



# REDD NETWORK *Newsletter*

## Issue 1 (February 2011)

### ***Editors Comment***

Welcome to our first newsletter edition of the new SADC REDD information network! In this newsletter, you will find information about current developments on REDD with a special focus on the SADC region. We hope you will find this newsletter useful. For feedback, comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact us at [sadcredd@ymail.com](mailto:sadcredd@ymail.com) and visit: <http://www.sadc.int/REDD/>

### ***News***

#### ***SADC at COP16***

SADC participated in the UNFCCC COP16 in Cancun (Mexico) and organised a daily briefing for the delegates from all SADC countries in which they could discuss and raise issues of particular importance to them during the negotiations. The daily sessions were regarded as a useful forum by the delegates to exchange points of views in the climate change negotiation process. For further information, please visit our [website](#).

#### **Joint SADC-EAC-COMESA side-event “REDD without boundaries – a regional approach”**

On 2 December 2010, the three African regional economic integration organizations, SADC, EAC and COMESA organized a joint side-event on the topic of “REDD without boundaries – a regional approach” that took place in the Cancun Palace Hotel in Cancun, Mexico. During the event, speakers from three countries, which have started preparing for REDD, namely Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Kenya, presented their experiences and raised challenges relating to cross-border cooperation in the process of setting up a national REDD mechanism. The discussion was moderated by Mr David Lesolle and centered around the question of how a REDD mechanism can be designed so as to benefit all countries in the region. The lively discussion touched upon many issues and agreed that for setting up a successful and region-wide REDD mechanism in the SADC region cross-border and regional cooperation are important elements. In his closing remarks, Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Republic of Namibia as the Chair of SADC also emphasized the importance of a regional approach to REDD+ in order to maximize the benefits for all countries in the region and ensure common project standards across member countries.

#### **SADC Minister’s meeting in Cancun to discuss way forward**

During the second week of climate negotiation in Cancun, Mexico, the SADC secretariat organised a meeting for SADC Ministers in order to brief them on the current state of negotiations. The SADC Ministers welcomed the opportunity created by the SADC Secretariat for them to meet and discuss during this important phase of the negotiations and agreed to meet again the following days to discuss updates and a way forward. Among the topics for further discussion mentioned by the Ministers were also the preparations for the next COP in 2011 in Durban, South Africa. Further, it was stressed that coordination efforts among SADC member states should be continued in the run-up to the next COP.

For a report on SADC at COP16, see also [IPS Report: Southern Africa Collectively Gearing Up For REDD](#)

### ***EU-Africa Summit: New Joint Africa EU Strategy Action Plan 2011-2013 includes Climate Change***

In the new Africa EU Strategy Action Plan, Climate Change and Energy is identified as one of the priority areas for partnership and cooperation between the two regions. The overall objective is to strengthen capacity and to reinforce coherence in the international negotiation frameworks. Among the priority areas are the operationalisation of the CLIMDEV programme, strengthening of adaptation capacities in Africa as well as the fight against deforestation and REDD among others. As a result of these efforts, Africa is expected to be an active partner in the REDD+ partnership and benefit from REDD+ financing. For further information visit Africa-EU partnerships [here](#) and [here](#)

### ***International Year of Forests and UN Forum on Forests***

The UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) met for its 9th session from 24 January to 4 February in New York. The International Year of Forests (Forests 2011) was launched officially on 2 February 2011 and aims to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. The UNFF adopted a resolution on Forests for People, Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication which includes sections on assessment of progress for achieving the Global Objectives on Forests and implementing the Forest Instrument; regional cooperation; means of implementation; and actions for states and other relevant actors. For more information read [here](#)

[More information on the International Year of Forests](#)

### ***COP17 in Durban, South Africa***

The next UNFCCC Conference of Parties will take place in Durban, South Africa in late 2011. For more information, check out the [website](#).

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

### **SADC Climate Change Positioning Workshop, 26-30 April, Venue tbc**

The SADC Climate Change Positioning Workshop will take place back-to-back with a negotiation skills training that is organised by the SADC Secretariat with support from GIZ. The event targets officials from the SADC countries and aims to equip participants with a comprehensive overview of issues at stake in the UNFCCC process as well as negotiation techniques. Please visit our [website](#) for updates and more details about this event.

### **Africa Carbon Forum 2011, 4-6 July, Marrakesh, Morocco**

The Africa Carbon Forum is a trade fair and knowledge sharing platform for carbon investments in the region. It brings together representatives from Designated National Authorities (DNA), national focal points, representatives from several UN agencies, governments and the private sector. The Africa Carbon Forum includes matchmaking and deal facilitation sessions that will allow potential CDM project developers to showcase their projects to interested parties, including investors and carbon buyers. For more information visit the [website](#).

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