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Editorial

This issue of the bulletin covers activities in the third quarter of the 2010-11 biennium. It has highlighted several activities undertaken by the UNESCO Nairobi Office staff in all the various areas of competence of the organization. The reader will find a lot of interesting short articles on projects/conferences and awards which the office managed during the period January-June 2011. Let me, however, highlight three (3) important events that created good visibility for the office and which are mentioned in this edition of the bulletin. First, is the launch of the UNESCO World Science Report (2010) which took place on 24 February 2011, at the Nairobi Safari Club Hotel. This was the first time this five-yearly report was publicly launched in Africa, and the office used the opportunity to open a discussion on various issues constraining the development of Science and Technology on the continent. The launch ceremony, presided over by both the Kenyan Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology, (Prof. Helen Sambili) and the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Science (Prof. Gretchen Kalonji), was attended by representatives from all scientific organizations and Institutions in Kenya.

The second major public event was the launch of the annual Global Monitoring Report (GMR) on the progress of the Education for All (EFA). The ceremony which took place at the InterContinental Hotel was witnessed by several Kenya Government Ministers and over 150 participants from a cross section of the society. The Kenyan Minister for Education (Hon. Prof. Sam Ongeri) and the UNESCO Assistant Director-General (Ms. Aicha Lalla Ben-Bakar) presided over the ceremony. The third major event which took place in Nairobi but which has implications for all of UNESCO was the signing Ceremony at the Kenya Windsor Hotel, of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and UNCHR on refugee Education. The Director-General of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova, was present to sign on behalf of UNESCO.

Finally, I would like to draw attention to the visit to Nairobi of the Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Getachew Engida. During his visit, Mr. Engida addressed staff of the office. Altogether, you will note that the first six months of 2011 were very busy for the office, with the hosting of high level-visitors and the organization of several major conferences/training workshops for the benefit of Member States of the region.
Regional Workshop on the Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation in Africa for Sustainable Development

The Science Policy and Capacity Building programme at the UNESCO Nairobi Office has been advocating for the promotion of women in science and engineering in Africa for sustainable development. Two main activities in collaboration with the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI) and the L’Oreal Foundation are the award of conference grants to women scientists, engineers and technologists to present their research findings at international conferences and the award of fellowships to outstanding women for excellence in science. From 28 to 30 June, 2011, the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology in collaboration with ANSTI organized a workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa, for thirty three (33) women and two men scientists, engineers, private sector and policy makers from ten (10) African countries namely: Botswana, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa.

Highlights of the Capacity Building workshop

The three day capacity building workshop was in the form of presentation of papers, discussions and group work/synergy. Renowned women professors in science, engineering and technology, and representatives of agencies which are mainstreaming gender programmes shared their experiences on approaches to promoting SET while those who have supported or benefitted from gender-specific programmes, like the L’Oreal Foundation led discussions on this issue. The five recipients of the 2010 UNESCO-L’Oreal Regional Fellowships Awards also presented their research work and shared their experiences with participants. Representatives of regional or sub-regional networks also made presentations on networking, mentoring and role models.

Support to Regional Networks and Centres of Excellence and Research at UNESCO

Within UNESCO’s framework of support to regional networks and centers of excellence in STI and Support to activities to improve research capacity, the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) was supported to organize a conference “Exchanging Knowledge on Climate Change Impacts in Africa: The Role of Networking” held on 26 and 27 February, 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya. The main objectives of the Conference were to:

- Improve the understanding of Climate Change adaptation and mitigation measures in Africa;
- Highlight the degree of Africa’s vulnerability to Climate Change;
- Promote the creation and operation of scientific knowledge networks and thereby improve the sharing of information across different scientific fields and different sectors;
- Provide a forum for African scientists to deliberate on strategies for widening the knowledge base on Climate Change in Africa.

Within UNESCO’s framework of support to sub-Regional assessment of biofuel sciences, Practical Action, Kenya obtained financial support to conduct a study on the status of biofuel science and technologies development in Kenya. The report was an analysis of the lessons learnt and strategies for the development of sustainable bio-fuel technologies in Kenya which will be shared with key stakeholders to chart a way forward for improving bio-fuel development in Kenya.
African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI)

The L’Oreal-UNESCO-Regional Fellowships for Women in Science Award Ceremony

The climax to the follow up of the workshop in Johannesburg on 30th September, 2011 was the presentation of the 2011 L’Oreal-UNESCO Regional Fellowships award of twenty thousand dollars (US$20,000.00) each to ten outstanding female scientists from Cameroon (1), Kenya (3) Nigeria (2), and South Africa (4). This was an increase in the number of recipients from 5 in 2010 to 10 this year. The grantees were selected by a Panel of Experts comprising of former Laureates and renowned scientists.

ANSTI-DAAD Postgraduate Fellowships

In order to support staff development in universities in member states, ANSTI in collaboration with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), awarded eight (8) postgraduate fellowships to staff members of ANSTI member institutions to undertake postgraduate studies in various scientific disciplines. The fellows are from: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.
Mentoring Girls in Science, Technology and Innovation in Botswana and Zimbabwe

UNESCO Nairobi Office supported the Technological Camp of Excellence which was organized by Forum-WEGSA at Mokolodi Nature Reserve in Botswana from 28 March to 1st April, 2011. The focus of the camp was on engineering and technology with the aim of nurturing girls into enhanced participation in these careers. The camp hosted a total of 27 students (17 girls and 10 boys from 10 junior secondary schools.

Topics covered during the camp of excellence included: Talks on careers in Engineering and Technology, Mobile Technology – getting connected, Forensic Science and the Law, careers in Architecture, Civil and Electrical engineering as well as gender stereotyping in SET and the work place. Students were also taken through some of the problems facing society that would need their solutions as scientists in future. The camp was concluded with an industrial visit. UNESCO's support for the organization of the camp of excellence was complemented by contributions from Botswana Ministry of Education and Skills Development (whose Permanent Secretary also officiated the opening ceremony), the University of Botswana, Botswana National Commission for UNESCO, Botswana Institute of Engineering and Orange Telecommunications among other engineering and technology stakeholders in the country.

A second camp aimed at mentoring girls in science, engineering and technology was also supported by UNESCO Nairobi Office in Zimbabwe from 02 to 05 May, 2011. The Scientific Camp of Excellence which was held at the Entokozweni Lodge in the city of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, hosted a total of twenty four (24) girls (aged between 13 and 14 years) from 15 different secondary schools. The camp was organized by Forum-WEGSA-Zimbabwe Chapter in partnership with the Zimbabwe National University of Science and Technology (NUST). The activities focused on women and their career choices, Girls taking sciences at secondary school level, University life for girls in Engineering and science, Education of the girl child, career talks on Sports' Science, textile technology, Chemical engineering and chemistry, electrical engineering as well as on Biology and environmental sciences. The camp was concluded with a science demonstration and group science experiments by the girls and a field visit.

A total of 51 secondary school girls and boys have so far been mentored into SET courses and careers in both Botswana and Zimbabwe with the financial support from UNESCO Nairobi office within its framework of mainstreaming gender in Science, Technology and Innovation.
Towards a Strategic Partnership between UNESCO-IHP and the ECOWAS Water Coordination Centre

Within the framework of its activities on the promotion of cooperation with key institutions of water resources sector, the Director of the ECOWAS Water Coordination Centre visited UNESCO Nairobi Office from 7 to 8 February, 2011. This initiative of the ECOWAS Centre was in line with the vision of UNESCO-IHP which consists of working in partnership and synergy with the priorities of Regional Economic Communities in Africa. The main objective of the visit was to strengthen cooperation and identify concrete actions for partnership between the ECOWAS Water Centre and the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) in West Africa.

The Regional Hydrologist in charge of the implementation of the IHP programme in sub-Saharan Africa and the Director of the ECOWAS Centre held many working sessions which led to fruitful exchanges and discussions on the activities of both the Centre and IHP. The Regional Hydrologist made a detailed presentation on the IHP 7 Strategic Action Plan (2008-2013), focusing on the activities of the programme in Africa and particularly in West Africa. The Director of the ECOWAS Centre also presented the Strategic Plan (2007-2015) of the Centre including its planned activities for 2011, and highlighted activities in which collaboration with IHP would be necessary. These include the production and improvement of knowledge on both surface and groundwater resources as well as capacity building. The visit resulted in an aide memoire being signed between the two parties where concrete activities to be implemented jointly were identified.

Co-organization of the 2nd Africa Water Cycle Symposium

UNESCO-IHP has been involved in the Africa water cycle initiative since its first symposium held in Tunis, Tunisia in January, 2009. This initiative which is under the umbrella of GEO (Group of Earth Observation) aims at promoting the use of remote sensing and geo-information for a sustainable management of water resources. Following the Tunis symposium, the first meeting of the task team for the preparation of the second symposium agreed to give emphasis on the coordination of various on-going projects, programmes and initiatives in the continent on water cycle. It also emphasized the need for the involvement of river basin organizations as main key stakeholders and end users for a better management of the different river basins in Africa. UNESCO as a member of the task force has been involved in the preparation of the second symposium, which was hosted by the Addis Ababa Office and ECA from 23 to 25 February, 2011 and in which more than thirty participants from river basin organizations, universities, spatial agencies and other partners participated. The general framework for the initiative is to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and beyond (Africa water vision 2025), through a better coordination and use of geo-information for a sustainable and peaceful management of water resources in Africa. The road map for the official launch of the initiative during the 3rd symposium was also discussed and it was agreed that a workshop will be organized for selected river basin organizations for a detailed analysis and case study of the general framework to be adapted to river basins. The outcome of the workshop will be used to finalize the Action Plan of the initiative. It was also agreed that the initiative should be presented, discussed and adopted during the 3rd symposium before Rio+20.

Addressing the Water Quality Challenges in Africa: Towards the Creation of a Water Quality Science, Policy and Information Network in Africa

Africa is facing increasingly critical challenges in using and managing its water resources in a sustainable way. In addition to environmental threats including climate change, water resources in Africa are threatened by the growing population, rapid urbanization and economic development. Pollution of both surface and groundwater resources in Africa has been increasing from insufficiently treated domestic and industrial effluents and agricultural runoff. The degradation of the quality of water resources poses serious risks to human health and the ecosystem. Conservation and restoration of environment, biodiversity, and life-supporting ecosystems, where water quality has a critical role, is among the urgent water needs to be addressed as highlighted in the Africa water vision 2025. UNESCO’s International Hydrological Programme Secretariat and the Nairobi Office organized a workshop on “Addressing Water Quality Challenges in Africa” in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14 to 16 March, 2011. The workshop brought together 25 water experts nominated by IHP National Committees from about 20 African countries and regional, sub-regional as well as basin organizations. The workshop participants included senior-level experts/officers from relevant Ministries, university researchers selected upon nomination by respective IHP National Committees, and high-level representatives from sub-regional and basin organizations. Chairpersons of IHP National Committees of Senegal, Rwanda and Kenya also participated in person. The workshop identified water quality as one of the most crucial water problems facing Africa and came up with the recommendations below in addition to strengthening the
activities of IHP in the area of water quality:

- A network on water quality science, policy and information in Africa should be created;
- A follow-up workshop to engage decision and policymakers dealing with the issue of water quality in Africa to be organized;
- Necessary steps to be taken to raise the profile at highest level of water quality in Africa through AMCOW;
- Based on selected good papers presented during the workshop, a special UNESCO IHP technical document on water quality in Africa should be published;
- An Africa policy brief on addressing water quality challenges should be prepared.

**New Structure and Coordination Team for FRIEND-AOC**

During the sixth edition of the science week of the International Institute of Engineering on Water and Environment (2iE), the Nairobi office organized a FRIEND-AOC meeting at 2iE in Ouagadougou on 5th April 2011. The meeting whose main objective was to take stock of the achievements of the network since 2003 and to renew its coordination team was attended by more than 25 people. The main outcome was the renewal of the coordination team for the network which is now as follows:

- General coordination: Baromy Gamagate (Abobo-Ajame, Côte d’Ivoire) and Luc Sigha (CRH, Cameroon);
- Database: Honore Dacosta, University of Dakar (UCAD)
- Global changes and water resources: Emmanuel Paturel (IRD) and Vissin Expedit (UAC) as deputy;
- Hydrological extremes: Abdou Ali (AGRHYMET) and Sossou Sambou (UCAD) as deputy;
- Water quality: Gaston Lienou (University of Yaounde) and Maman Sani (University Abomey Calavy, UAC, Benin) as deputy;
- Eco-hydrology: Yacouba Konate (2iE) and Gnandi Kissao (University of Lome) as deputy;
- Groundwater: Benjamin Ngounou Ngatcha (University of Ngaoundéré, Cameroon) and Raymond Malou (UCAD) as deputy.

**Towards a Regional Programme on the Sustainable Design and Management of Hydraulic Infrastructure for adaptation to Climate Variability and Change in West and Central Africa**

Following the resolution of the 3rd meeting of IHP National Committees of sub-Saharan African countries held in Cotonou, Bénin in 2010, which requested UNESCO-IHP to address the issues of hydrological norms for the design of hydraulic infrastructures, the Nairobi Office organized the first meeting of a task force on the issue on 4th May, 2011 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Water engineers have been using hydrological tools developed in the 1970s to design hydraulic infrastructures despite the huge ecological and hydrological changes recorded within the region. The current tools were developed based on hydrological data collected by IRD during the International Decade of Hydrology where around hundred experimental basins were monitored for 3 to 5 years.

Destruction of roads and small dams is observed in the region during practically every rainy season. The meeting was attended by twenty experts and specialists on the hydrology of the region. The participants were representatives of universities and research centres as well as sub-regional institutions such as AGRHYMET, IRD, UEMOA, 2iE and ECOWAS. All the participants acknowledged the need and the urgency for the review and proposal of new hydrological tools for a sustainable design and management of hydraulic infrastructures in the region, particularly with the global changes including climate variability. The participants recommended the preparation and implementation of a regional programme which should have the following components:

- Data and hydrological monitoring;
- Analysis, Methods and Modelling;
- Operational tools;
- Capacity building and promotion of the new tools.

The participants also adopted a roadmap for the preparation of the regional programme to be presented during the second workshop planned for 2012.

**2nd Workshop of IGAD-ISARM**

ISARM-IGAD was born in February, 2010, when approximately 40 scientists and policy makers met for the first time in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A “Science Policy” network was created, the first of its kind, as a result of this first meeting, which included technical experts as well as Parliamentarians of each participating Member State. Like all ISARM initiatives it aims at improving the understanding of scientific, socio-economic, legal, institutional and environmental issues related to the management of transboundary aquifers. The
The 2nd meeting of ISARM-IGAD took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 to 27 April 2011. It was attended by approximately 30 participants from six (6) IGAD Member States. Each Member State was represented by two technical experts and two Parliamentarians. The meeting discussed: the Terms of Reference (TORs) of a Steering Committee for Transboundary Aquifers (TBA); the Adaptation of the articles of the International Law on TBAs within the IGAD context; the Improvement of the existing map of TBA systems of the Region and potential Pilot projects.

A National IHP Action Plan for Rwanda

The Nairobi Office and the Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO in partnership with the national IHP committee organized a validation workshop for two documents prepared in the framework of the 2010 One UN fund in Rwanda. The two documents are the national IHP action plan for the Rwanda IHP national committee and IWRM training modules for training institutions. The validation workshop took place at Umubano hotel in Kigali, Rwanda from 28 to 29 April, 2011, and was attended by 18 participants from the national IHP committee. It was officially opened by the Secretary General of the Rwanda National Commission for UNESCO in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Environment and the Regional Hydrologist who was representing the Director of the Nairobi Office. Presentations were also made on the situation of the water resources in the country, and the following were identified as priority:

- the official establishment of the national IHP committee with adoption of legal documents at a national workshop;
- Production of a publication on water resources of Kigali including surface and groundwater;
- Study on the impacts of human pressure and climate variability and change on both surface and groundwater resources, including quality and identification as well as sharing of indigenous adaptation strategies and practices on water resources management to cope with water scarcity.

The 2nd workshop took place from 16 to 19th May 2011 in Douala, Cameroon. The workshop was officially opened by the technical advisor of the Minister for water and energy of Cameroon with the participation of the representative of the Cameroon National Commission for UNESCO and a representative of the Director of the UNESCO Yaounde Office. Thirty three experts from Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Ghana, Bénin, Nigeria, Cameroun, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Rwanda participated in the workshop. The River Basin organizations for Senegal Basin, Gambia systems, Volta Basin and Lake Chad Basin as well as Global water partnership for West and Central Africa were also represented at the workshop, whose main outcomes were:

- The improvement of the inventory of transboundary aquifer systems in West and Central African countries and the creation of an ISARM central Africa component;
- The creation in each sub-region of a regional coordination committee with the leadership of UNESCO;
- Initiation of a series of fora by transboundary aquifer system for information sharing and discussion on sustainable management of the aquifers system.

Towards a Partnership between EXCEED Network and IHP

On 6th June, 2011, the Nairobi office hosted a workshop of the EXCEED Network (Excellent Centre for Exchange, Cooperation and Development in sustainable water management in developing countries) whose aim is to anchor the water-management issue in the political agenda of both developing and industrialised countries. Exceed is a project funded by the German Academic Exchange Services (DAAD), through their coordination unit at the Technische Universitaet Braunschweig, with the objective of building capacities in developing countries and Germany on sustainable water management for the achievement of the Millenium Development Goals.

The Network has hubs in Latin America, Middle East, Asia and Africa. The meeting held on 6th June was for the Africa EXCEED Network coordinated by the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, and was attended by members of the Africa network including representatives of Universities in Togo, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Malawi, Botswana and Kenya. Other participants included the Director of DAAD Regional Office for Africa, and representatives of the Technical Unit including the Chairman of Exceed. The meeting discussed the different teaching curriculum within the different universities for a common teaching curriculum and also identified activities, programs and budget for 2012. Potential areas of cooperation between EXCEED and IHP were also identified.

2nd ISARM West Africa Workshop and Creation of a new ISARM Component for Central African Countries

The first Internally Shared Acquifer Resources Management (ISARM) workshop in West Africa on transboundary aquifers was held in Cotonou, Benin in May 2007. A team of experts was set up and a road map was adopted on the activities to be implemented by the working group with the support of UNESCO.
Ecological & Earth Sciences

23rd Colloquium of African Geology

The 23rd Colloquium of African Geology (CAG-23) was hosted by the University of Johannesburg in South Africa from 8 to 14 January, 2011, with about 500 earth scientists from Africa and around the world. Many African earth scientists attended the meeting thanks to the travel grants provided by the UNESCO Nairobi office. UNESCO also organized a workshop on “Developing Geosciences Education in Africa with a focus on how best to develop Geosciences Education in Africa at all levels, in different settings and with various partners. The workshop gave the opportunity to discuss few projects under development in the framework of UNESCO Earth Science Education Initiative for Africa.

During the General Assembly of the Geological Society of Africa held during the colloquium, the African earth science community adopted two resolutions calling for the establishment of an African Network of Earth Science Institutions (ANESI) and for the promotion of IGCP in Africa. Another important moment of the colloquium was the official launch of the 2nd edition of the Tectonic Map of Africa, which is the result of a fruitful collaboration between the Commission of the Geological Map of the World (CGMW) and UNESCO, and which has involved a large number of earth scientists from within and outside Africa.

UNESCO and China Join Efforts to support Earth Sciences in Africa

At the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (CAGS) and the China National Committee for IGCP, the Program Specialist in Earth Sciences at UNESCO Nairobi Office paid a visit to China from 12 to 18 April, 2011. The visit aimed at meeting and discussing with officials of the CAGS, the Ministry of Land and Resources (MLR) and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) on cooperation in specific fields of earth sciences. He also visited the famous Lushan Global Geopark in Jiangxi Province of China to learn more about the development and management of geoparks in China, and the great achievements China has made in promoting geoscientific research and popularization as well as boosting social progress and economic growth through the development of geoparks.

The UNESCO Nairobi office is now working with the Chinese authorities to promote the establishment of geoparks in African countries through exchange of experiences and training courses on geoparks for African earth scientists (the first one will be held in China in 2012). The Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences and the UNESCO Nairobi office are also working on a Postdoctoral Programme for African earth scientists through the China-Africa Science and Technology Partnership Program (CASTEP).

Promoting International Geosciences Programme in Africa

The involvement of Africa in the UNESCO-IUGS International Geosciences Programme (IGCP) since its launch in 1974 has remained marginal, both in terms of number of projects devoted to the continent (only 7%) and project leaders from the continent (5%). Thanks to special funding from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), UNESCO is committed to promoting this worldwide recognized programme in Africa. Three proposals dealing with impacts of mining and abandoned mines on environment and health in Africa (IGCP-594 & 606) and with seismic hazards (IGCP-601) were approved in Paris in February, 2011. UNESCO Nairobi Office is also promoting the “Young Scientist IGCP” scheme through a training workshop whose overall goal is to increase the number and quality of IGCP proposals from African earth scientists.
Promoting Literacy in Rwanda

The UNESCO Nairobi Office Education Programme continued implementation of the Capacity Development Programme for Education for All (Cap EFA) project in Rwanda as one of the Priority Countries of UNESCO's Education Sector. The project aims to accelerate the progress of EFA especially Goals 3 and 4 through targeted capacity development of Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and stakeholders and strengthened inter and intra sectoral partnerships.

One of the key activities implemented in the period between January and June 2011 was a multi-stakeholders workshop to discuss ways of strengthening literacy provision at national and sub-national level. UNESCO also regularly engaged the Provincial Mayor's office and literacy and skills training providers to update them on programme activities and seek their support with the aim to enhance partnership building among the various stakeholders involved in literacy provision.

In another component of the programme, UNESCO provided technical assistance to MINEDUC in the finalization of the National Adult Literacy policy document. After several rounds of comments from UNESCO, the policy document was revised and is now awaiting validation before being submitted to the parliament for final approval.

UNESCO's support to literacy in Rwanda also focused on building a reliable and comprehensive database and an effective monitoring system. This component hinges on the generation of reliable data on the various Non-Formal Education (NFE) providers. To address this, a scoping exercise of both national and provincial providers of NFE and skills training was conducted. Similarly, a national survey on the

UNESCO Supporting 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 the Ministry of Education. The document has listed improvement of quality education as one of its seven main priority areas for the education sector which includes monitoring learning achievement at national level. The Learning Assessment in Rwandan Schools (LARS) is an attempt to address the above concern by developing learning assessment for P3 grade students.

Following the development of assessment tools and background questionnaires in 2010, the Inspectorate General which coordinates LARS, conducted a pre-test of all the tools in March 2011. Based on the pre-test results, the main instruments were finalized and the assessment was conducted in May, 2011.

A technical workshop on item response and data analysis for MINEDUC staff was conducted by two international consultants in June 2011. The LARS team is currently involved in data entry and cleaning exercise. This will be followed by preparation of the technical report by end of 2011.
Kenya on Progress in Development of End of Decade EFA Assessment (EDA) Report

As part of the follow up of the assessment of the progress made by countries towards the achievement of the goals set for 2015 target date for the EFA, UNESCO is supporting the EFA assessment process among Member States of the Nairobi Office Cluster countries mainly Kenya, Uganda, Eritrea and Rwanda. The assessments seek to build the capacity of the Ministry of Education, and national and provincial staff involved in the monitoring and planning process.

Among the four countries involved in the assessment process which begun in 2010, Kenya has made considerable progress. The EDA draft report is nearing completion. A major workshop was held in February 2011 and three one-day mini drafting workshops conducted in March 2011 where all the six thematic working groups prepared preliminary drafts of the six EFA goals. The drafts used a common framework for all the goals looking at the situation of the goal implementation from a national and sub-national perspective with specific focus on disparities, trends and progress made since 2000 as well as identification of programme implementation gaps, shortfalls and detailed analysis of challenges and emerging issues. Each goal chapter also provided some concrete suggestions on the way forward.

The draft versions were further reviewed by UNESCO and selected peer reviewers. Suggestions and comments from the review were further discussed by the thematic working groups in May and June to address the gaps and make changes accordingly. The draft version incorporating various comments will be made ready in July as well as a brief summary report based on the main EDA report. This will be presented to the standing committee for their final approval before the document is made available for a wider dissemination later in the year.

Peace Education in Uganda: Validation of a Mapping Report

UNESCO Nairobi Office has been working through the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Education and Sports in the country to support Education for peace efforts in the education sector. The ultimate aim is to incorporate peace-building into the education system. While several peace-building initiatives are in place in the country, notable gaps remain, especially at policy level.

Upon a recommendation of a workshop on Human Rights and Peace Education for Teachers in Uganda jointly organized by the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, a consultant was engaged in December, 2010 to undertake a mapping exercise to determine the main players in Education for Peace in Uganda, the nature of the interventions, and the existing gaps. The exercise was intended to inform upstream level interventions. Apart from focus group discussions with leaders and stakeholders of organizations involved in peace education. The consultant also made field trips to northern Uganda and other regions that have consistently faced conflict. Good practices in peace education and peace building that can inform evidence-based policy development were also identified and documented.

On 30 June 2011, UNESCO and the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO convened a workshop in Kampala to validate a report of findings from the mapping exercise. The workshop brought together officials from government, NGOs, academia and faith based organizations. The following key findings emerged from the exercise:

i. The presence of peace programmes at universities and tertiary institutions in Uganda;
ii. Evidence of conflict resolution courses targeting teachers;
iii. Mediation of on-going community conflicts by civil society organizations; and
iv. Re-integration of returnees and Internally Displaced Persons back into their communities.

The report also identified key gaps that include:

i. Lack of a shared understanding of the concept of peace building and peace education among actors;
ii. Ineffective coordination of actors resulting in duplication of efforts;
iii. Limited research to inform policy and practice; and
iv. The absence of a national policy to guide implementation of peace activities in the education sector, among other issues.

The report recommended the need for a policy distinct to the education sector and one anchored on the national policy on peace building developed by the office of the Prime Minister. It was further recommended that the National Planning Authority (NPA) should integrate peace in its development plans. Participants at the meeting resolved to organize a stakeholders’ workshop at a later stage to present the recommendations as well as chart a way forward for peace education in the education sector in Uganda. Future activities will be defined in greater detail in this participatory design process that envisages leadership from the Ministry of Education and Sports.
Addressing HIV and AIDS: Kenya Rolls out International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education for Domestication

Prevention of HIV infection among young people and empowering them with comprehensive information remains a daunting task in Kenya due to the socio-cultural and religious perspectives that make sexuality education remain a sensitive/taboo issue. In an attempt to improve the quality of life skills and sexuality education that young people receive, Kenya’s Ministry of Education (MoE), in partnership with UNESCO, USAID and FHI convened a two days national consultative forum on the domestication of the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education. The Technical Guidance was developed at the global level by UNESCO in partnership with UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO.

Prior to the consultative meeting, the Ministry of Education through the Kenya Institute of Education gave a comprehensive report on the International Technical Guidance based on the national policy and legal framework which forms the basis for the adoption.

The National Stakeholders forum held at Mt. Kenya Safari Club brought together stakeholders from MoE top management, UN family, USAID and national and international NGOs. The forum was officially opened by Prof. Ole Kiyiapi, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education while Mr. Joseph Massaquoi, the Director of UNESCO Nairobi Office gave the opening remarks. At the end of the two day consultative meeting the following recommendations were made to facilitate the domestication of the Technical Guidance:

- The process of further domestication be led by the Ministry of Education through Kenya Institute of Education (KIE);
- A technical committee comprising key stakeholders be formed with MoE acting as the Chair and KIE as the convener;
- A concept note outlining the social gap on information for young people be drafted with the aim of submitting it to the Education Task Force for inclusion in their report;
- An all inclusive stakeholders forum be convened to deliberate on the concept note before being submitted to the task force.

Supporting Anti-AIDS Clubs in Rwandan Schools

UNESCO, working in collaboration with the Rwanda Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), HIV Coordination Unit conducted training on Anti-AIDS Clubs for 341 teachers of primary schools from the Eastern Province. The trainings took place in March 2011 at La Palisse Hotel, Gashora.

Documenting University Responses to HIV and AIDS in the East Africa Community Region

Universities in Africa are playing their role in responding to both prevention of the spread of HIV and mitigation of the adverse effect that the disease has on society and more specifically in their respective institutions of higher learning. Unfortunately, a lot of what the institutions are doing is not known by most would be stakeholders out there as a result of lack of proper documentation of these efforts. UNESCO Nairobi Office has identified the need to document the university responses in this area within the EAC region (which also hosts some of the countries with high HIV prevalence) and is supporting a study to document the responses and experiences of universities in dealing with HIV and AIDS in Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda.

The study specifically focuses on what universities in these countries have done in the areas of HIV prevention, impact mitigation, care, support and treatment, and in the development of workplace policies. A consultant has been engaged to conduct this important study which is also expected to identify any forms of assistance accorded to universities in organizing interventions; problems encountered in implementing interventions as well as how these universities have tried to circumvent these problems. A total of 30 universities in the EAC region will be involved in this study.
UNESCO Nairobi Supports Lake Turkana Festival 2011

Every May 21st, UNESCO marks the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. To mark this day for the year 2011, UNESCO Nairobi Office partnered with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Nairobi and the National Museums of Kenya to organise the Lake Turkana Festival 2011.

The Lake Turkana Festival 2011 took place from 13 to 15 May 2011 in Loiyangalani on the South-Eastern shores of the ‘Jade Lake’ popularly known as “Lake Turkana”. The First festival was held back in 2008 on a request from the local community living around the oasis of Loiyangalani to the German Embassy. Since then the Festival has become an annual event. The main purpose is to promote peace and reconciliation among the local communities around Lake Turkana by giving them an opportunity for cross-cultural cooperation and exchange thereby reducing and even eliminating the frequent ethnic conflicts in the region.

Set against the stunning geographical features of Loiyangalani, the three-day Festival, offered a chance for representatives of the Rendille, El Molo, Pokot, Samburu, Turkana, Gabbrá, Dassanach and Borana to present their respective cultures through the display of spectacular traditional costumes, arts and crafts, dances and music to each other and to visitors. The Festival also focused on creating awareness on sustainable development not only in the cultural but also in the economic and environmental fields. To raise awareness on the impending developments for the region, the festival also included a workshop on “Resource Use Assessment” for the local community.

Given the limited knowledge on the development potential of the Lake Turkana region, the Festival provides the opportunity for locals and visitors alike to explore this culturally and geographically unique region and to promote it as a unique and fascinating part of the country.

Project Evaluation for Pilot Projects on Community-based Intangible Heritage Inventorying at Grassroots level in six selected countries in Sub-Saharan Africa

The community inventorying project, funded through UNESCO by the Flanders Government, was aimed at organizing a series of pilot projects in six selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa namely, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Uganda. Its main objective was to establish a community based inventorying process through participatory and integrated approach of actively involving community members in the selected countries.

The project enabled UNESCO to accomplish a number of important steps notably, the training workshops, the first of their kind in the concerned countries, followed by several months of fieldwork with the communities and cultural elders to inventory Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) elements. Inventorying activities were concluded and this followed up meeting which aimed at evaluating the quality of the exercise and improving applied methodologies, took place from 9th to 11th March, 2011. The project achievements contributed significantly to the practical implementation of the 2003 convention provisions as well as the capacity development not only in the concerned countries, but in the sub region as a whole.

The aim of the evaluation workshop was to share experiences, analyze achievements, and challenges encountered and most importantly, propose the way forward in improving the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Delivered through presentations and discussions, the principle outcomes of the inventorying exercise were as follows:

• A deeper understanding of the 2003 convention and ways of its interpretation into simple actions within communities;
• Heightened sense of responsibility and pride in their role in identifying and keeping alive ICH within Basoga community;
• Lessons on the shortcomings and improvements required for the inventorying tools in order to adapt its use to the Ugandan context;
• Agreement on the terms of a continuing partnership between the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the centre of Creative and Performing Arts and Culture, the National Commission for UNESCO and the members of the fieldwork team to continue the inventorying ICH in Busoga;
• Field workers’ appreciation of the skills and knowledge gained through the inventorying process and their willingness to act as tutors to others;
• The government of Uganda through the Commissioner for Culture reiterated its commitment to the conservation of ICH and its pledge for support on capacity building at community and country levels.
UNESCO Director General Attends the 35th Meeting of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations on the fight against HIV and AIDS in Nairobi, Kenya

The UNESCO Director General, Mrs. Irina Bokova was in Nairobi Kenya, in March this year, to attend the 35th Meeting of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations on the fight against HIV and AIDS. The Director General also attended the launch of the 2011 HIV and AIDS Report of the UN Secretary-General entitled *Progress made in the implementation of the Declaration of commitment on HIV and AIDS* Apart from discussing other pertinent issues related to HIV and AIDS, the Executive Heads also endorsed a new UNAIDS strategy for 2011-2015. While at the meeting of the Co-sponsors, Mrs. Bokova supported the demands for greater accountability of the funding and emphasized the need to build country capacity for more effective and sustainable educational responses to HIV and AIDS. The meeting made a commitment to a vision of zero discrimination, zero new HIV infections, and zero AIDS-related deaths.

The Director-General also participated in the first regular session for 2011 of the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Principals which also took place at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi on 1st April, 2011.

UNESCO Director General signs an Agreement of Cooperation with UNHCR High Commissioner

While in Nairobi for the CEB meeting, the UNESCO Director General, Mrs. Irina Bokova signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mr. António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The MoU establishes closer cooperation between UNESCO and UNHCR on the provision of education to refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
International Conference on Teachers for EFA in Africa

The International Task Force on Teachers for Education For All (EFA), whose secretariat is based at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, hosted an International Conference on Teachers for EFA in Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya, from 19 to 20 January 2011 in conjunction with the Government of Kenya. The conference, whose theme was “Collaborative Action to Address the Teacher Gap”, was aimed at providing a multi-stakeholder platform for national representatives, teachers, international organizations’ representatives and experts, to discuss the gaps relating to teacher provision with a view to reaching the EFA goals. Hon. Prof. Sam Ongeri, Kenya’s Minister for Education officially opened the conference while others who participated included experts from the African Union Commission and the European Union Delegation. UNESCO was represented by Mr. David Atchoarena, Director of the Division of Planning and Development of Education Systems.

The International Task Force on Teachers for EFA was launched in December 2008 as a voluntary global alliance of EFA partners combining efforts to address the shortage of teachers through coordinating efforts, monitoring global progress and reporting to the High-Level Group on EFA.

UNESCO Nairobi Launches the UNESCO Science Report 2010 in Kenya

The UNESCO Science Report 2010 was launched in Nairobi on 24 February 2011, at a ceremony graced by Ms. Gretchen Kalonji, UNESCO’s Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences and Hon. Prof. Hellen Sambili, Kenya’s Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology. The event was also attended by eminent Kenyan scientists, representatives of scientific institutions and universities as well as senior staff from government. This was the first time that the report was being launched in Kenya.

The event was organized by UNESCO Nairobi Office, in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, and the National Council for Science and Technology (NCST).

Launch of the 2011 Education Global Monitoring Report in Nairobi

UNESCO Nairobi Office Education Programme in collaboration with the Kenyan Ministry of Education organized a high level launch of the 2011 Education for All Global Monitoring Report on 1st March 2011. This was one among various other launches that were held simultaneously around the world. The launch ceremony, held at Inter-Continental Hotel, Nairobi, brought together over 100 participants drawn from government ministries and departments, UN agencies, embassies and local as well as international NGOs. Speakers at the event were: Hon. Prof. Sam Ongeri, Minister for Education, Hon. Mohamed Elmi, Minister for State for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands, Ms. Lalla Aïcha Ben Barka, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Africa and Dr. Pauline Rose, Senior Policy Expert, Education for All Global Monitoring Report.
The report whose theme was *The hidden crisis: Armed conflict and education*, cautioned that the world was not on track towards achieving by 2015 the six Education for All Goals that over 160 countries signed in 2000. Although there has been progress in many areas, most of the goals will be missed by a wide margin with conflict being one of the major reasons.

UNESCO Nairobi Office joins other UN Agencies in Kenya to celebrate 100 years of International Women’s Day (IWD)

UNESCO Nairobi Office joined other stakeholders in gender equality and women’s empowerment in Kenya to mark the centenary celebrations of the International Women’s Day (IWD), which was held at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) in Nairobi on 8th March 2011. The guest of honour at the day-long event was Hon. Dr. Naomi Shaban, Kenya’s Minister for Gender, Children and Social Development. Also present was Mr. Aeneas Chuma, the UN Resident Coordinator, who also represented the UN Country Team at the celebrations. The theme of this year’s IWD was “*Equal Access to Education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women*”. The UN family mounted a joint UN in Kenya booth to display materials on the work of various UN agencies at an exhibition hosted at the same venue. During the exhibition, UNESCO distributed posters, books and videos to women and other members of the public who had attended the event.

**UNESCO Deputy Director General Attends Intergenerational Dialogue in Nairobi**

Mr. Getachew Engida, UNESCO’s Deputy Director General visited Nairobi, Kenya from 29th to 30th June, 2011 to take part in the Intergenerational Dialogue organized by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Africa Regional Office. The dialogue, held on 30th June 2011 at Serena Hotel, Nairobi aimed at giving young people an opportunity to learn how the older generation advocated for issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and to identify lessons learnt and the good that could be replicated by the young generation.

Key speakers at the event were Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, former president of Zambia, the IPPF Goodwill Ambassador for Africa Region, Her Excellency Dr. Joyce Hilda Banda, Vice-President of the Republic of Malawi and Hon. Anyang Nyong’o, Minister for Medical Services in Kenya, among others.

While in Nairobi, Mr. Engida also met with staff of UNESCO in Nairobi and discussed the implications of UNESCO’s ongoing internal reform process on UNESCO’s work in the region.
Nairobi Office Staff Retreat

The 2011 Team Building Staff Retreat for UNESCO Nairobi Office Staff took place from 20 to 22 June, 2011 at the Naivasha Simba Lodge, bringing together staff based in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. The objective of the team building exercise were to reflect on the progress made in implementation of the action plan agreed upon in past year’s staff retreat, discuss the opportunities and challenges for the organization in the changing global environment and specifically for the Nairobi Office and find ways of enhancing support and trust levels among staff for purposes of improving productivity and performance. The team-building programme featured group games and discussions, presentations by the Director of Nairobi Office, Prof. Joseph Massaquoi on the general well-being of the office since the last staff retreat and the proposed UNESCO reforms as well as its significance to Nairobi Office and Member States within the region. The team also came up with a plan of action to promote team work, cooperation and commitment with a view to better achieving the organization’s goals.

Nairobi Staff mark UNESCO Staff Day

The Nairobi Office celebrated this year’s Staff Day on 17th June 2011. During the event, UNESCO Nairobi Office staff including the UNESCO PEER Programme staff gathered together for a luncheon during which the Director of the Office commended staff for their commitment to UNESCO and thanked them on behalf of the organization for their hard work.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Fourth African Regional Conference of Vice-Chancellors and Deans of Science, Engineering and Technology (COVIDSET 2011)

Venue:
Nicon Luxury, Abuja Nigeria,
23-25 November 2011

Theme:
Harnessing Africa’s Scientific, Engineering and Technology Innovations for Sustainable Development: The Role of Universities

Organizers:
UNESCO Nairobi Office
African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions

Host Institutions:
Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria
Federal University of Technology (FUTO), Owerri
Federal University of Technology (FUTO), Bauchi
Africa University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja
Lagos State Polytechnic (LAPSTEC), Lagos

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