



Economic Commission for Africa

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# NEPAD TODAY

Every Wednesday

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## NEPAD to implement policies to improve Africa's health

A leading member of NEPAD says the group is implementing policy decisions heads of states and government made to improve the health and well-being of Africans.

Dr. Bruno Kilunga Kubata, coordinator of NEPAD's African Research for Health Initiative, said NEPAD has also been tasked to create an enabling environment by using international cooperation to build health research systems to ensure health equity on the continent.

"We are working with Tanzania, Senegal and Mozambique and we are trying to strengthen systems there so that they have

the governance tools - so that research for health can really be used to economically develop these countries," said Kubata.

He said experiences: successes or failures learned from the trial countries will then be used to widen the scope of the health systems on the continent.

Kubata said NEPAD is also working closely with the three countries as well as sub-regional blocs to best improve health systems. He said the initiative has a four year implementation phase, which ends in 2014.

"From this initiative, we have brought in the WAHO [West African Health Organization], which is trying to support

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## Africa Water Facility to boost development in Ethiopia and South-Sudan

Millions of people living in the Baro-Akobo-Sobat (BAS) area of the Nile Basin are to benefit from a range of multi-purpose water resources projects to be planned by the Nile Basin Initiative. On May 4, the African Development Bank approved a Euro2 million grant from the African Water Facility to finance the development study needed to attract the investments required to implement them. The overall project is supported jointly by the New Partnership for Africa's Development- Infrastructure Project Preparation

Facility (NEPAD-IPPF).

"This project is expected to lead to co-operative identification and the preparation of big investments in the field of hydropower, irrigation, and possibly navigation" said Akica Bahri, Coordinator, African Water Facility.

"The Facility considers this to be a project of the highest importance for Ethiopia and South Sudan, where the potential of the available untapped water resources is very promising."

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## **NEPAD to...**

post-conflict countries in West Africa. This means that in addition to the three countries, we [also] have Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali and Guinea Bissau," said Kubata.

"We are also working with other development partners to try to fill the gaps especially in Central Africa. So if it works, we will be moving into countries where there is dire need of building capacity like in post-conflict countries of Central Africa."

Experts have expressed concern that African governments do not see health as a priority. They says this attitude accounts for the rather poor funding the health sector as well as for health research.

"This is the main challenge for African countries. Indeed, what we are trying to do is first of all make sure that the countries own the entire process. By owning the entire

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## **Africa Water Facility...**

Led by the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO), the technical arm of the Nile Basin Initiative, the development study funded by the African Water Facility, will support investments efforts to finance the BAS development programme. The region holds tremendous potential for the cooperative development of water resources, if enhanced, promises significant socio-economic impacts that can reduce poverty.

In addition, the programme is expected to provide a framework for effective cooperative governance of water resources, and to promote regional cooperation and environmental integrity.

The activities planned around the study will be implemented over three years. They comprise:

process, hopefully, we think, they will have to invest in it," said Kubata.

He cited instances where a forestry school was funded with \$ 5 million by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in the Congo Basin. Kubata said the trials were done in three countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and Cameroon. The project, he said, was so successful that all the countries of the Central African region wanted to be part of it.

"The good news is those countries in terms of forestry are well organized, and they have a sub-regional organization which was brought on board with specific request to raise funds so that the Africans can take ownership," continued Kubata.

*For more story: [www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org)*

Developing an integrated water resources management and development plan for the BAS sub-basin; Identifying investment packages and conducting feasibility studies of selected priority investment projects; Identifying multi-purpose, long-term development projects; and, Consulting and engaging stakeholders, including potential financing agencies as well as the private sector.

*Source: Targeted News Service, May 24, 2012*

*Thursday 3:58 AM EST*

## **Upcoming Events**

- Review of Multi Year Programme of ECA support to NEPAD Agency, 4-5 June 2012, Durban, South Africa
- Regional Dialogue on Enhanced Coordination towards NEPAD Implementation 6 - 7 June 2012, Durban, South Africa
- Earth Summit (RIO+20) 20 -22 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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