



Economic Commission for Africa

A service of the UN system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD Programme

NEPAD TODAY

Every Wednesday

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NEPAD @ RIO+20

NEPAD Agency says \$2 billion committed to Great Green Wall

The focal point of the TerraAfrica programme at the NEPAD Agency, Mr. Ousmane Djibo, said on Monday in Rio that about \$2 billion had been set aside to support the Great Green Wall project in the Sahel and West Africa, according to the Information and Communication Service (ICS) of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

In a presentation at the high profile roundtable discussion on NEPAD and sustainable development at the margins of the ongoing Rio+20, Mr. Djibo said the development objective of the project is to expand sustainable land water management in targeted landscapes and climate-vulnerable areas in the Sahel and West Africa.

About \$108 million of the total project sum was approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in May 2011, said Mr. Djibo, adding that the twelve countries involved are already developing their investment operations which are country-targeted, unique and multisectoral.

The investments are in the areas of natural regeneration of tree cover, integrated soil fertility, water harvesting, agroforestry, soil conservation, alternative livelihoods, watershed management and conservation corridors. The project focuses on knowledge generation and sharing, especially in economic analysis,

natural resource monitoring, land suitability mapping, hydromet, and land degradation assessment

It involves building institutional capacities in land use planning, resource tenure, decentralization, network farmer innovation, regulatory enforcement and environmental impact assessment.

Land degradation affects almost 500 million people and two-thirds of productive land.

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Africa must push GEF a bit more, says NEPAD Agency's Estherine Fotabong

Inspired by the various presentations on Monday at the NEPAD high level roundtable discussions held at the margins of Rio+20, African countries asked NPCA officials questions on how they can better utilize NEPAD and take advantage of its presence in their respective countries.

Their questions were responded to by Ms. Estherine Fotabong, NEPAD Agency's Director of Programming and Programme Implementation who led the NEPAD delegation to Rio+20.

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NEPAD Agency...

Africa has 17% of the world's forests but half of its deforestation, driven by agricultural expansion.

In response to a question by the representative of Angola, Mr Djibo said that countries interested in partnering with NEPAD Agency on TerraAfrica and any of its other priority areas should simply indicate their desire in writing to the NEPAD Agency which would immediately dispatch a technical mission to the requesting country for necessary gap analysis and needs assessment.

ECA is a strategic partner of the NEPAD Agency and assists in the implementation of NEPAD programme through direct technical support, analytical work, advisory services and knowledge management.

Source: Special to ECA

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Africa must push...

A delegate from the Kenyan Mission to the UN in New York said while Africa needed about \$100 billion annually to meet its infrastructure needs, \$40 billion of that for energy alone, the continent had only \$10 billion. How would the continent, which is the most infrastructure-deficient in the world, meet the financial gap?

A Swazi delegate from the country's environment authority wondered why there was an apparent disconnect between the NEPAD Agency and the comprehensive implementation of the Africa Action Plan.

The Angolan delegation wondered why most of Terra Africa project appeared to be concentrated in the Sahel and West Africa. How could Southern Africa benefit, he asked.

Responding, Ms Fotabong said NEPAD Agency had a clear idea of how much many of its infra-

structure projects within the Africa Action Plan would cost, but that many of Africa's development partners are, themselves, experiencing economic and financial difficulties.

"Our traditional partners are broke," she said, adding that Africa would need to start looking inwards to mobilize needed resources. She said it was for this reason that the AU Summit mandated NEPAD Agency and ECA to carry out a study on domestic resource mobilization.

The preliminary findings of the study will be presented to the AU Summit in Addis Ababa in July this year.

Fotabong said, however, that African countries themselves need to start creating the conducive environment to attract investment, including intra-African investments, which she said had increased by about 47 percent.

On the implementation of the Africa Action Plan, Ms. Fotabong said while projects like PIDA and CAADP were better known across Africa, the environment action plan (EAP) was not as known, although it was equally articulated and endorsed at the highest political level.

"EAP is not as known as the other elements in the AAP, because most of the regional programs identified in the EAP are intended to be implemented by GEF, which usually changes its operations and priorities from time to time," she said.

African countries need to push GEF a bit more to be responsive to the continent's priorities and implement its regional projects, said Fotabong.

Upcoming Events

- 16th Biennial International Institute of Fisheries Economics & (IIFET) Conference
16 -20 July 2012, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Earth Summit (RIO+20)
20 -22 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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