources Management in Africa**

The overall objective of the seminar is to improve the management and development of water resources at the country and basins/aquifers level in Africa, including capacity building of policy makers, senior government officials responsible for water resources management and key development actors involved in the water sector. The seminar was officially opened by Ghana’s Minister for Environment, Science and Technology. Before her speech, remarks were made by the representative of Africa Development Institute, the Director of UN-NRA and the country Director of African Development Bank in Ghana. In all the speeches the importance of water resources as vital resources for life and environment, and economic development of African countries was highlighted. The need to address the capacity development and management challenges was also emphasized.

The seminar was attended by 25 experts mainly from Anglophone countries and representatives of various river organizations such as ORASECOM, NBA, VBA, Komati, LLC, LVBC, Nile initiative and regional and international organizations. In total 15 presentations were made through various sessions including water resources information sharing, platform for coordination, cooperation and participation, political and legal instruments, financial mechanism for water resources management and innovative technology.

The Regional Hydrologist made two key presentations on the importance of water resources assessment and the water information systems, which constituted the main substance for discussions during the session of water resources information sharing.

**4th Regional Meeting of Africa IHP National Committees and Conference on Water Science, Policy and Management in Africa**

Since 2006, UNESCO has initiated a series of biennial regional meetings for IHP national committees in Africa, jointly with a conference, workshop or seminar. The first, second and third editions were held in Abuja in 2006, Cape Town in 2008 and Cotonou respectively in 2010. The fourth edition was planned to take place in Dar-es-Salaam jointly with a conference on water science, policy and governance in Africa. The organization of the meeting and the conference was led by the Tanzania National Commission for UNECSO and the national IHP Committee. The conference took place at the Kunduchi Beach Hotel and Resort in Dar-es-Salaam. The conference was officially opened by the 2nd Vice-President of Zanzibar on behalf of the President. Before the opening speech, remarks were made by the Vice-Chairperson of IHP representing Africa, the Director of UNESCO Nairobi office on behalf of the Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences (ADG/SC), and the Minister of Education of Tanzania. In his opening speech, His Excellency the 2nd Vice-President thanked UNESCO for choosing the United Republic of Tanzania to host the conference and the 4th IHP Africa meeting. After highlighting some key water challenges in Africa, he emphasized the crucial role of scientific knowledge for a sustainable management of water resources with the necessity of having good quality data.

The conference was attended by more than 100 participants from thirty African countries with almost half of them coming from Tanzania. In total, 28 presentations were made during the conference on themes ranging from IWRM, climate change and disasters, Hydrology and hydrogeology to trans-boundary waters and water quality. The last segment of the conference was a panel of discussions on the opportunities for addressing the water science, policy and governance challenges in Africa with a focus on the role of scientific knowledge.

The IHP national committees’ Africa regional meeting was held on 26 and 27 and was attended by the following countries: Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria, Togo and Senegal from West Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda from East Africa, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland from Southern Africa and Burundi, Chad, DRC, Gabon, RCA and Sao Tome Principe. Before the meeting, the countries provided country reports on the theme of conference, including the situation of the HP national committee. Each country made a brief presentation with a focus on the situation of IHP in the country. IHP activities implemented during the last two years in Africa were presented and discussed. IHP VIII was also presented and countries were requested to submit their inputs to the vice IHP chair for consideration during the IHP Council in June. The meeting extensively discussed strategies for the revitalization of the national IHP committees. The participants agreed to hold the 5th Regional Africa IHP national committees meeting in a country from Central Africa. After consultation, Central Africa Republic agreed to host the 5th Regional Africa IHP national committees meeting jointly with a scientific conference.

The meeting was officially closed by the Deputy Minister for Water Resources of the United Republic of Tanzania.
IHP Africa contributes to the 4th Africa Water Week

On the invitation of the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) and the Government of Egypt, the Regional Hydrologist participated in the 4th Africa Water Week held in Cairo, from 14 to 18 May 2012, as part of a UNESCO delegation led by the Deputy Director General (DDG) and comprising the Acting Director of the Water Science Division. The delegation was joined by the National Science Programme officer at the UNESCO Cairo Office. UNESCO was invited to the celebration of the tenth anniversary of AMCOW in its capacity as partner co-founder. The DDG represented the Director General at the celebrations. The theme for this edition was water for growth in Africa and AMCOW’s 10-year journey with the following four sub-themes: (i) Water and sanitation for development; (ii) Infrastructure for growth and climate resilient; (iii) Private sector investment in water and sanitation and; (iv) Water governance and finance. The 4th Africa water week took place at the InterContinental hotel in Cairo. The week was officially opened by his Excellency the Prime Minister of Egypt. During that ceremony, the Minister for Water Resources of Egypt took the chairmanship of AMCOW for the next two years. The tenth anniversary of AMCOW was celebrated on 15th May 2012 with speeches from various invited guests and dignitaries including the UNESCO Deputy Director-General who delivered a sound speech on UNESCO activities and contributions in addressing water challenges in Africa. About 1000 participants took part in the water week celebrations. The Regional Hydrologist made oral presentations at various sessions during the week.

During the meeting on the Africa Groundwater Commission, the regional hydrologist gave an overview on UNESCO’s activities on groundwater in Africa which the Commission can build on. The meeting of the Commission was chaired by Mr. Salem RASRASH of Libya.

Official Launch of the Project on Groundwater Survey and Capacity Building for Drought Mitigation in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia

As a response to the Horn of Africa 2011 Drought crisis, UNESCO launched the initiative on “Strengthening Capacity to Combat Drought and Famine in the Horn of Africa (Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia): Tapping Groundwater Resources for Emergency Water Supply”, on the 22nd May. The project that was made possible through the generous support of the Government of Japan (US $1.55 million), aims to map-out drought-resilient groundwater resources in an affected area and strengthen regional capacities in managing groundwater for drought-preparedness. The project was officially launched by the Director of Water Resources of Kenya on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, in the presence of the Director of the UNESCO Nairobi office, the representatives of Kenya and Somalia, the representatives of United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Radar Technologies International (RTI), various NGOs and the media. The launch was followed by a press conference and the first meeting of the steering committee for the project.

Key activities of the project in 2012 include the assessment of existing knowledge and capacities in groundwater resources management and the undertaking of a survey of groundwater resources of the Turkana Region of Kenya for emergency Well drilling and development planning. The survey will utilize the WATEX System™ (developed by UNESCO’s partner Radar Technologies International), which enables rapid and precise groundwater assessment for large areas. Furthermore, the project will train authorities from countries in the Horn of Africa on how to operate the new African Drought Monitoring system for East Africa, developed by Princeton University (USA) with the support of UNESCO. The project is a contribution of UNESCO to the regional framework Groundwater Resources Investigation for Drought Mitigation in Africa Programme (GRIDMAP)—a scientific consortium of regional partners that aims to assess groundwater potential and build drought management capacities across the Horn of Africa Region and other parts of Africa. Together with other GRIDMAP surveys, the UNESCO-led initiative will help to achieve a new complete vision of groundwater resources for the region and build sustainable capacities needed to mitigate future drought.

Africa Regional Consultation on Groundwater Governance

The Ministry of water and irrigation of Kenya, AMCOW and UNESCO organized the Africa Regional Consultation on Groundwater Governance in Nairobi from 29 to 31 June 2012. The consultation was held within the framework of the GEF Project on “Groundwater Governance: A Global Framework for Country Action”, on addressing concerns over the depletion and degradation of groundwater. The overall project objective is to increase awareness on the importance of sound management of groundwater resources in preventing and reversing the global water crisis. The project is intended to focus on a set of human behaviours that determine groundwater use and abuse. The aim is to reverse groundwater depletion and unsustainable management by adopting groundwater resources governance that shifts management from institutions to individual water users. As a final result, the project will develop a global “Framework of Action” (FA), consisting of
a set of effective governance tools: guidelines for policies, legislation, regulations and customary practices.

The purpose of the regional consultation was to solicit regional perspectives on the practical application of groundwater governance in Africa. The specific objectives were to:

a) Compile first-hand knowledge provided by direct local sources - groundwater experts, resource managers and actors in different areas – on the main features of the region;

b) Discuss the different subjects that derive from the specific characteristics, challenges and priorities of the region based on case studies elaborated by national experts;

c) Build partnerships amongst cross-sectoral collaborating project agencies, stakeholders, decision-makers and specialists.

The results of the Africa regional consultation and other regional consultation in Latin America, Asia, Arab region and Europe will contribute towards the preparation of a “Global Groundwater Governance Diagnostic”, which will serve as a technical basis for the different stages of the process. The conference was attended by more than seventy experts on groundwater and related issues in Africa. The consultation was officially opened by Kenya’s Assistant Minister for Water and Irrigation, while the opening ceremony was chaired by Kenya’s Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Eng. David Stower. The representatives of UNESCO, World Bank, FAO, AMCOW, IAH and the National Commission for UNESCO made few remarks during the official opening ceremony.

First Africa Regional Training Workshop of the Global Groundwater Monitoring Network IGRAC Initiative

The Nairobi office facilitated the organization by IGRAC of the first Africa regional training workshop on the global groundwater monitoring network initiative for the IGAD region held on 1st and 2nd June 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya. The GGMN aims to use monitored data for a periodic assessment of the global groundwater resources. The global monitoring network uses aggregated information from existing networks in order to represent a regional change of groundwater resources at the scale relevant for the global assessment. The GGMN is designed on two main pillars: a web based application and a people network. The IGRAC has developed a web-based application to assist the aggregation procedure, as well as the collection and dissemination of information on change of groundwater resources worldwide. The GGMN application enables the user to periodically produce online maps showing the groundwater change in time on a regional scale. Representative groundwater point measurements and proxy information (such as precipitation and demography) can be uploaded in the application to assist the aggregation procedure. Establishing of a sustainable people network composed of skilled regional and/or country representatives is the main challenge of this initiative. The Nairobi GGMN training workshop will be followed by other workshops for SADC, ECOWAS and ECCAS regions. Following the discussions after the training workshop, the priorities in the medium term strategy are: (1) development of the implementation plan (on-going, project-based, specifying individual tasks and engagement modalities for the country representatives); (2) Adjusting the GGMN software and extending its functionality (on-going); (3) Producing a promotional video containing an example of GGMN results application (August); (4) Further formalisation of the GGMN at the AMCOW, IGAD and country level (on-going); (5) Using GGMN: filling in data and testing GGMN and (6) Planning next workshop to be held in for the SADC region, in November 2012.

20th IHP Council Meeting

UNESCO Nairobi office was represented at the 20th session of IHP council meeting by the Regional Hydrologist. The meeting took place from 4 to 7 June in Paris, France at UNESCO Headquarters. The council meets every two years to oversee the implementation of the strategic action plan of the IHP programme. The council is composed of 36 members who are nominated by the UNESCO General Conference for a four year term. The outgoing Chairperson, Mr. Soontak Lee, opened the session and welcomed the delegates. He thanked the members of the Bureau, the Council itself, the
The main issues considered during the council were:

- The draft strategic Action Plan for phase 8 of IHP was discussed and endorsed by the council. The title for the new phase will be: Water Security: Addressing Local, Regional and International Challenges;
- The report on the implementation of IHP VII and associated initiatives;
- The report on the evaluation of IHP VI;
- The establishment of four new UNESCO water category II centres;
- The report on the existing UNESCO water category II centres;
- Report on cooperation of IHP programme with other science programmes, UN, IOG and NGOs;
- Involvement in the 6th world water forum held in Marseille;
- Rio+20;
- 2013 as the International Year on Water Cooperation to be led by UNESCO.

In her remarks, the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences Sector, Ms. Gretchen Kalonji, welcomed the delegates and expressed her satisfaction with the work carried out by the IHP, highlighting its role in assisting Member States to enhance resilience to water-related disasters. She acknowledged the concerns of the Member States about the possible effects of the current financial crisis on the Programme and assured her commitment to its success and sustainability.

Mr. Johannes Cullmann (Germany, Group I) was unanimously elected as Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the science of hydrology. The Council elected the following Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. Jovan Despotovic (Serbia, Group II); Mr. Poliopetro F. Martinez Austria (Mexico, Group III), Mr. Juma Chrispine Omondi (Kenya, Group Va) and Mr. Mohamed Elhassan Eltayeb Elhag (Sudan, Group Vb). The Council noted that, in conformity with its Statutes, the IHP Bureau is composed of the elected Chairperson, four newly elected Vice-Chairpersons and the outgoing Chairperson, Mr. Soontak Lee (Republic of Korea, Group IV) as ex-officio member. The new IHP chairman chaired the Council session following the adopted agenda.

The main decisions with implications for Africa are:

- The new Africa elected member for UNESCO-IHE is Nigeria and will be represented by Prof. Gabriel Ebosele Oteze;
- The three elected board members for the new Kaduna water Category II Centre on Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) are representatives from Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Burkina Faso. They are: Dr. Kwabena Kankam-Yeboah from Ghana, Prof. Patrice Jourda from Côte d’Ivoire and Prof. Michel Papaoba Sedogo from Burkina Faso, for half of the term and the representative of Senegal after two years;
- The resolution presented by Kenya on behalf of national IHP committees on International Initiative on water quality;
- The resolution on Global Groundwater Monitoring Network led by IGRAC;
- The resolution on ISARM programme.

**Towards the Operationalization of the Africa Drought Monitor for the Horn of African Countries**

As a response to recurring drought and famine emergencies in Africa, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC), Princeton University (USA) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized a training workshop on operationalization of the Africa Drought Monitor in the Greater Horn of Africa Region at ICPAC in Nairobi, Kenya, from 19 to 23 June 2012. The workshop was organized within the framework of the regional project on “Strengthening Capacity to Combat Drought and Famine in the Horn of Africa (Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia): Tapping Groundwater Resources for Emergency Water Supply” funded by the Japanese Government.

Experts from Princeton University, who developed the ADM tool, together with scientists from the sub-region facilitated this training workshop. The workshop brought together hydrologists from the GHA countries namely Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. It took place after the region had been ravaged by severe drought in 2010/2011 followed by excessive rains received in various equatorial areas during the last quarter of 2011. The theme of the workshop focused on some concerns raised by the declaration of Heads of States of the East African Community (EAC) and IGAD Summit that was convened in Nairobi, Kenya on 9th September 2011 on the Horn of Africa Drought Crisis. The drought Monitor was transferred at ICPAC and was used for practical training of the participants. For it to be operational, the different products of the tool will be tested and validated by the different countries of the region. ICPAC is in charge of coordinating that validation exercise of the drought monitor by the countries as a follow up to the training.
6th Conference of the African Women Geoscientists

The African Women Geoscientists held their 6th Conference in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 23 to 27 April, 2012. The theme of the conference was “Women and Geosciences for African Integration”. The UNESCO Nairobi Office supported the meeting by providing sponsorship to 9 female participants from Central African Republic, Djibouti, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Togo. The meeting was attended by about 150 participants. The opening ceremony was chaired by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Higher Education representing the minister. The Science Programme Specialist, at the Younde Office represented the Office Director and a speech on behalf of UNESCO. Several initiatives covering various themes were presented, including the Earth Sciences Education Initiative in Africa which was presented as a keynote. The three-day oral presentation was followed by a field trip in the Centre, Western, South West and Littoral regions of Cameroon with focus on the Precambrian basement, the volcanism of the Cameroon Line and the Cainozoic basin of Cameroon.

Field visit by participants. Photo courtesy of AAWG

Group Photo of participating Geo scientists. Photo courtesy of AAWG
IOC Launches Sub-Commission for Africa

The Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States, which was recently established by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO held its first session at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya from 2 to 3 May 2012. The session was officially opened by Kenya’s Minister for Fisheries Development, Hon. Amason Jeffah Kingi and attended by the Director of UNESCO Nairobi Office, Prof. Joseph Massaquoi, IOC Vice-Chair for Group V, Prof. Adoté Blim Biivi and the IOC Deputy Executive Secretary, Dr. Mitrassen Bhikajee.

The IOC Regional Committees for the Central and Eastern Atlantic (IOCEA) and the Western Indian Ocean (IOCWIO) were dissolved and their functions taken over by the Sub Commission. In their final reports, the Chairs of IOCEA and IOCWIO presented an overview on the implementation status of their respective work plans. These included participation by experts from the region in training courses on a wide range of topics organized by IOC, support for strengthening of national oceanographic data and information centres, development of coastal and marine atlases, strengthening of coastal observations, and development of various marine databases and directories. The ODINAFRICA Project Steering Committee were held in Saly, Senegal, from 30 November to 3 December 2011. An Aide Memoire had been signed with the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem (ASCLME) project to provide a framework for collaboration. The highlight during the intercessional period was the establishment of the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States. Challenges faced in programmes implementation included: limited resources and capacities, lack of dedicated secretariat for the regional committees to spearhead the development and implementation of programmes, and inadequate utilization of available personnel and equipment.

The Sub-Commission welcomed the offer of collaboration that were made by various organizations and projects during their presentations at the session, and requested the secretariat to follow up on these. The Sub-Commission requested the Executive Secretary to liaise with the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities in order to develop strong linkages to their ocean-related programmes. This will ensure that the Sub-Commission becomes the voice of Africa on oceans and coastal matters.

The Sub-Commission identified the key issues that should be taken into account while developing the Strategic Plan for the Sub-Commission for the period 2014–2021. The elements of the Strategic Plan will include: Strengthening of the Sub-Commission through development of ocean research programmes, capacity development and resource mobilization. The Sub-Commission established an intersessional working group, comprising of its Chair and three Vice-Chairs, the IOC Vice-Chair for Group V, and experts to be co-opted as necessary, to finalize a draft of the Strategic Plan for consideration by the Sub-Commission before it is presented to the IOC Assembly at its 27th Session in 2013. The working group should undertake wide consultation, taking into account the current challenges, and the regional and international framework within which the Sub-Commission has been created. The results of the questionnaire survey undertaken by the secretariat and the discussions during the session will be used as valuable inputs to develop the Strategic Plan.

The Sub-Commission adopted a provisional work plan for the period 2012–2013, that will focus on: (i) development of the Strategic Plan; (ii) survey of available capacities (human resource skills, infrastructure, equipment, availability of decision-support tools) and identification of gaps that need to be addressed; (iii) utilization of existing UNESCO/IOC Chairs in the region for capacity development, and addressing the gaps identified in the capacity survey and recommend specialized courses, within the region, as well as internationally; and (iv) development of project proposal on regional priority issues for submission to funding agencies for consideration.

The Sub-Commission created three electoral groups for the purpose of election of Vice-Chairs for the Sub-Commission. The following were subsequently elected as the Bureau for the Sub-Commission for the next inter-sessional period and the Second Session of IOCAFRICA:

- **Chair**: Dr. Monde Mayekiso (South Africa);
- **Vice-Chair Region A**: Dr. Jean Folack (Cameroon);
- **Vice-Chair Region B**: Mr. Mohamudally Beebeejaun (Mauritius);
- **Vice-Chair Region C**: Prof. Mohamed Ahmed Said (Egypt).

The Sub-Commission decided to hold its next session in May 2013, and welcomed the offer of South Africa to explore the possibility of hosting the next session. The Sub-Commission thanked the Government of the Republic of Korea for the financial support provided for the organization of the first session.
Anticipating implementation of the Director-General’s field reform in Africa, the Nairobi Office was designated as programme coordinator of the education sector’s Eastern Africa’s regional programme and responsible for planning and implementing the programme in the region that comprises 13 countries, in close consultation and collaboration with Addis Ababa and Dar-es-Salaam Offices as well as 4 Antenna Offices (Djibouti, Kigali, Madagascar and South Sudan).

The Eastern African region is one of regions with very diverse needs and state of development. In order to remain relevant and credible, we must ensure sustained engagement at the country level, while maximizing resources and expanding partnerships to achieve results as a region.

Therefore, we are guided by following broad principles such as:

- Full alignment to national priorities as in national strategic and development plans;
- Capitalization on achievements made during 35C/ at the country level;
- Honouring of commitments to One Plan/UNDAF;
- Substantive contribution to the achievement of expected results for Priority Africa and Gender Equality;
- Identification of common priorities across countries for regional cooperation and collaboration;
- Provision of high level technical support and advice through upstream interventions;
- Focus on ‘non priority’ countries, while promoting cross-fertilization with priority countries where possible.
- Integration with Extra budgetary-funded initiatives to yield maximum impact.

As such, the Eastern African region decided to focus on three out of four UNESCO Global Priorities: Quality and Inclusion, Literacy and Teachers.

In this connection, the first six months of the new biennium saw the Education Programme at the Nairobi Office engage lead programme development of UNESCO’s regular programme in Eastern African region and operationalize Nairobi Office specific programme first through development of UNESCO National Education Sector Support Strategy (UNESS).

Below is a summary of activities undertaken and progress made during the first six months of 2012:

**Education Sector Planning through UNESS**

The Education Programme is currently in the process of updating several of its UNESCO Education Sector Support Strategies (UNESS) for countries in the Eastern Africa region such as Eritrea, Uganda, and Kenya. UNESS documents for Somalia and South Sudan are also in development, as UNESCO continues to work in Post-Conflict Post-Disaster (PCPD) contexts. The former marks UNESCO Education Programme’s return to Somalia to build on the vital emergency work of UNESCO-PEER, whilst the latter will outline UNESCO’s priorities for the world’s newest country.

UNESS is a results-based country programming and cooperation document which outlines the organization’s ‘Education Sector’s Medium-Term Strategy’ and biennial programmes, as well as defining UNESCO’s education programme priorities and implementation strategies at the country level. The process of development includes surveying the developmental situation and goals, as well as the educational context in a country, before honing in on UNESCO’s priorities based on UNESCO’s strengths, the ascertained gaps and national education priorities. By highlighting key priorities in the education sectors of different countries, they allow UNESCO to remain focused and to tailor its assistance to specific circumstances.

**Sector-wide planning and management**

**EFA End-Decade Assessment (EDA)**

The National End-Decade Assessment (EDA) is primarily aimed at reviewing the current status of progress made by the countries towards reaching the EFA goals. By conducting such an assessment, the initiative would build capacity in the Ministry of Education’s (MoE) national and provincial staff involved in the monitoring and planning process.

The final phase of the production of the EFA Kenya assessment report was undertaken during the period. A high level launch of the report was planned to be undertaken in July 2012.

**Assessment of Education Expenditures in Kenya**

As is the case in many countries around the world, Kenya attaches paramount importance to education and training sector as the vehicle for sustainable development. The process of EFA End Decade Assessment revealed sustained investment in the sector with an average of 20 to 27 percent of the state allocation to education and with GDP share of 7 percent. While the government will certainly continue
to maintain such level of investment, the constitutional provision of education — the right to free, compulsory education, coupled with an exponential expansion of the sector, in particular basic education, requires more resources in all levels of education. Because education is a shared responsibility and is of significance to all citizens and partners that support Kenya, it is widely known that different actors contribute to education. However, what is not known is the extent of such contribution: who contributes, how much, for what and in what levels of education. This comprehensive framework is critical to informing overall planning processes and to determining needs-based, realistic, cost-effective capitation grant system. To this end, Government of Kenya led by Ministry of Education launched a first ever sector-wide assessment of education expenditures in Kenya. This assessment is expected to produce a comprehensive statistical framework as well as establish national education accounts.

Literacy and Non-formal Education

Capacity Development Programme for Education for All (Cap EFA), Rwanda

Rwanda is one of the priority countries of UNESCO’s Education sector. The country was selected for the Capacity Development Programme for Education for All (CapEFA) in order to accelerate EFA progress in particular Goals 3 and 4 through targeted capacity development of Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and other key partners and stakeholders involved in improving the literacy situation in Rwanda.

As part of the on-going work, the Non Formal Education (NFE) centre-based survey tools were finalized and the data was collected during this period. The survey data is now being processed.

Literacy Assessment in Kenya

Based on the success of the 2006 Kenya National Adult Literacy Survey, the Directorate of Adult and Continuing education (DACE) of MoE approached UNESCO to initiate the next round of literacy assessment. A concept note was developed by UNESCO which has been presented to the DACE.

Quality

Learning Assessment in Rwandan Schools (LARS)

The importance of improving quality of education has been identified in the Rwanda Education Sector Strategic Plan 2010-2015 of Ministry of Education. The technical report of the first round of LARS was finalized and preliminary results were discussed with MINEDUC and partners. The final validation of the technical report will be undertaken very soon. Preparatory work has commenced for the second round of LARS.

Gender sensitive teacher training to enhance girls’ and women’s opportunities in mathematics, science and technology in Kenya

Statistics in Kenya and elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa show that girls have always lagged behind boys in mathematics, science and technology (SMT). In last year’s Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations, female students attained a mean score of 24.8 per cent in Mathematics compared to 27.8 per cent for their male counterparts. Similar performance disparity was also reflected in the 2010 results when girls attained a mean score of 19.71 per cent while boys scored a mean score of 25.75 per cent in the subject. Gender disparity in SMT performance is also pronounced in university education, where few women opt for degree programmes that require SMT.

Kenya is therefore privileged to be one of the two countries in sub-Saharan Africa that will benefit from a UNESCO project aimed at improving the teaching of SMT with a particular focus on gender. Through the provision of gender sensitive training for teachers and school principals, the project will enhance the teaching of SMT using creative pedagogies. The project aims to reinforce the role of school leadership in promoting the participation of girls and women in these subjects.

The country was selected on the basis of steps it has taken to accelerate achievement of gender parity in education particularly efforts made to address girls’ weak participation and performance in SMT. The project is the result of partnership between UNESCO and GEMS EDUCATION, a private Foundation supporting education around the world.

A UNESCO project formulation mission from UNESCO headquarters in Paris visited Nairobi in April 2012 to hold consultation meetings with the Ministry of Education on the modalities of implementing the project. The mission also met with the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, JICA and other development partners and NGOs involved in science and mathematics education and gender. UNESCO and the Ministry of Education are currently in the process of identifying a consultancy firm that will undertake a situational analysis to identify training needs of SMT teachers in readiness for the commencement of project activities.

Towards a framework for monitoring and measuring peace in Kenya

Findings on peace education from the EFA EDA assessment report (2012) indicated that while the education sector
in Kenya has been integrating aspects of peace in policy, institutional arrangements and curriculum development, the true impact of the initiatives being undertaken have not been well documented, except for anecdotal evidence and assumptions. Most targeted interventions in peace education are based on data that deals with educational inputs only. This is due to the challenge of measuring peace whose true impact can only be realized through attitudinal and behavioral change outcomes.

In preparation for the follow-up actions after the launch of the report, UNESCO and the Ministry of Education (MoE) began the process of developing a concept note on a framework for measuring and monitoring peace education. The process will culminate into the development of a methodology and a diagnostic assessment report with a clear framework and tools for measuring and monitoring peace.

**HIV and AIDS and Education**

**Revision of Education Sector Policy on HIV and AIDS**

The journey towards revising the 2004 Education Sector Policy on HIV and AIDS commenced about three years ago with a rapid assessment of the implementation of the policy in sampled districts. This was followed by an assessment of the impact of HIV and AIDS on the education sector and a situational analysis of implementation of the policy since it was adopted.

These undertakings were supported by UNESCO and USAID/CHF with the aim to strengthen the Ministry of Education’s response to HIV and AIDS in the sector through policy framework. The results of the study revealed that implementation of the policy has been inadequate, remained unknown by a majority of stakeholders in the sector and had gaping gaps on the needs of positive learners, provision of comprehensive sexuality education and access to testing for HIV by young people.

The Directorate of Policy, Partnerships and East African Affairs in the Ministry of Education steered the policy revision process through a technical working committee formed by the MoE at the beginning of the year. A drafting workshop was convened in June 2012 which brought together key stakeholders.

The revised policy has incorporated emerging issues among them the needs of HIV positive learners, sexuality education, mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS in adult learning and access to HIV testing and counseling for young people. One of the concerns that the policy needs to address is the amendment of the AIDS Act 2006 which stipulates that children below the age of 18 cannot be tested without the consent of parents/guardians. MoE and UNESCO aim at having the policy validated and printed before the end of 2012. An implementation plan for the policy will also be developed.

**Bethzatha Resource Centre Update**

Bethzatha Resource Centre has come a long way since the home begun receiving financial support from HENKEL Kenya through UNESCO, four years ago. Not only has the home risen from its humble beginnings of being a children’s home, but it has also turned into a Community Resource Centre, reaching out to other residents of Kabondo Division and providing hope through quality service to the community. In attempting to meet the various needs of the children at the Centre and the community from where these children come from, Bethzatha has not only ensured that basic needs of food, shelter, accommodation and health care are provided but that community livelihoods are promoted and sustained.

It is in light of these that the Centre initiated various income generating activities at the beginning of the year that not only ensure sustainability of the daily needs at the Centre but also provide a source of livelihood to the community. Based on a training organized by UNESCO in partnership with the community based organization CREP last year on establishing nutritional gardens, the Centre started the gardens with the aim to provide nutritious food for the children and the surrounding community. These will also double as demonstration gardens for the community members to be able to establish similar gardens in their homes.

Other income generating activities initiated include sale of water from a borehole dug within the Centre, provision of tailoring services and establishment of a cyber café that will provide internet and secretarial services and IT training to youth in the community.
Culture

Strengthening Capacities of Universities in Africa on Intangible Cultural Heritage

Within the framework of UNESCO’s Strategy for Strengthening national capacities for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, and supported through the Intangible Heritage Fund, UNESCO in partnership with the Center for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA), organised a five day workshop on “Strengthening capacities of African Universities in intangible cultural heritage”. The workshop took place from 18 to 22 June, 2012 at CHDA in Mombasa, Kenya.

Participants to the workshop were members of the academia from Universities in Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Lesotho, Botswana, South Africa, Mauritius, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Kenya. The profiles reflected a diversity of disciplines including History, Conservation, Archeology, Museum, and anthropology.

In line with Operational Directive 107 of the 2003 Convention on Intangible Heritage, the main objective of the workshop was to raise awareness about the role of university faculty in the national implementation of the 2003 Convention, in particular:

• To familiarize the academia with the concepts and mechanisms of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage;
• To inform and discuss the key role of universities in the implementation of the Convention at national level;
• To explore mechanisms for integrating intangible cultural heritage in heritage studies;
• To identify research areas in the area of intangible heritage;
• To facilitate networking of academia in the area of intangible heritage.

The workshop used training materials that have been developed by UNESCO within the context of the strategy for strengthening national capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. The following areas were covered during the workshop:

i) Overview of the 2003 Convention on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage and key concepts as well as main articles;
ii) Definition of intangible cultural heritage according to the 2003 Convention;
iii) Safeguarding measures;
iv) Inventorying, Research and Documentation of ICH: cooperation between Universities, government and communities;
v) Stakeholders’ roles and responsibilities;
vi) Ethics and responsibilities in inventorying and research;
vii) Role of Universities in line with Operational Directive 107;
viii) Role of communities in line with Article 15 of the Convention and their involvement in research and inventorying; the case study of the Kayas of Mijikenda was used;
ix) Importance of Networking and existing networks in the area of intangible heritage.

At the end of the 5 day workshop, participants had a better understanding of 2003 Convention and their role in its implementation. The university faculty defined the following areas for their follow-up:

i) Existing courses and teaching approaches within their institutions in which intangible cultural heritage could be integrated;
ii) Career possibilities that could incorporate safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage;
iii) Research areas on intangible cultural heritage;
iv) Methodologies of research and inventorying processes;
v) Possible projects proposals on Intangible cultural heritage to be submitted to the Intangible Heritage Fund.

The participants had an opportunity to visit the Kayas of Mijikenda, whose traditions and practices are listed on the Urgent Safeguarding List. In particular, they visited Kaya Rabai where they met with representatives of the Council of Elders and Kaya Conservation and Development groups and discussed various traditions and practices associated with the Kayas as well as examples of activities that facilitate safeguarding and promotion of the Kayas in the sacred Forests of Mijikenda.

Mapping Kenya’s Cultural Industries

The African Cultural Regeneration Institute (ACRI) has just published the results of a mapping of Kenya’s cultural industries, with the support of UNESCO’s International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD).

Over the last year, ACRI has carried out a wide range of activities to make this mapping possible, from setting up a Secretariat and work program to holding stakeholder workshops, developing data collection tools and carrying out field work. Data was collected from 47 counties across Kenya, with a particular focus on measuring the economic dimension of the cultural industries in the country.

This is the first systematic study to collect cultural statistics carried out in the country. The aim was twofold: to provide data that would encourage planning and investment in
the cultural industries from both the Government and the private sector; and to raise awareness on the positive impact of creativity and cultural expressions on socio-economic development, employment and poverty reduction.

This mapping exercise is but one of the many projects supported by UNESCO’s International Fund for Cultural Diversity that promotes transparency and information sharing through cultural mapping and the collection of information and data necessary to inform policy development. By fostering the emergence of a dynamic cultural sector, the IFCD aims to build organizational structures and professional capacities of those working in the cultural industries and to contribute to the development of new policies and strategies to support the cultural and creative industries. More information can be availed from the following sites:

- ACRI website http://www.acriwebsite.org/projects/international-fund-for-cultural-diversity/

Safeguarding the Traditions and Practices Associated to the Kayas in the Sacred Forests of the Mijikenda

Kenya ratified the 2003 Convention for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in October 2007. As a State party, Kenya participates and benefits from the mechanisms for international cooperation and assistance established under the Convention including listing of Kenya’s unique intangible heritage on the Intangible Heritage List or Urgent Safeguarding. Within this context the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage inscribed the “Traditions and practices associated to the Kayas in the Sacred Forests of Mijikenda,” on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in need of Urgent Safeguarding in October 2009. In addition, the Intangible Heritage Fund approved a project to safeguard these traditions and practices in August 2011.

The objectives of the project are:

i) To empower the Mijikenda communities with skills and strategies for promoting viability and transmission;  
ii) To disseminate information related to Mijikenda traditions and practices;  
iii) To educate the youth and other community members about the importance of Mijikenda traditions and practices;  
iv) To promote the management and environmental conservation of the Sacred Kaya Forests;  
v) To establish favorable management framework in support of the safeguarding measures;  
vi) To promote networking and cooperation among the practicing communities.

The project is divided into 3 phases within which a series of activities will be implemented. During the first phase, the following activities have been implemented:

i) Publication of a brochure on the Traditions and Practices of the Mijikenda;  
ii) Training in project design and management has been organised for the communities;  
iii) Establishing income generating activities such as establishment of nurseries for tree planting in the Forests, and bee keeping;  
iv) Facilitating school visits to the various Kayas in order to raise awareness about the Kayas among the youth and school children;  
v) Undertaking research and documentation on the Kaya traditions and practices;  
vi) Organising community cultural festivals and cultural exchanges between the different Kayas.
UNESCO-IUCN Joint Monitoring Mission of Lake Turkana National Park World Heritage Sites

The World Heritage Committee at its 35th session expressed concern about the proposed construction of the GIBE III Dam on the Omo River in Ethiopia and its likely impacts on Lake Turkana National Park World Heritage Site in Kenya, especially on the Lake’s fragile hydrological regime, and its aquatic species and associated biological systems. The Committee noted that the construction of the Dam may pose imminent danger to the property’s Outstanding Universal Value.

In response to this concern and at the invitation of the State Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia, a joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission was undertaken to Kenya from 13 to 22nd March 2012. The team was composed of Mr. Broucke Debonnet from WHC and Mr. Goran Gucic from IUCN and joined by the Programme Specialist for Culture at the Nairobi Office. The Team was hosted by the Kenya Wildlife Society (KWS) and the National Museums of Kenya (NMK).

The objective of the mission was to evaluate the impacts of the GIBE III Dam on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property as well as assess the overall state of its conservation and in particular looked at the following conservation issues:

i) Impact of the GIBE II dam and related issues;
ii) Oil exploration;
iii) Development projects planned for the area;
iv) Wildlife populations and pressure from poaching and livestock grazing;
v) Management of fossil sites;
vi) Management plan of the Site; and
vii) Current definition of the World Heritage Site.

The issues above were tabled and discussed at various meetings organised with government officials and various stakeholders in Nairobi. A field visit was also undertaken to Sibiloi and South Island National Park where stakeholder meetings were organised.

At the end of the mission, the team had an opportunity to debrief the Prime Minister of Kenya, Hon. Raila Odinga about the concerns of the World Heritage Committee on Lake Turkana National Park World Heritage Site. They also shared their initial findings with the Prime Minister.

The Mission concluded that GIBE III Dam and related developments will potentially have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of Lake Turkana National Park World Heritage Site and proposed to the State party of Kenya to consider requesting for its listing on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Creating a Training Programme for Musicians and Visual Artists

Two UNESCO experts are working with the Kenyan Ministry of State for National Heritage and Culture to develop a training programme for musicians and visual artists. This expert mission is part of a UNESCO technical assistance project funded by the European Union that is supporting 13 developing countries to strengthen their cultural industries and policies.

Mr Lloyd Standbury (Jamaica) and Mr Mike Van Graan (South Africa) are helping devise a training programme and materials so that capacity-building activities for local trainers can be carried out in every region of Kenya. These trainers will then carry out training activities for local musicians and artists, with a particular emphasis on the use of information and communication technologies.

These activities aim to help musicians and visual artists in acquiring the necessary skills to develop marketing strategies for their cultural goods and services. These should in turn help make Kenyan cultural industries more sustainable and competitive, increasing their position on national, regional and international markets.

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This expert mission is a tangible example of the implementation of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions at national and local levels. It demonstrates the importance given by both the European Union and UNESCO to implement concrete activities that promote culture as a key factor of sustainable development. Find out more about the technical assistance mission at: www.unesco.org/culture/en/culturegov.

Somalia’s energy sector has suffered from over two decades of neglect and lack of planned investments. The resultant huge deficit in universal access to affordable modern sources of energy inhibits the achievement of social indicators and limits sustainable economic growth. Four partnership fora on Energy, Roads, Water and Resilience were organised by the United Nations. The objectives of the Partnership Forum on Energy lead by UNESCO and UNDP deliberated and agreed on Programmatic Priorities and a tripartite Partnerships Framework to comprehensively address the energy needs in Somalia.

The tripartite partnership was among Governments in Somalia; Non-Government partners (Private Sector, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Academia); and, Development Partners (UN, World Bank, AfDB, EU and Bi-laterals) with a view to overcoming the barriers to access to energy and diversifying the energy mix. UNESCO and UNDP led the UN team on the Energy forum in Istanbul.

After a series of deliberations, participants of the tripartite partnership agreed to the following outcomes and deliverables:

- A set of recommendations to improve access to energy with the objectives of maintaining peace, bringing social equity, creating employment, ensuring affordability, triggering economic growth and building resilience;
- Look at the options to diversify the energy mix with the gradual reduction on reliance on the charcoal and firewood. This will include setting the targets for the introduction of alternative and renewable sources of energy;
- Develop gender balanced human resources capacities relevant to energy sector with structured vocational training programmes and university studies to build a workforce that can be absorbed in the sector to ensure sustainability and sustained growth;
- A framework of partnerships for the energy sector among: a) Governments in Somalia; b) non-government partners (private sector, CSOs, academia); and, c) development partners (UN, WB, AfDB, EU and bi-laterals) for undertaking priority interventions with clearly defined roles.

Recommendations from the four partnership forums including the Energy forum were presented at the Tripartite Plenary meeting on preparing Somalia’s Future Goals for 2015 Chaired by the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon.


Geo-engineering with respect to solar radiation attempts to take measures that would counter the effects of global warming. While the principles and the intentions are generally well understood, the technologies and the governance mechanisms to regulate the scope of the research and the nature of the interventions are topics that need to be better understood. UNESCO in partnership with AAS, the Association of Developing World and the Senegalese National Academy of Science and technology organised a workshop on ‘Governance of Solar Radiation Management: The African Perspective from 27 to 30 June, 2012 in Dakar Senegal. The workshop brought together academics, policy makers and researchers to discuss policy issues in SRM research and governance in Africa. Key recommendations made were to:

1. Increase public participation in SRM research governance in Africa and transparency of the discussions globally;
2. Develop new Africa-centric perspectives’ and input in scoping and framing of SRM research governance questions;
3. Create new opportunities for African scientists, and other academics, to network and cooperate on geo-engineering research and governance.
UNESCO Science Sector Policy and Capacity Building participation in Private Sector Skills development Conference in Kigali, Rwanda

UNESCO Nairobi office was invited by the Government of Rwanda through the Rwanda Development Board, to provide technical advice on ‘Innovative use of Science and technology to fast-track economic development in Africa’. Higher education has emerged as a major economic issue in many countries because of its importance in preparing young people for the job market. Yet it is often not seen as relevant to the needs of the economy. This is partly due to a mismatch between what is taught and the skills required in growing the private sector. In the past the focus was on increasing access to higher education for the people of Rwanda, which is no longer enough. The jobs issue (especially access to ‘good jobs’) has become a concern in the region. The conference provided the opportunity for stakeholders comprising 85 university leaders, policy makers, development partners, researchers and the private sector from East Africa to deliberate on how to exploit Africa’s science technology and innovation to make it more relevant to Africa’s economic growth; as well as providing the youth with the necessary soft and hard skills and tools to meet the dynamic needs of the private sector.

Recommendations from the conference were explicit requesting Rwanda, East African countries and Development partners to i) conduct a needs assessment to determine the number of scientists and technologists, the relevance of skills, the gaps and the needed requirements for economic growth; ii) facilitate training and retraining of science and engineering lecturers to respond to emerging trends; iii) review Curricula to make them more relevant especially in addressing basic needs and to enhance Africa’s competitive advantage by involving all relevant stakeholders, especially the private sector; iv) develop teaching pedagogy/methodologies to enhance teaching of SET and; v) involve all stakeholders in private sector, IHL, Government/Policy makers, development partners, Communities and Financial institutions to enhance private public partnership (PPP).

Experts’ Consultative Workshop hosted by the African Technology Policy Studies (ATPS)

UNESCO Nairobi office participated in an Experts’ Consultation Workshop organised by the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) from 29 to 30 May, in Naivasha, Kenya, as part of its Phase VII Strategic planning process in response to the recommendations of the first Africa Forum on STI. The conference called for African countries to, among other things, design policies and programs to implement strategies to support inclusive growth, employment opportunities, and sustainable development in Africa. The Experts’ Consultative meeting was attended by academics, scientists, policy makers, private sector and development partners from Africa, Europe, North and south America, Australia, and Asia.

Recommendations from the workshop include:
- African Member States and Development Partners including UNESCO to support and partner with the ATPS in the implementation of its strategic priorities. ATPS provides a formidable independent network within the African continent that has been driving this agenda successfully and efficiently. Proactive support to strengthen this function will go a long way in addressing the STI capacity gaps on the continent;
- Urge ATPS to develop greater cooperation with United Nations agencies that have hitherto worked with ATPS on ad hoc consultancy basis and to explore avenues for formalizing relations with these agencies in implementing their Science, Technology and Innovation capacity strengthening programs for sustainable development in Africa;
- Encourage the multiple STI stakeholders in Africa and beyond to support and engage with the ATPS in their Science, Technology and Innovation policy research, policy making, and policy implementation processes on the continent to leverage the vast expertise and experiences within the Network.
With the current Rwanda UNDAF coming to an end in 2012, in view of the next programming cycle commencing in 2013 and in line with the Government of Rwanda’s EDPRS programming cycle, the UNCT has embarked on the development of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP) for the period 2013-2017. The UN System has undertaken a number of actions, including a situation analysis drawn from Government of Rwanda’s (GoR) EDPRS review process, a UN Comparative Advantage Study as well as a Stakeholder Analysis, and embarked on the UNDAF end-evaluation.

Building on these actions, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) has also undergone an internal reflection with a view to enhancing the UN System in Rwanda to be aligned, focused and significant in its contribution to Rwanda’s development and poverty reduction agenda. Building on these preparatory actions, the Strategic Planning Retreat (SPR) was convened and provided a platform for the UNCT and its partners to collectively deliberate and agree on the priority areas of the UNDAP.

The SPR agreed to align the UNDAP development focus areas to the Government’s emerging priority thematic areas anticipated for the EDPRS II and further identified UNDAP outcome areas.

The consultative and technical work, bringing together broader stakeholder groups and relevant technical colleagues was planned in order to further refine and sharpen the UNDAP outcomes/outcome statements agreed upon during the SPR, and to further develop outputs, indicators as well as risks/assumption.

The workshop took place on 11 and 12 June 2012 at the conference room of the World Food Programme (WFP) premises in Kigali. The workshop was attended by more than 50 persons from the UN resident and non-resident agencies, government and partner representatives. UNESCO was represented by the Regional Hydrologist as the UNDAF Rwanda focal point and the UNESCO Antennae in Rwanda. After a very interesting theoretical reminder on results based management, activities were conducted within working group sessions. Based on the EDPRS2, the SPR identified three UNDAP focused areas, namely: Inclusive Economic transformation, Accountable Governance and Human Capital Development. The SPR has also identified thirteen UNDAP outcome areas from which the groups were able to refine and propose eight UNDAP outcome areas. The second session of the working groups consisted of formulating the outcome statements and identification of the appropriate outputs and their indicators.