

AFRICAN LEADERSHIP FORUM 2019

PROMOTING GOOD NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT FOR
SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA

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The United Republic of Tanzania
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● ● UONGOZI
● Institute

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AfDB	-	African Development Bank
AfCFTA	-	African Continental Free Trade Area
ALF	-	African Leadership Forum
AMV	-	Africa Mining Vision
AU	-	African Union
CAHOSCC	-	Committee of African Heads of State on Climate Change (of the AU)
CO2	-	Carbon dioxide
COP	-	Conference of the Parties (to the UNFCCC)
EAC	-	East African Community
EEZ	-	Exclusive economic zone
FDI	-	Foreign Direct Investment
FOCAC	-	Forum for China-Africa Cooperation
GDP	-	Gross domestic product
GHGs	-	Greenhouse gases
H.E.	-	His/Her Excellency
IUU	-	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
IPBES	-	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
NEPAD	-	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	-	Non-government organizations
ODA	-	Official development assistance
OECD	-	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	-	Public-private partnership
REC	-	Regional economic community
SADC	-	Southern Africa Development Community
TICAD	-	Tokyo Conference on African Development
UK	-	United Kingdom
UN	-	United Nations
UNECA	-	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNEP	-	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	-	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNREDD	-	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
US	-	United States
USD	-	United States Dollar
WHO	-	World Health Organization
WWF	-	World Wide Fund for Nature

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Executive Summary

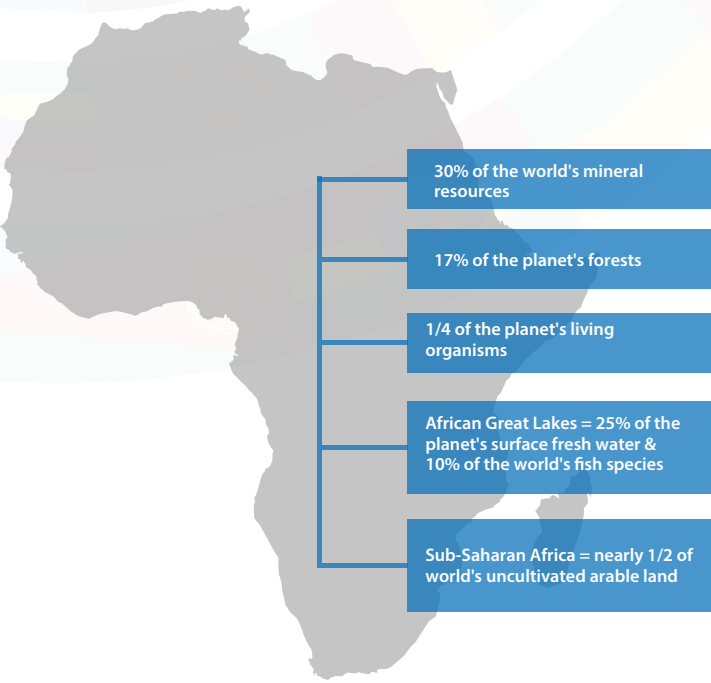
The context for natural resource management in Africa

Africa has a vast wealth of natural resources. The continent has around 30% of the world's mineral resources and is rich in oil and gas reserves. It has 17% of the planet's forests, including the tropical forest of the Congo Basin, the second largest in the world, spanning 450 million hectares. The biodiversity of the continent is immense; it is home to one-quarter of the planet's living organisms. The African Great Lakes—Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika and Lake Malawi—hold approximately 25% of the planet's surface freshwater and 10% of the world's fish species. And Sub-Saharan Africa has 200 million hectares of uncultivated arable land, which is nearly half of the world's total.

At the same time, the ecological and environmental pressures on the continent are escalating due to rapid population growth, increasing international demand for resources and global climate change. Most significantly, the population of Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to double over the next thirty years from just over 1 billion today to 2.2 billion inhabitants in 2050. Globally, by mid-century, 1 in 4 people will be living in Sub-Saharan Africa. To meet the needs of this growing population, regional food production will need to increase by 60% over the next 15 years. But, in countries with predominantly subsistence-based agriculture and limited industrialization, increased food production means excessive land and water usage and the unsustainable expansion of agriculture into forests.

Environmental degradation and depletion

The rate of deforestation—estimated at 0.5% of Africa's total forest per annum—is much higher than any other region in the world. The Food and Agricultural Organization estimates that Africa's forest area declined by 2.8 million hectares between 2010 and 2015. Since 2000, East Africa alone has lost around 6 million hectares of forest.



The biggest contributing factor to the continent's deforestation is the illegal expansion of agriculture into forest areas, which accounts for approximately 80% of the loss of tree cover.

In turn, deforestation and degradation of forested areas have untold consequences for biodiversity and land management. A global assessment completed by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) estimates that one million species of animals and plants are threatened with extinction due to multiple existential threats, including unsustainable human exploitation, the destruction and degradation of habitat, and climate change. Trees also function to retain water and nutrient-rich topsoil. Without them, soil erodes and washes away. Farmers move on and the cycle is perpetuated. The barren land left behind in the wake of these unsustainable agricultural practices is then more susceptible to flooding. In effect, Africa's current growth strategies are pitting man against nature.

Without alternative livelihood opportunities, the same people who rely on its natural resources become the main perpetrators of the depletion and destruction of those resources.

Illicit practices in the exploitation of natural resources are also widespread in Africa. The illicit trade in the forestry sector is estimated at USD 13 billion annually and Africa loses between USD 1 and 2.5 billion each year due to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. It is estimated that at least one out of every four fish caught in Africa is illegally caught but, lacking the capacity to adequately monitor and control its maritime areas, the true extent of the loss is unknown. The scale of wildlife loss is substantial. For example, between 2008 and 2016, around two-thirds of Central Africa's forest elephants were illegally killed for their ivory, and, according to the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and World Wildlife Foundation, the elephant population in Tanzania dropped by 60% between 2009 and 2014.

The impacts of such massive losses and environmental degradation are unsustainable and, in some instances, may be irreversible. In the case of the illicit exploitation of resources, the costs are largely borne by African states, while others pocket the profits. The widescale plundering of the continent's resources not only manifests as the loss of livelihoods and economic opportunities for beneficial local development, but also undermines the rule of law, security and political stability in affected countries and regions.

Human-driven global warming and climate change

All of these challenges are amplified by the risks of global climate change. The most recent [report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) unequivocally indicates the human influence on the world's climate and that continued greenhouse gas emissions will cause further warming and increase the risks to human survival and the natural environment.¹ Despite its abundance of resources, Africa will be especially hard pressed to adjust. The continent remains the world's poorest, with 31 of the continent's 54 countries classified as 'low development' based on the [2019 Human Development Index \(HDI\) report](#) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Limited research data are available on the specific impacts of climate change on the continent, but Africa is already experiencing more extreme weather events.

For example, between January and April 2019, tropical cyclones Desmond, Enawo, Idai and Kenneth caused extensive flooding in Comoros, Mozambique, Tanzania, Madagascar, Malawi and Zimbabwe. The cyclones killed over 1,000 people, injured a further 3,000, damaged economic infrastructure, education and health facilities, and destroyed over 800,000 hectares of cropland as well as crops and seed stocks. Over 3.3 million people were affected and required immediate humanitarian assistance. Also, this year, severe drought conditions have affected Angola, Botswana, Lesotho and Namibia. Indeed, access to water may be the single biggest cause of conflict and war in Africa in the next 25 years, especially in areas where rivers or lakes are shared by more than one country.

The new scramble for Africa's resources

A new scramble is underway for geo-political influence and access to Africa's resources and consumer markets. At the 2018 Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing in September—at which 53 of Africa's 54 countries were represented—the Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged a further USD 60 billion for financing and investment on the continent. In the same month, the United States announced the creation of a new international development finance agency with USD 60 billion to invest in developing countries, targeting Africa, in a move widely viewed as countering Chinese influence on the continent. The European Union, through its External Investment Plan, is on track to invest €44bn in Africa by 2020, the first Russia-Africa summit is planned for October 2019, and many states in the Middle East see the continent as a sphere of influence and are deepening trade links and investment. Ironically, African Union meetings are not very well attended by Africa's leaders and the institution struggles to fund its daily operations, yet the representation of powerful global corporations in Addis Ababa expands year-on-year.

¹IPCC. (2019). Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, et al. (Eds)]. A Summary for Policy Makers can be downloaded at <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/>



Rationale and objectives of ALF 2019

If Africa takes full ownership and control of its resources and their development, the continent will not only be able to feed its growing population (and, potentially, much of the world) and end poverty but also leapfrog into a prosperous socio-economic future. In many respects, Africa is the world's frontier continent, possessing tremendous human capital alongside its resource abundance. With strong leadership and planning, the continent can take advantage of its later industrialization to become a powerhouse in the green economy of the future. Unlike many mature economies, Africa does not need to retrofit infrastructure but can leverage its existing resource base, high capacity for renewable energy and early adoption of digital technologies to track a path of green industrialization. Natural resource management needs to be transformed from a minority issue—because presently only a minority benefit from Africa's resource wealth—into a majority concern.

For many decades, the continent has placed great emphasis on utilizing its mineral resources and oil and gas reserves for socio-economic transformation, and less store in the potential in its renewable resources—land, forests, wildlife and fish—to foster development.

This loophole has unconsciously provided room for their unsustainable use. Unless African countries revisit and strengthen conservation and management of these resources, both present and future generations will not only face socio-economic challenges but also increasing risks from climate change. Africa must find a balance between the needs of its population and the preservation of its environment.

It is against this background that H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, convened the sixth African Leadership Forum (ALF) in Dar es Salaam on 29-30 August 2019 under the theme *"Promoting Good Natural Resource Management for Socio-Economic Transformation in Africa"*. Organized by the UONGOZI Institute, the Forum engaged over 100 distinguished leaders from the public sector, private sector, academia and civil society to discuss the role and challenges of managing and utilizing Africa's natural resources for the continent's sustainable development.²

The keynote address was delivered by H.E. Benjamin Mkapa followed by plenary discussion and an address by the H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. The Vice President

of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, and five former African Heads of State were in attendance: H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; H.E. Thabo Mbeki, former President of the Republic of South Africa; H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania; H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, former President of the Federal Republic of Somalia; and H.E. Hery Rajaonarimampianina, former President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar.

Following the plenary session, three closed discussion sessions were held, each with introductions by expert presenters.³

- Session I discussed the basic principles for managing land, wildlife, fisheries and forestry resources to foster socio-economic transformation in Africa.
- Session II examined the scale and impact of illicit practices in the continent's natural resources and ways to combat illegal activities and stem the losses.
- Session III deliberated on Africa's perspective on climate change and its impact on natural resources with a focus on the energy sector.

As in previous years, the three closed sessions of ALF 2019 were held under Chatham House Rules to encourage open and in-depth dialogue.

Key messages and recommendations

Throughout the event, the presenters and delegates candidly contributed their experiences and ideas to overcome the challenges to Africa's natural resource management—domestically and internationally—to accelerate the process of socio-economic transformation. This report provides edited summaries from all presentations and discussion sessions. Key messages and recommendations to protect the continent's natural capital and realize its development aspirations are summarized in the sections below.

Sensitize and educate Africa's leadership about natural resource management and climate change

Participants highlighted the critical importance of sensitizing and educating the leadership of African countries on natural resource management and climate change. Leaders will need to accept the reality and understand the magnitude of the climate crisis the world faces. Countries will need to mainstream natural resource management in national and regional visions and strategies, and prioritize and fund solutions to counter environmental depletion and degradation and climate change, whilst accommodating the needs of populations that depend upon natural resources for their livelihoods. To begin, land use policies will be a necessary foundation for natural resource

² See Appendix A for the List of Delegates

³ See Appendix B for the Forum Agenda



H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli

management. They should spell out the rights of occupancy (with a minimum of equivocation) and an adjudication system for resolution of land disputes.

As happened during the struggles for independence and for ending apartheid in South Africa, inspired leadership will be essential to unite the continent as a matter of survival. Any “remnants of a colonial mindset” need to be jettisoned. The only way for the continent to bring about economic liberation and protect its political independence is to recover ownership of its natural resources and the full autonomy to manage and use them for the benefit of its people. To realize these goals, strong “fit-for-purpose” public institutions are going to be needed to tie the sustainable use of resources to the economic aspirations of the continent. These entities will have to adhere to the highest standards of accountability and transparency so that all actors in the natural resources space can be held accountable to environmental laws and regulations.

*If you do not depend on yourself,
you cannot be free, as your
freedom will be in the hands of
who you depend on.*

—H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph
Magufuli, President of the United
Republic of Tanzania

Identify, map and cost all resource endowments

Each African state needs to accurately know its resource endowments. Leaders will need appropriate tools

and comprehensive data to ensure that all ecosystem services and resources are mapped and costed. This will require building databases on the type, quantity and value of natural resources within the country (as well as on the illicit trade). The practice of working on the basis of wild ‘guesstimates’ should no longer be tolerated. One advantage of accurate information is that countries would be able to benefit from Forest Certification and product traceability mechanisms. Information systems also aid monitoring and enhance transparency and accountability. In addition, they can facilitate agreements and collaboration between countries within the region to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

Protect Africa’s natural capital and biodiversity

Now, more than ever, public and private interventions are needed to protect Africa’s natural capital. Concerted actions are required to reduce poaching, tackle the illegal wildlife trade, protect wildlife in their natural habitats and restore ecosystems. National commitments to preserve Africa’s national park, nature reserves and wild lands as areas of national and world heritage need to be renewed and strengthened. Encroachment should not be entertained or accommodated. To achieve these outcomes, education and interventions will be essential for communities to understand the true cultural, socio-economic, biological and scientific significance of these areas and transition their activities from a harvesting to a management approach. In this way, populations can be conscientized and empowered as protectors of land, forest and water resources. Wildlife and wild lands are integral to, not in conflict with, development.

Each country has the responsibility to care for the environment within its jurisdiction, and national biodiversity policies and action plans need to be devised and implemented to protect Africa’s unique flora and fauna. Of important note, the current negotiations to set the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework offer a once-in-a-decade opportunity for Africa to establish realistic but ambitious targets for biodiversity and secure the financial support to implement action plans at country level. Given that Africa is home to a quarter of the world’s biodiversity, the continent is uniquely positioned to lead the

Post-2020 initiative and champion the shared global responsibility for safeguarding biodiversity.

Put in place a comprehensive Africa-wide governance system for natural resources

To stop the plunder of the continent’s natural resources, a comprehensive Africa-wide governance system needs to be put in place. Inter-regional cooperation will be required to enforce existing frameworks to prevent the illicit trade of natural resources. At present, many countries do not have the capacity to monitor their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and, even where cooperation does exist, regional borders remain porous when not all countries are signatories to agreements. Positively, the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement can pave the way for other protocols in support of its implementation, including those on natural resource governance.

Beyond national and regional drivers, illicit practices in renewable resources are influenced by global actors, institutions and structures. Therefore, Africa should take advantage of the existing regional and global platforms to leverage collective action. Part of this work needs to focus on shutting off demand for illicit natural resource products in foreign consumer markets through mounting effective awareness-raising campaigns. No single country can effectively address these challenges. International mechanisms of justice are needed to stop the illegal exploitation of Africa’s resources, and a united African voice will be essential to negotiate the terms of global treaties and conventions for the continent’s long-term benefit. The African Union and regional economic communities (RECs) can play key leadership roles to facilitate engagements, articulate common positions when leaders meet in Africa, and then explore opportunities for partnerships with the rest of the world.

Promote technological innovation and develop value chains for raw materials

Africa will not be able manage and utilize its resources beneficially without domestic industries. Socio-economic transformation cannot be attained by exporting cash crops, raw minerals, forestry, livestock and fish. To meet its aspirations, the continent must promote technological innovation and develop value

chains and promote economic diversification. The technology does not have to be complex or expensive. Rather, the ultimate goal is to create decent jobs for Africa's youth and retain as a large a percentage of the value of resources within the continent.

Taken together, the four sectors—forestry, fisheries, wildlife and agriculture—constitute about 25% of Africa's GDP, yet public investment in those sectors is approximately 4%. To promote more positive economic outcomes, additional policy attention and public investment are warranted in proportion to other key development sectors, such as education and health. In addition, Africa must promote and expand its own domestic and regional markets for natural resources and intermediate products. Perversely, it is easier to sell goods to China or Europe than to trade within Africa.

Improve productivity in the agricultural sector and reduce post-harvest losses

Highly productive agricultural systems will be needed to sustain the continent's rapidly growing population. African farmers need higher-yielding, more resilient food crops, greater access to electricity and irrigation, and better infrastructure that links them to lucrative regional food markets. To date, however, agriculture has been constrained by over-reliance on subsistence farming, poor infrastructure, minimal digitalization and weak commercialization. Productivity remains extremely low, and an estimated 30% to 50% of production is lost due to poor harvest, processing, storage and handling practices. These post-harvest losses translate into lost resources—land (and soil and fertility), water, energy and inputs. In effect, Africa is haemorrhaging resources because of poor practices. Instead of putting more land under cultivation, the amount of food available (and the resources used to produce it) can be increased simply by ensuring that the crops produced reach the end users. These are basic things within countries' capacity and control to rectify.

Formalize extractive activities in natural resource sectors

A significant proportion of extractive activities in the natural resource sectors are informal in nature. And, with little or no governance, the informal sector can encourage illicit practices. Such practices need to be dis-incentivized and the best way to do this is to provide incentives for legitimate activities and

beneficial trade through formal and legal mechanisms. Public investments in small and medium-sized businesses and community-based initiatives in fisheries, forestry and agriculture are 'very low-hanging fruit' that can provide the incentives to reduce the illegal exploitation of natural resources. Formalization also has flow-on benefits for government (including increased revenue through taxes), businesses and public-private partnerships.

Educate and engage communities to protect the environment and renew damaged ecosystems

Communities must be sensitised and empowered to protect their natural resources. Educating people about the consequences of over-utilization of resources and engaging communities in conservation initiatives will be beneficial steps to protect the continent's natural capital. In particular, reforestation is vitally important to restore ecosystems and slow climate change. [A recent research study published in the journal Science⁴](#) found that planting billions of trees across the world is by far the cheapest and most efficient way to tackle climate change. Forests also provide significant environmental and economic benefits. They prevent soil erosion, help maintain water resources, and forestry-related activities offer opportunities for jobs and skills development. Tree planting may not be enough by itself, but it is an immediate and inclusive response to climate change. Every community can be directly involved, and any carbon credits accrued can be devolved for the benefit of participating communities. Incentive mechanisms should also be devised to encourage the transition away from the use of biomass fuels, such as firewood and charcoal. Self-reliance and grassroots interventions become the keys to a better future.

Transition the African energy sector for social and economic transformation

Increasing the access to adequate, reliable, affordable energy services while minimizing the risk of catastrophic global warming lies at the heart of Africa's development challenge. Overall, Africa has a persistently low-quality energy system neither fit for the purpose of powering the continent's development nor preserving the environment, especially given the widespread use of firewood and charcoal.

The continent has never looked at energy as a critical geopolitical issue. Countries have largely viewed

energy resources as commodities for export, rather than a strategic issue for national and continental development. Unless this changes, more Africans will be without access to energy by 2030 than today. Africa needs an 'Energy for Development' vision that aligns national development aspirations with the goals of Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement in ways that maximize synergies and minimize trade-offs. Renewable sources of energy will be key for countries to meet SDG 7, which aims to *"ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all"*.

Solar energy will be an important part of the renewable energy mix. Solar is suitable for household, agricultural, industrial and utility-scale electricity generation and is also a valuable source of heat and light. In addition, the technology required to use solar power can be deployed at almost any scale from 3 watts to charge a torch to 100 megawatts to power a city. And unlike most competing sources of energy, solar can be deployed at the same location as, or very close to, users. This is critically important as solar power can be generated and used locally instead of power requiring infrastructure and transmission systems over long distances. Like other technologies, the price of solar is coming down and will become more cost effective if appropriate energy policies are adopted. Positively, renewable sources of energy have increased faster than expected, storage systems are improving, and investment in the electrification of the transport sector is ramping up. All of these developments offer huge opportunities for Africa's energy sector to leapfrog into the future.

New and innovative institutions with access to long-term resources (including but not limited to financial resources) will be required to deliver the energy vision. And perhaps the most difficult aspect of the problem is solving the immediate fuel problem while still investing in longer-term interventions. In the short-term, liquefied natural gas can replace the use of firewood and charcoal, then over the mid- to long-term solar-generated electricity can fuel the continent's development.

Adopt a "Common but Differentiated Responsibility" approach to address climate change

Climate change is a global phenomenon, but its impacts are country (and region) specific. Therefore, each country must have a national climate action plan. These plans need to clearly identify what the country can do as well as what the rest of the world can support. Acknowledging the global political movement on climate change, African states should take full advantage of dedicated funds for climate mitigation and adaptation, such as the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#) and the [Green Climate Fund](#).

Given that climate change impacts both natural and social systems, integrated solutions will be needed to build climate resilience, especially where communities are directly dependent on natural resources for their survival and well-being. Through the leadership of the Committee of African Heads of State on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) of the African Union, several initiatives have been created, for example, the [African Renewable Energy Initiative \(AREI\)](#) and the [African Adaptation Initiative \(AAI\)](#). The continent must now follow through on these initiatives. And, as is being done elsewhere, Africa countries need to make a business case out of climate change, in particular, governments and businesses need to commoditize carbon emissions. Lastly, African countries would be prudent to "front-load" key systems, such as food and energy, within the world's remaining carbon budget. And, as in the fight against illicit trade in natural resources, strong representation and technical expertise (and an improved evidence base on the domestic impacts of global warming) will enable Africa to bring a more united voice and agenda to international meetings and negotiations.

⁴Bastin, J-F., Finegold, Y., Gracia, C., Mollicone, D., Rezende, M., Routh, D. et al. (2019). The global tree restoration potential. Science , 365 (6448), 76-79. DOI: 10.1126/science.aax0848



H.E. Mkapa delivers welcoming remarks and keynote address.

Plenary Session: Promoting good natural resources management for socio-economic transformation in Africa

A. Welcoming remarks and keynote address by H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania

H.E. Mkapa welcomed delegates to the sixth African Leadership Forum. To begin, he recalled the gracious hospitality of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, and the Rwanda Development Board in hosting the previous forum in Kigali, and acknowledged the

honour of the invitation by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, to host this year's forum at the State House in Dar es Salaam. He thanked participants for their attendance and advised that, as in previous meetings,

the discussions following the plenary session were to be held under Chatham House Rules to encourage frank and open dialogue. He acknowledged the generous sponsors of the event, including the African Wildlife Foundation, the Independent Television Tanzania, Tanzania Broadcasting Cooperation and Diamond Trust Bank Tanzania. A special word of thanks was also extended to the Government of Finland for their financial support over the six sessions of the ALF series.

H.E. Mkapa noted that the keynote address was originally to be given by Dr Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank. However, Dr Adesina was committed to attending the Tokyo Conference on African Development (TICAD) in Japan, the dates of which coincided with the Forum. In his absence, former President Mkapa had agreed to deliver the keynote.

H.E. Mkapa said that the theme of this year's event—promoting good natural resources management—touches upon the growth prospects of many African countries, if not all of them, and the lives of all their citizens. Within this theme, his address examined three closely related topics: i) conservation; ii) land management; and iii) and climate change.

Introducing the first topic, he said that conservation is generally (but narrowly and erroneously) understood as the coverage and protection of national parks, forests and wetland reserves. Consequently, conservation is perceived as the backbone of tourism, and given the small-scale nature of domestic tourism in Africa, it is considered to cater to foreigners and have little economic impact on ordinary citizens. However, he stressed:

This is a misperception. Absence of a conservation policy and accompanying programs can have a disastrous impact on the nation's ecosystems and weather prospects.

In addition, to enable vibrant economic growth, it is necessary to put in place sustainable land management. For this second topic, former President Mkapa introduced the United Nations definition of "sustainable land management" as "the use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants for the production of goods to meet changing human needs". It envisages the adoption of land use systems that, through appropriate management practices, enable land users to maximize the economic and social benefits from the land while

maintaining or enhancing the ecological support functions of the land resources. Sustainable land management involves a holistic approach to achieving productive and healthy ecosystems. The realization of such a land management paradigm calls for the involvement and partnership of land users, technical experts and policy makers in government and political parties.

In contrast, he said the destruction and diminution of the ecological and social environment can be attributed to two causes, namely, human activities and their interface with nature. Significantly, in Sub-Saharan Africa, the population is set to cross the 1 billion mark this year, and increased food production in countries with limited industrialization—i.e., much of Africa—means extra pressure on the land. Basic agricultural transformation means encroachment into forest land and excessive land use. While more hoes and tractors will need to be put to the land, it is necessary to bear in mind that the land is finite, and so are land-related assets.

Human-driven global warming and climate change

Turning to the third issue, H.E. Mkapa said that human activities, especially those that use fossil fuels for industrial production, electricity generation and motor vehicles are affecting the world's climate. The gases produced by such activities are building up in the atmosphere, trapping too much of the sun's heat and raising the earth's temperature – a process known as global warming. As the earth heats up, it alters rainfall and other weather and climatic conditions. Africa, as the poorest and least developed of the world's regions, will be especially hard pressed to adjust.

He related that, in September 2006, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) convened a regional conference on climate change adaptation, which was attended by 33 African governments alongside international agencies and civil society groups. That meeting highlighted the need for greater monitoring and early warning of climate changes and severe weather events, like droughts and floods, and called for integration of long-term adaptation strategies into development and disaster-preparedness programmes. As Sierra Leonean climate scientist, Oguniade Davidson observed, global warming is a "double loser for countries in Africa." In explanation, Professor Davidson said:

Africa never enjoyed the financial benefits generated by putting greenhouse gases up there—through the Industrial Revolution of the developed countries—in the first place, so it never accumulated the wealth to be able to bear the shocks. [Now, African countries have] to cope with the effects of a situation they did not create with resources they do not have.

At the recently concluded 39th Summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Dar es Salaam two weeks ago, the outgoing Chairman, President Hage Geingob of Namibia, pointed out the immense damage caused by severe weather events in the region between January and April 2019. Tropical cyclones Desmond, Enawo, Idai and Kenneth caused extensive flooding in Comoros, Mozambique, Tanzania, Madagascar, Malawi and Zimbabwe. The cyclones killed over 1,000 people, injured a further 3,000 people, damaged economic infrastructure, education and health facilities, and destroyed over 800,000 hectares of cropland as well as crops and seed stocks. Over 3.3 million people were affected and required immediate humanitarian assistance. Also, this year, severe drought conditions have affected Angola, Botswana, Lesotho and Namibia.

Continuing, H.E. Mkapa said that climate change manifests and is felt in different ways. It is occasioned by global warming and excessive depletion of renewable natural resources. Tanzania is a prime example with 70% of its population engaged as peasant farmers and livestock herders. As the country's economy and population grow, its renewable natural resources are declining through over-harvesting, land degradation and unsustainable use. He specifically highlighted the issue of land degradation and how it can lead to conflict between peasant farmers and herders. And, he used the word "peasant" very deliberately because their style of cultivation and livestock keeping is very ancient. Farmers claim that the whole national territory is for agriculture and herders consider that the whole national territory is pastureland, which can lead to conflict over access and use.

Africa's natural capital must be preserved and enriched

H.E. Mkapa considered that Africa's current growth strategies are pitting people against nature.

I dare to suggest that much of the present and planned growth is not taking enough consideration of the region's human and natural resources base. Increasing demands are placed on land and other natural resources, [which are] affecting nature and wildlife reserves. In this way, development is made to pit people and nature/wildlife reserves in competition. Under this strategy, land becomes degraded and less productive, tourism resources become decimated, people are impoverished, [and] the heritage of national and animal history are consigned to electronic archives. Ultimately, both people and wildlife suffer.

Therefore, concerted efforts are needed to preserve and enrich Africa's natural capital. Poorly planned agricultural settlements, infrastructure development and resource extraction must not drive the degradation of forests, rivers and grasslands. If they do, the resulting habitat loss and fragmentation will inevitably threaten the ecosystem goods and services upon which people and wildlife both depend.

Afforestation is vitally important to restore ecosystems and slow climate change

Former President Mkapa said that one sure way of slowing down ecosystem destruction is afforestation, i.e., planting new trees. He said:

Forests provide many economic and environmental benefits. They prevent soil erosion and help maintain water resources. Forestry-related activities offer opportunities for jobs and skills development for youth and women. We can protect natural forests and plant new forests. If we do that, we can create jobs as an answer to our growing population.

However, the present situation is dire. In Tanzania, an estimated 8,770 square kilometers of forest disappears each year. In the last 15 years, 130,000 square kilometers of land have been deforested. If this trend continues, by 2075, there will be no forests in Tanzania.

Positively, reforestation is possible. In Kenya, Wangari Maathai's Green Belt Movement planted over 50 million trees around Nairobi over 10 years. And, since May this year, Ethiopia has planted 2.6 billion trees as part of a campaign to fight desertification. The target for Ethiopia is to plant 4 billion trees by the second half of this year, which is an average of 40 trees for every one of Ethiopia's 100 million people.

Turning to the situation in Tanzania, H.E. Mkapa said the prospects for tree planting are very good because the country's soils are not yet badly degraded. He highlighted the Kilimanjaro Tree Project, a recent volunteer tree-planting initiative that aims to restore the environment around Mount Kilimanjaro. Leaders of the project hope this initiative will extend throughout Tanzania, providing inspiration just as the torch lit on the top of the mountain when Tanganyika gained independence was a symbol for the freedom fighters of colonial southern Africa and racist minority-ruled South Africa.

A recent research study published in the journal *Science*⁵ found that planting billions of trees across the world is by far the cheapest and most efficient way to tackle climate change. As trees grow, they absorb and store the carbon dioxide emissions that are driving global warming. The research estimates that the implementation of worldwide tree-planting programmes could remove two-thirds of all the emissions that have been pumped into the atmosphere by human activities, a "mind-blowing" figure according to the scientists.

This analysis calculated how many additional trees could be planted globally without encroaching on crop land or urban areas. It found that the world has 1.7 billion hectares of treeless land on which 1.2 trillion native tree saplings would naturally grow. Using the most efficient methods, 1 trillion trees could be restored for as little as 300 billion dollars. But the chief drawback of reforestation as a solution to the climate crisis is that trees grow slowly. A period of between 50 to 100 years is projected before full carbon-sequestering potential is reached.

Addressing global warming

H.E. Mkapa frankly admitted that achieving concerted international action to address global warming may be "too tall an order. But there is no alternative." Interest and action by government, the general public and environmental activists must be aroused on the worsening climate impacts and remedial measures.

During the commemoration of the International Day for Biodiversity on 20 May 2019, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres observed that "the quality of water we drink, the food we eat, the air we

breathe, all depend on keeping the natural world healthy." He also underlined that biodiversity and protection of ecosystems are essential to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and to address climate change. Mr. Guterres urged all governments, business and civil society to "take urgent action to protect and sustainably manage the fragile and vital web of life on our one and only planet."

A special climate summit has been called to be held in New York on 23 September, which will be followed by COP 25 in Santiago, Chile, and COP 26 in the UK. The UN Convention on the Laws of the Sea will also meet to negotiate a new global oceans treaty next year. It may be possible to reach an agreement emphasizing sustainable farming and fishing on the one hand and a limit to deforestation on the other. Former President Mkapa stressed that Africa must be represented at all of these gatherings.

Recommendations for action to protect the continent's natural capital and realize its development aspirations

Having outlined the grave challenges facing Africa, H.E. Mkapa offered a series of recommendations to confront these challenges. He advocated for countries throughout Africa to:

- Renew national commitments to preserve national parks, nature reserves and wild lands as areas of national and world heritage. These areas can contribute to national income and job creation. Encroachment should not be entertained or accommodated. Indeed, flora and fauna are important factors in realizing national development aspirations.
- Incorporate communities in programmes for sustainable management of forests. The carbon credits derived therefrom should be devolved to the benefit of participating communities. The United Nations Programme for Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UNREDD) should also devolve financial incentives for adaptation in land use.
- Ensure that governments and communities always collaborate in the introduction of climate-sensitive agriculture and sustainable energy

⁵Bastin, J-F., Finegold, Y., Gracia, C., Mollicone, D., Rezende, M., Routh, D. et al. (2019). The global tree restoration potential. *Science*, 365 (6448), 76-79. DOI: 10.1126/science.aax0848

solutions. Communities must be sensitized and empowered to secure their water resources. Water user associations must be encouraged as well as rainwater harvesting. The population must be conscientized to the reality that development is not someone else's concern. Rather, self-reliance and self-development are the keys to a better future.

- Put in place, in both policy and practice, a land use policy, which spells out (with a minimum of equivocation) the rights of occupancy, an adjudication system for the resolution of land disputes, and clear guidelines and procedures for determination and enforcement. Simultaneously, countries should adopt an ecosystem-based adaptation for rural resilience.
- Embark on programmes of reforestation and educate the populace on the importance of reversing land degradation and renewing degraded ecosystems.
- Orient the citizenry towards the search for alternative clean fuels while governments consider and promote wind and solar energy.
- Continue and expand public and citizen education on the imperative of respecting and protecting designated national forests, national parks and national wildlife and wild lands. Africa's citizens must be made to appreciate the true socio-economic, biological and scientific importance of wetlands, and assisted to change from a harvesting to a management approach.

Protecting Africa's wild lands and wildlife protects Africa's future

Continuing, H.E. Mkapa highlighted a recent landmark [United Nations report](#) ⁶ which revealed that one million species are at risk of extinction with alarming implications for human survival. Hence, now, more than ever, public and private interventions are needed to protect Africa's natural capital as vital cultural and economic assets for future generations of Africans. To do so, concerted actions are needed to reduce poaching, tackle the illegal wildlife trade, protect wildlife in their natural habitats and restore ecosystems,

and support Africans to prioritize wildlife and wild lands as essential to, not in conflict with, development. National biodiversity policies and action plans need to be devised and implemented as an integral part of safeguarding Africa's natural capital.

A backdrop of global political and social turmoil

Former President Mkapa observed that the world today is characterized by rapidly advancing disorientation and dysfunction. Big power alliances are coming apart while small power integration is proceeding at a snail's pace. Development aid is increasingly questioned because it is seen as a dirty word. Africa is seen much more as a source of minerals, and its migrants are not only resented in Europe but are left to die as they strive to cross the Mediterranean. In such a chaotic world environment, Africa must review its development perspective and strengthen its capacity for self-reliance.

He concluded with a story.

A surgeon, a field marshal and a politician had had a very liquid lunch together and were now in deep argument.

"A surgeon's job is the oldest profession in the world," said the surgeon.

"What makes you say that?" asked the field marshal.

"Well," replied the surgeon, "when woman was created, she was made from one of Adam's ribs, and surely only a surgeon would do something like that."

"Nonsense!" snorted the field marshal. "Even before Adam and Eve, there was a world and it is said order was created out of chaos. Who else could do that but a soldier of the highest rank?"

"Ah!" said the politician. "But who do you think created the chaos in the first place?"

Therefore, in closing, H.E. Mkapa quipped:

It is to Africa's politicians that we must look to sort out the land degradation and climate challenge chaos!

⁶See Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). 2019. Summary for Policymakers of the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.



From L-R: H.E. Hery Rajaonarimampianina, H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, H.E. Thabo Mbeki, and Mr. Ali Mufuruki.

B. Plenary discussion

Moderator: Ms. Julie Gichuru

Panellists:

- H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania
- H.E. Thabo Mbeki, former President of the Republic of South Africa
- H.E. Hery Rajaonarimampianina, former President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar
- Mr. Ali Mufuruki, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Infotech Investment Group Limited

A panel discussion followed the keynote address during which delegates candidly contributed their experiences and ideas to overcome the major challenges in promoting good natural resource management in Africa. Key messages that emerged from the discussions are summarized in the sections below. To open the discussion, the moderator, Ms. Julie Gichuru, spoke to one of the central issues raised by H.E. Mkapa, the challenge of deforestation. She remarked that many Africans continue to use charcoal and firewood as their main or only source of energy to cook for their families. But this traditional practice has disastrous consequences. Not only does it result in the cutting down of forests to meet the demand for charcoal but [according to the World Health Organization](#), almost 4 million people a year die prematurely from illness attributable to the household air pollution caused by the inefficient use of solid fuels such as charcoal and kerosene for cooking.

Clearly, policies and partnerships are needed to encourage, among other things, the move towards clean energy. Hence, Ms. Gichuru started by asking the panellists, “Why is this not happening?”

Understanding the link between population and natural resource degradation

In his opening remarks, **H.E. Rajaonarimampianina** provided a brief background of his home country of Madagascar. He related that Madagascar is a very big island, 106,000 square kilometres in area. Astonishingly, the island holds 5% of global biodiversity, and 85% of the fauna and flora of Madagascar is endemic. Unfortunately, however, Madagascar is witnessing the degradation of this unique ecological environment both on land and sea. For example, it is estimated that the country loses around USD 500 million per year due to illegal fishing, a sum which is far greater than the USD 350 million obtained through traditional fishing. Hence, promoting good natural resource management is at the heart of national development. Of equal importance, stakeholders must recognize that 75% of the population relies directly on natural resources. For

example, when speaking with NGOs and donors, he remarked:

I would say: It is well and good for you to come and protect an unprotected area, [and] to work on its conservation, but you are basically closing down the forest. You are dealing [with] and handling what is within the forest but the population living outside those protected areas, what do we do with them? They live here and they rely on those natural resources.

Research and development are needed to find sustainable alternatives to charcoal

H.E. Obasanjo highlighted that finding alternatives for charcoal in rural areas was extremely difficult. At present, the use of gas is limited to urban and peri-urban areas, and reaching rural areas with renewable sources, such as solar energy, is even more problematic. Families need reliable sources of energy for cooking at all times of the day and evening. Until a viable solution, trees will continue to be cut down. H.E. Rajaonarimampianina concurred with former

President Obasanjo. He said that deforestation was one of the greatest challenges facing Madagascar, but, up to now, the country has not been able to find any sustainable and durable alternatives to charcoal. All the solutions to date—gas, ethanol and electricity—are too costly, especially in rural areas. Africa will need to invest in research and development to find cheaper solutions. He strongly believed in solar energy for the future (and wind energy also) but counselled that a balance needed to be struck between the management of natural resources and the interests of the population. People will also need appropriate education to adopt new technologies. He said:

We should not be ashamed of this problem of education (or lack of) because the rural population only think in the short term. They are only thinking about their survival today. They are not thinking what will happen in ten, twenty, a hundred years. ... We need to be able to solve their problem today so that they do not destroy the environment.

During contributions from the floor, one delegate strongly recommended investing in the youth of the continent, who are already coming up with tangible solutions, for example, converting waste, such as sawdust and charcoal dust from charcoal vendors, to make briquettes.

People need to be educated to preserve their environment

H.E. Rajaonarimpianina also stressed the need to educate citizens on their vital role in conserving and preserving their environment.

What we need is education ... [so that people] imagine that their natural resources, that their environment constitutes a big capital ... and they need to protect them. ... I have been telling my people pay attention. ... Forests are renewable resources [and] we have seas where we can fish but if there is over-exploitation, there is a risk of not being able to utilize the products. In other words, these will not be renewable anymore.

Later, during contributions from the floor, one delegate reiterated the importance of education to optimize the management and use of natural resources. He highlighted the work of WorldFish in Egypt, an organization which seeks to reduce poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture. The

organization had recently established the Fish for Africa Innovation Hub. He said:

We realized Africans are not able to do even small things like fish farming. The technology is very simple, but many countries are struggling with it. Why? Because we have not spent enough of our resources to teach our people how to farm fish. ... So, these are the things that we are now trying to do to help people. ... We are already dealing with over 13 African countries, who are coming to get this help.

Tapping into traditional knowledge to protect the environment

Building on the theme of education, one participant highlighted the importance of tapping into (or re-discovering and teaching) traditional knowledge for the protection of the environment. For example, when growing up in Kilimanjaro region, children were always taught to take care of water sources and forests. The environment was protected without undue pressure from the central government. However, this power was effectively taken away from the communities and transferred to natural resource management officers. Rather than protecting the environment, they started selling trees through “back doors”, such that locals were not even allowed to cut trees without having the permission from the traditional rulers. In conclusion, this contributor recommended that Africa needs to reflect on “what have we lost from our traditional education system which was very protective of our environment. We did not have electricity, but we were not cutting down trees.”

Sensitization of Africa’s leadership about natural resource management

Describing the environmental crisis facing Lake Chad—which has shrunk to only 10% of its surface area over the last 50 years—**H.E. Mbeki** highlighted the critical importance of sensitizing and educating the leadership of African countries on natural resource management.

A contributor from the floor wholeheartedly agreed with the importance of education in improving natural resources management. In particular, she emphasized the need for adequate and clear accounting systems for natural capital, especially in educating and raising awareness among African political leaders. Leaders need to be provided with appropriate tools and accurate data to ensure that all ecosystem services and

resources are adequately captured and costed. In this way, natural resources management can be given due weight similar to the health and education sectors.

Unique national responsibilities for a global problem

Mr. Ali Mufuruki agreed with the seriousness of the challenges faced with regards to management of the environment. However, in contrast with earlier speakers, he considered that most people were aware of the importance of environmental conservation given widespread media coverage of the global climate crisis. Rather than a lack of awareness, the principal problem was a lack of solutions. People cut down trees for firewood or to make charcoal because they have no other way to survive.

Continuing, he related that Tanzania’s national power utility has an installed capacity of around 1,500 megawatts, which represents only about 8% of the country’s energy usage. He said:

Where does the rest, the 92%, come from? Mother Nature! 92% of all the energy consumed in this country, consumed in most African countries is unaccounted for, is not priced. Nobody knows how much. You have to do some very serious mathematical calculations to understand how big the charcoal economy is, the charcoal and fuel wood economy that raised all of us. It is so big! If it was monetized, what we take every single year from Mother Earth just to cook, heat and wash would be much bigger than the GDP of this country.

Mr. Mufuruki was not optimistic that planting trees was going to be enough to solve the problem; Africa’s forests were being cut down faster than new trees could be planted and grow to maturity. Nevertheless, solutions needed to be found or the natural environment of the continent would be destroyed—no more trees, no more water, no more animals.

He said that each country has a vital responsibility to care for the environment within its jurisdiction. For example, Tanzania is surrounded by three very important lakes—Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika and Lake Nyasa. The combined volume of these three lakes adds up to more than 33% of all the fresh water available to mankind on this planet! But these lakes are under grave threat from extreme weather conditions,

from overuse and pollution, and from over-fishing. He said:

We in Tanzania have a responsibility to the rest of the world that others do not have. We, the People of the Great Lakes—just like the Amazon is considered to be the lungs of the world—we are the protectors and custodians of the waters of the world.

However, he added that this is a responsibility that Tanzania or the countries of the Great Lakes cannot carry by themselves. He said:

Where are the options? Where is the money to do that? How can we stop people from cutting trees? We do not have 75 billion dollars a year to give them alternatives. We have solar. We have a lot of other things. But they cost too much money for our big population, which is growing very fast.

In closing his remarks, Mr. Mufuruki said that he wanted to illustrate the nature and the magnitude of the problem that Africa and the world faces, but also wished to highlight “the different responsibilities that different countries have and the different risks that we face ... because death by environmental destruction happens in one lifetime for people who depend on the environment as much as we do.”

In response, the facilitator, Ms. Gichuru remarked:

We must start to see ourselves as the protectors of our waters, the forest keepers and start to transform our communities to understand that these are careers that we should nurture and grow.

Leadership and political will to prioritize solutions to slow environmental degradation and climate change

H.E. Mkapa agreed with his colleagues that education was central to finding solutions to the depletion and degradation of many aspects of the environment, including the fertility of soil, forests, wildlife, fresh water and sea resources. Like H.E. Mbeki, he considered that the real question was “whether there is enough awareness by decision-makers, particularly political decision-makers, to prioritize this search for solutions. I wish these issues were given as much priority as elections!”

If, as H.E. Rajaonariamampianina had pointed out earlier, population pressure leads to resource depletion, then countries must put in place appropriate population policies. Similarly, countries need appropriate land policies. He lamented that the continent’s 54 countries all have different land ownership and land use systems, and, in many African states, herders and farmers are eternally locked in turmoil and conflict.

To conclude, H.E. Mkapa said that what is needed is “above all, the prioritization of survival.” He enumerated three overarching priorities: i) leaders should recognize the seriousness of these problems; ii) leaders should provide the legislative and institutional mechanisms for sorting out the contradictions that arise; and iii) they should have the guts to tackle these issues head-on. He cautioned that this was not about identifying people or groups to blame. Rather, it is simply accepting the reality and magnitude of the crisis the world faces.

Former President Obasanjo echoed the statements by H.E. Mkapa. In particular, he highlighted the issue of Africa’s rapid population growth. He said that since 1960 almost all African countries have increased their population by a factor of five. At independence, Nigeria’s population was about 45 million. Now, the population is over 200 million and by the year 2050 it is estimated to be between 415 million and 450 million. He issued a stark challenge:

How do we get our people to know that the danger that is looming ahead will be destructive to ourselves, destructive to the environment? We are complaining about the environment, [but] there may be no environment to complain about...The point is: Can we continue to live the way we are living or should we really find a way of living that will harmonize our own living with the environment? We must also be bold enough to challenge those who do not see things the way they should see it.

Taking up this final point, H.E. Obasanjo was critical of the stance taken by the current president of the United States who denied the reality of climate change.

I believe that should be something that we should talk about because there are some people who will take the cue from that ... if America says that there should be nothing to worry about then there is nothing to worry about, while there is everything in the world to worry about. I believe that is the greatest disservice to humankind.

Disaggregate the issues and allocate responsibilities for environmental protection

In response to the question on how tough decisions can be made to address the critical challenges facing the environment of the continent, H.E. Mbeki advised that solving the problems necessitated identifying specific issues and acting on them. Disaggregating the issues will enable allocating responsibilities for their management. For example, the problems and responsibilities for managing and protecting the continent’s Great Lakes, for her rainforests and for her fish stocks can be more clearly delineated. In particular, he highlighted the enormous challenge to stop illegal logging by foreign logging companies in collusion with corrupt politicians.

Seeing problems as opportunities

For Africa to make the decisions and changes needed to protect its resources and its interests, Mr. Mufuruki highlighted that Africans must stop seeing their problems as unsolvable, embrace self-reliance, and turn its challenges into opportunities. He said:

One fundamental difference that I have seen between us Africans and the rest of the world is that we easily get overwhelmed by problems. We see them as unsolvable and we are needy of help from other people. And it is through this condition of constant need of assistance that we have not been able to free ourselves from constant exploitation by others, and, therefore, also the inability to make the decisions that we need to make.

He cited the pharmaceutical industry as one example. At a recent industry conference in Addis Ababa, he listened with interest how many participants spoke about Africa’s many illnesses and its many problems and how it needs help from everybody. Yet, at the same time, the pharmaceutical industry is the most profitable industry in the world. And every single day, Africa spends USD 90 million on pharmaceuticals. So, instead of being overwhelmed by the problem, Africans should embrace this industry as an opportunity.

The importance of civic pressure on leaders to do the right thing

H.E. Mbeki described how African leaders are frequently pressured to sign partnership agreements with developed countries/blocs such as the European Union (EU) that are not advantageous to their countries.

He considered that a significant reason for this problem was the lack of civic pressure on leaders to do the right thing.

I think that one of the things that is critically missing is pressure from below. We are allowing the chaos makers at the top to get away with doing nothing. There isn’t on the continent a strong enough movement from the masses of our people to say, ‘You, our leaders, do the right things’. It is not there. And it has collapsed over a number of years, the political force from below that applies sufficient pressure for our leaders to take the correct positions.

Therefore, instead of complaining quietly among themselves, populations need to act and respond.

Planting trees to combat climate change

H.E. Obasanjo voiced his agreement with H.E. Mkapa on the importance of tree planting as one of the cheapest ways of dealing with deforestation, environmental degradation and climate change. Tree planting may not be enough by itself, as expressed by Ali Mufuruki, but H.E. Obasanjo believed it was an important grassroots response and an immediate starting point. Every community can be directly involved.

In contributions from the floor, one delegate cautioned that responses to climate change needed to be carefully and cleverly weighed up for Africa’s benefit. For example, he said trees are not the biggest sequesters of carbon dioxide; most of the CO2 produced is captured and stored by oceans. He stressed that trees are still vitally important but indicated that the impact of planting trees on climate change may be exaggerated.

Dealing with mindset poverty

One delegate strongly believed that a lot of the continent’s energies needed to be directed to dealing with poverty, not resource poverty as Africa is rich in resources but “mindset” poverty. For example, the East African Community is spending USD 500 million to import rice when the region can produce rice. He said:

We need recognize the power of our own resources. Even the number of people we have now in Africa is a power that we need to turn into our advantage.

Another contributor agreed. Respectfully challenging the view of H.E. Mkapa, he refused to see Africa as being poor. He said:

It is something that we need to really get out of our mind. We are very rich. All these other countries actually got rich from exploiting our resources.

However, in reply, H.E. Obasanjo said:

What H.E. Mkapa was saying and he used the word ‘least developed’ ... We are least developed. Whatever we may have in terms of resources ... until we can add value to it, until we can make it into something that will yield money in dollars or in euros then we are not there. And that we should not deceive ourselves. We may be potentially rich but now we are at this moment very poor. And that is why we are talking of transformation. You have to transform from where we are to where we should be, and we are not where we should be.

Regional and continental cooperation to strengthen natural resource management

Using the example of cocoa in his home region of West Africa, former President Obasanjo also strongly emphasized the importance of collective action in addressing the natural resource challenges facing the continent. He described how nearly two-thirds of the world’s cocoa comes from West Africa, with Ivory Coast, Ghana and Nigeria being the biggest producers, yet the price of cocoa is dictated by three or four foreign multinational companies, not by Africa. Furthermore, the total revenue from the chocolate industry is estimated to be around USD 125 billion per annum, yet cocoa producers receive only USD 9 billion.

He believed that all this could change towards Africa’s long-term benefit if the three countries decided to act together.

Now, if the three countries of Nigeria, Ghana and Ivory Coast can come together—and all we need to do is to provide facilities for storing their cocoa for one year—they would be able to control the price of cocoa in the world and they will be able to manage what happens to cocoa.

He told the forum that the Africa Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) is currently working with these three states to be put in place the necessary infrastructure.

During contributions from the floor, one speaker stressed the importance of regional and continental level initiatives to improve natural resource governance, in particular, implementation of the African Mining Vision (AMV). On this, he suggested that a body of former presidents may be able influence, indeed rescue, the process. He related that 2 to 3 years ago it was decided that the African Union must be the leading political coordinator of the AMV. However, since then it had become clear that the requisite technical knowledge to lead did not exist within the AU itself. Positively, there have been attempts to rectify that problem. But he felt that the so-called ‘Continental Level Partnership’ between the African Union, United Nations Development Program, UNECA and other players is often more bureaucratically combative than productive. The continent needs to agree to fund its own programs, i.e., put its money where its mouth is. He considered that leadership is required to analyze and coordinate the process. He said:

There is this instinctive hostility to everyone who comes from the outside. ... There are disruptors, there are those who are cynical, but if we cannot analyze you cannot readily identify those who can help you.

He lauded H.E. Obasanjo’s support for the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative in Nigeria and suggested similar proactive positive engagement from Africa’s technocratic leaders.

Another participant passionately took up the issue of domestic funding. As Africans we must dare to have a vision. And when we have a vision let us not look for anybody to fund our vision. If somebody is funding your vision, then it is not yours.

He added that if African governments do not adequately fund research and development, then Africa’s best and brightest will be attracted overseas.

The new scramble for Africa

Mr. Mufuruki reflected on his first visit to the African Union’s headquarters in Addis Ababa, only two years past. By that time, he had been a businessman for almost 30 years. He found it strange that Addis had no relevance to his life or to his business and that the same applied to most of his colleagues in Africa’s private sector.

But I found that in Addis Ababa there is a very huge and powerful representation of global corporations from other parts of the world. For them, Addis has relevance.

He also found that AU meetings were not very well attended by Africa’s leaders. Ironically, the most well-attended meetings were those that took place outside the continent, like TICAD and the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). He related that the AU is struggling to fund its own daily operations. Even very senior AU employees do not have a pension fund, yet these same officials are tasked to work on behalf of the continent. Instead, they must spend most of their time travelling to earn the allowances to fund themselves and their families. In effect, there is no future in these vitally important positions.

But the world looks at Africa very differently. He described that a month before the formal launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the European Union announced in Addis that they were setting aside EUR 42 billion to assist Africa implement the AfCFTA. And a few months before that President Trump announced a USD 60 billion fund targeting Africa to counter Chinese influence on the continent. The Russians also have a summit planned and countries in the Middle East see Africa as a sphere of influence and are dedicating huge amounts of resources. Everybody wants to control Africa. In closing his remarks, Mr. Mufuruki quipped:

My question is: What are we doing? It is like you are a beautiful girl and there are so many guys who want to get you. ... The least you can do is choose the best.

But in all seriousness, he added:

We have to make plans that we are going to lead ourselves. ... We can learn from others obviously, but we have to take responsibility for our own future.

Amplify actions and solutions at country, regional and continental/international levels

Following on from these comments, the facilitator asked:

How does Africa reposition herself to benefit from our own resources?

In response, H.E. Rajaonarimampianina said that all the problems raised today are linked, therefore, systematic responses are needed. Some problems will need to be resolved at country level and solutions will be specific to those countries. However, other problems, like the illegal trafficking of wildlife, forests or fishing will require continental solidarity.

In Madagascar, people steal 500 million dollars worth of products, but we do not have any means to prevent that. We do not have ways to fight that kind of illegal trade. ... We need to wake up. ... My opinion is not to create a lot of institutions. What we need to do is to amplify actions today. At the level of the African Union, we should try to deal with matters that we are debating today.

Both former Presidents Mbeki and Obasanjo stressed the importance of collective leadership and action at the AU level. But, presently, that leadership is lacking, which contributes to a loss of cohesion and cooperation among African states. H.E. Mbeki remarked that the AU was not interacting with the private sector on the continent and will need to bolster its capacity to lead the continent.

H.E. Obasanjo said:

In terms of policy, we are not as weak as we think we are, if we move together. Individually, we are weak, and we would be taken piecemeal and be chewed up, but collectively we are not as weak. We have what it takes. It is just a question of bringing ourselves together.

In closing the plenary session, H.E. Mkapa quipped that the meeting should be adjourned as it is not a lack of understanding of the problems facing Africa but the resolve to act.

The question is whether we have the resolve to tackle these problems ourselves and that is the key. If you have the resolve, you must try, and you will achieve something—not all of it—but you will achieve something. It starts with that resolution, that self-assurance that will drive us forward towards greater unity, towards greater cooperation to achieve results. But you must believe in what you are doing, what you are professing, and what you are mobilizing your colleagues to do.

He finished with a story on Mwalimu Nyerere that illuminated the question of resolve and the accompanying quality of self-assertiveness.

One time, when we were coming back from the United Nations, we had a span of about 11 hours [at Heathrow airport] between arriving and taking another flight back to Dar es Salaam. ... I think Callaghan was the Prime Minister and he was at Chequers⁷. When he heard that we were stopping over for 11 hours, he sent word to “Tell Mwalimu to come to Chequers so that we can catch up on the Rhodesian situation.” Mwalimu sent back word that “The distance from Chequers to here is the same as here to Chequers.” [And so] Mr. Callaghan came to the airport. This is the kind of resolve that can really drive us forward .

⁷ Chequers is the official country residence of the U.K. Prime Minister, located about 40 miles (64 km) north west of central London



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1 Former Presidents Hassan Sheikh Mohamud (Somalia) and Jakaya Kikwete (Tanzania), and the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan during the plenary session.

2-3 Participants during the plenary session.



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President Magufuli addresses the forum.

C. Address by H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania

To begin, President Magufuli said that it was a great honour to address the African Leadership Forum and a great honour for Tanzania to host this year's event at the State House. He welcomed delegates from countries across the continent with special mention of the attendance by former presidents of Nigeria,

Tanzania, South Africa, Somalia and Madagascar. He commended the Office of Former President Mkapa together with the UONGOZI Institute for establishing the African Leadership Forum to deliberate on the challenges facing the continent.

African challenges will be solved by Africans themselves

Affirming the message of self-reliance from the plenary session, President Magufuli's opening statement was met with applause. He said:

It is an undeniable truth that Africa's challenges will be solved by Africans themselves. There are no uncles who will come to help us. We must face our own realities; no imported solutions can resolve Africa's challenges sustainably. We are Africans and we understand our challenges better than anybody else.

As a corollary to the principle of self-reliance, President Magufuli emphasized that the major foundations of true development for any nation are its natural resources and its people. However, the presence of natural resources and people are not sufficient to bring about development if proper management systems for natural resources are not in place to enable people to benefit from those resources. He said that all gathered here today know well that the African continent has a vast wealth of resources—minerals, gas and oil, land for agriculture, wildlife, forests, areas for fishing and more— but that these resources have not been well managed to bring the desired economic benefits.

He observed that the problem of poverty in Africa primarily rests not with the availability but with the management systems and efficient utilization of the continent's resources. Hence, he congratulated the organizers of the ALF for selecting the appropriate theme of 'Promoting Good Natural Resource Management for Socio-economic Transformation in Africa'.

This theme shows the importance of Africa building new systems for managing and using its resources for the benefit of its people, otherwise our resources will be managed and used by other people for their own gain and that is what has been going on in most parts of the African continent.

Why has Africa not been able to manage and utilize its resources to bring about socio-economic transformation?

But the question remains: Why has the African continent failed to manage and utilize its wealth of resources for the benefit of its people? In answer to this vexing question, President Magufuli proffered several reasons.

Foremost, he believed that "remnants of a colonial mindset" had persisted among Africans and that countries had not adequately translated the concept of independence into reality. He said:

...if you do not depend on yourself you cannot be free, as your freedom will be in the hands of who you depend on.

Hence, the real meaning of the struggle for independence was not only to recover ownership of our natural resources but also the full autonomy on how to manage and use them to bring about economic liberation. In turn, this is the only way to protect political independence. He said:

As a result of misunderstanding the concept of independence, we thought that our old rulers are the ones with the capability of helping us manage and develop our resources. This is the start of dependency syndrome that is hurting the African continent. Let us not be fooled that our old rulers will turn overnight into our uncles and economic liberators. This dependence is the one that has solidified the roots of neo-colonialism. We must wake up.

Money is not the basis for development

The misleading notion that money is basis of development was the second reason cited by President Magufuli for Africa's inability to oversee its resources and bring about economic revolution. Based on this erroneous belief, African countries have continued to ask rich nations for aid and loans. This he felt must stop.

As Africans, we must focus on what is available in our local and immediate context and transform it into money. Money is the very last result of our resources and not the basis of development. Even the late father of the nation, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere said, “For us to develop we need people, land, clean politics and good leadership.” He never mentioned money. He knew that money would eventually come, if we accomplished those things.

Lack of innovation and industrial backwardness

The third major reason is Africa’s lack of innovation and industrial backwardness. President Magufuli said that Africa will not be able manage and utilize its resources positively without domestic industries. Socio-economic transformation cannot be attained by selling cash crops, raw minerals, forestry, livestock and fish. Rather:

We must foster innovation. [We must foster] our youth together with industrial technology. We do not have to use highly expensive technology. We should explore simple technology and facilitate industrial technology within our continent to preserve a large percentage of the products and value of our resources.

Conflict and chaos on the African continent

Africa’s poor political climate, characterized by civil conflict in many parts of the continent, was the fourth reason cited by President Magufuli. He related that:

Many parts of our continent, especially those rich in resources, face conflict mostly due to economic imperialists, who want to continue using Africa’s natural resources for their own gain. While we are struggling, they are profiteering. And they will never want our nations to have peace, as chaos is their capital.

One-sided contracts and agreements for natural resources

The one-sided nature of contracts and agreements with investors for Africa’s natural resources was the fifth reason cited by President Magufuli. He said that most contracts were not founded on the win-win principle. Rather, Africa’s natural resources are utilized without bringing any impact to the inhabitants of this

continent. He lamented that the main source of dodgy contracts is the lack of patriotism among government officials and illicit actions done by economic imperialists. He added:

And I confess here that our country has fallen victim of these dodgy contracts especially in the extractive sector. Minerals have been mined for many decades, but we never saw the benefits up until we decided to once again review the contracts and change our laws.

Environmental destruction and climate change

The sixth and final reason is the destruction of Africa’s natural resources brought about by environmental destruction and climate change. Deforestation for household energy use is a huge, ongoing challenge on the continent. As a result of the high costs of electrical energy and natural gas, most of our people still use firewood and charcoal as the principal energy source in their homes. Another major cause is the environmental pollution [greenhouse gas emissions] by developed nations from their huge industries. But perversely, Africa is likely to be the continent most affected by such pollution. Drought, floods and unpredictable weather are just some of the effects of climate change, and he counselled that unified steps by the continent will be needed to deal with these impacts.

What is Tanzania doing to achieve better utilization of natural resources?

After enumerating these reasons for why African countries have been unable to benefit from their natural resources, President Magufuli described the steps that Tanzania was taking to better manage and utilize its resources to attain socio-economic transformation. These have included:

- Enacting the *Natural Wealth and Resources (Permanent Sovereignty) Act of 2017.*
- Reviewing and adjusting mining contracts that have no beneficial value to the nation.
- Prioritizing the building of industries and advancing industrial technology so that the products of our natural resources are stored first and undergo processes to add value before being exported.

- Implementing hydro-electrical energy projects, including the Nyerere Dam Project that will generate 2,115 MW within the River Rufiji Valley to prevent the destruction of forestry resources and protect biodiversity in general. These projects aim to decrease the use of firewood and charcoal and so protect our environment.
- Expanding conservation areas. Three new national parks have been established in the north-western zone of the country and a fourth park is in progress in the southern zone.
- Taking various measures to maintain civil servants’ discipline, and prevent corruption, bribery and extortion.

He believed that these steps would contribute to the better utilization of Tanzania’s resources. Positively, the country had already started seeing the results.

To close, President Magufuli again congratulated the organizers for designing events like the ALF to share ideas for leadership within and across Africa. He hoped that these events would become the linchpin for mindset transformation, and a compass among African leaders that would lead to the liberation of the continent economically. He thanked participants for listening to him and wished the Forum good discussions and declarations.



Session I: Basic principles for managing land, wildlife, fisheries and forests to achieve maximum benefits

Despite their huge potential, natural resources such as land, wildlife, fisheries and forests have made little contribution to the development of African countries. This limited contribution is thought to be associated with two main factors:

- Low awareness that natural resources can significantly promote socio-economic transformation; and
- Poor management of the resources, which underscores the need for African countries to adopt and enforce basic principles for natural resource management to optimize the benefits derived from them.

To examine these critical issues, the Forum's first session discussed the potential for Africa's resource wealth to drive sustainable development, how the basic principles for natural resource management can be adapted to the African context, what challenges countries face in implementing these principles, and how these issues can be addressed. The session commenced with a presentation by Dr. Fatima Denton, Director, United Nations University—Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA) followed by a panel discussion.

A. Presentation: Principles for managing renewable resources – Are we there yet?

Dr. Fatima Denton, Director, United Nations University, Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA)

The principles for managing renewable resources

Dr. Denton introduced three overarching principles for the management of natural resources: equity, the rule of law, and accountability. However, assessing the current situation in Africa reveals that resource-rich countries have not equitably or inclusively shared resource gains; only a minority benefit from Africa's resource wealth. Accountability and transparency in natural resource sectors are also consistently low. Moreover, Africa is in the frontline of climate change. Temperatures over the continent are rising faster than the global average with the result that climate change will likely reverse many of Africa's hard-won gains in development.

The importance of land and its conservation

Dr. Denton described the essential place that land occupies in our lives. Land is identity. Land is civilization. And, of course, land is a principal part of people's livelihoods; more than 70% of the rural population depends on agriculture. However, at the same time, land resources are being degraded and the rate of renewal is quite slow. Land cannot be taken for granted anymore.

Degradation in natural ecosystems and the increasing effects of climate change on the livelihoods of people are cited as major causes for the increasing migration flows out of Africa. The continent's forests support an estimated 100 million people, but some countries are losing forest cover at a rate of between 2% and 3% per year. West and East African forests have been reduced by as much as 80% to 90%. And over the ten-year period from 2005 to 2015, crop and livestock losses due to drought in Africa were estimated at USD 10.7 billion.

The [latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) assesses the impact of global warming of 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. At that level, Africa will likely experience longer, more severe droughts and heat waves accompanied by reductions in the yields for staple cereal crops, such as maize, rice

and wheat, especially in the Sub-Saharan Africa. The report concluded that unprecedented global action is urgently needed to limit catastrophic global warming.⁸

Africa's "paradox of plenty" narrative still holds true

She said that the "paradox of plenty" narrative still holds true for Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa has 200 million hectares of uncultivated arable land, which is nearly half of the world's total, and the continent uses only 2% of its renewable water resources compared with 5% globally. Additionally, Africa has around 30% of the world's mineral resources, 12% of global hydro power, and it is rich in oil and gas reserves. But, to date, the continent has not benefitted from its resource wealth to the extent desired.



Dr. Fatima Denton

Regional economic growth has been constrained by poor performance in the agriculture sector and 350 million people in Africa are affected everyday by lack of access to a safe water supply. Food production in Sub-Saharan Africa needs to increase by 60% over the next 15 years to feed a growing population.

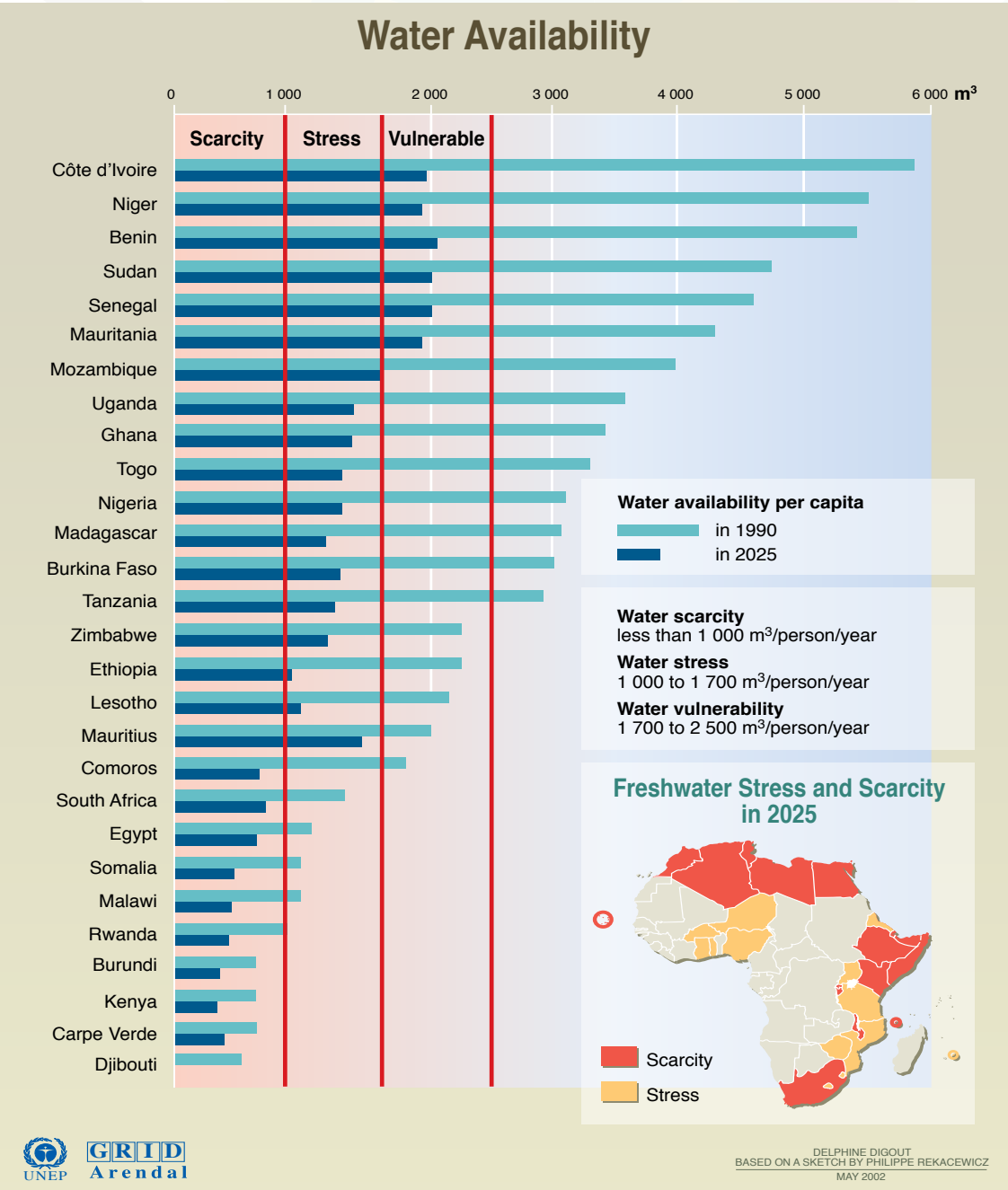
The continent also has very high technical capacity with respect to renewable energy, but it is not yet tapping

⁸IPCC. (2019). Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.

that potential. Dr. Denton indicated that, to some extent, a mini energy revolution is underway, but the uptake and deployment of renewable energy remain low and

the number of people who are energy poor is still high. Around 600 million people are still living without access to electricity in Africa, 100 million of those are in urban areas.

Figure 1: Water availability per capita in Africa in 1990 and projected in 2025



Source: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Addis Abeba ; Global Environment Outlook 2000 (GEO), UNEP, Earthscan, London, 1999.

The “Four Ds” for assessing and managing natural resources

To understand the main issues for managing renewable natural resources, Dr. Denton introduced a set of terms that she called the “Four Ds”, namely, Degradation (and Depletion), Dependence, Devaluation and Disruption. Her comments on each term are summarized in the sections below.

Degradation

Water resources

Recalling plenary discussion on the significance of Africa’s Great Lakes, Dr. Denton started with discussion of water resources. She related that two-thirds of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa relies on surface water, yet 70% of Africa’s rainwater is lost to evaporation. Sub-Saharan Africa loses about 4 billion hours per year simply collecting water, which is equivalent to a whole year’s worth of labour for France’s entire workforce. Looking ahead, water availability is projected to fall significantly. As shown in Figure 1, many African states are already experiencing water stress or scarcity.

The continent is also facing more extreme weather events. Flooding is becoming more of a recurrent event. Without appropriate interventions, these problems will continue to adversely affect the continent. Indeed, access to water may be the single biggest cause of conflict and war in Africa in the next 25 years, especially in areas where rivers or lakes are shared by more than one country.

Forests

Turning to forests, Dr. Denton described that a major problem related to the growth in emissions is deforestation and the expansion of land for farming. Moreover, cleared land can rapidly lose its productive capacity, and when land loses capacity it produces further emissions. But, if properly managed, land can be a sink for carbon. As Kenya’s President Uhuru Kenyatta once said: “Forests are the lawns that keep the planet alive.”

Africa is home to 17% of the world’s forest resources, and, spanning 450 million hectares, the Congo Basin’s tropical forest is the second largest in the world. A massive 65% of the people living in Sub-Saharan Africa depend on forests for food, fibre and fuel. Consequently, deforestation is

happening four times faster than the global rate, resulting in a loss of around 40,000 square kilometres on average every year. Since 2000, East Africa alone has lost around 6 million hectares of forest.

Forest degradation and deforestation have untold consequences for land management and biodiversity. Around 70% of Earth’s land animals and plants live in forests, and many cannot survive the deforestation that destroys their habitats. Trees also function to retain water and topsoil, which provide the rich nutrients to sustain additional forest life. Without them, the soil erodes and washes away, causing farmers to move on and perpetuate the cycle. The barren land which is left behind in the wake of unsustainable agricultural practices is then more susceptible to flooding, especially in coastal areas.

Currently, the carbon released from trees into the atmosphere from global deforestation accounts for roughly 15 to 17% of all greenhouse gas emissions. Hence, reducing deforestation is critically important to international efforts to keep the global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius.

Additionally, trees help control the level of water in the atmosphere by helping to regulate the water cycle. With fewer trees left, due to deforestation, there is less water in the air to be returned to the soil. In turn, this causes drier soil and the inability to grow crops, an ironic twist when considered against the fact that 80% of deforestation is driven by land clearing for small-scale agriculture and cattle ranching.

Of further note, soil stores two-thirds of the freshwater on the planet, and this function is determined by the level of organic matter in the soil. In turn, this moisture in soils supports 90% of the world’s agricultural production. The world’s soils store more carbon than the planet’s biomass and atmosphere combined. Therefore, urgent improvements are needed to monitor soil organic carbon (SOC) and increase awareness of, and capacity to pursue, the many opportunities of sustainable land management.

Dependence

As noted above, most people in Africa are directly dependent on natural resources for their survival and livelihoods. And almost all of the continent’s development aspirations, including industrialization and structural transformation, are predicated on natural resource endowments. But those same natural resources are under

relentless threat from climate change, poor governance structures and enforcement regimes, elite capture and a winner takes all culture, as well as an obsessive and excessive extractive mentality.

Devaluation

Due to the new norms and regulations being put in place to meet emission targets under the [Paris Agreement](#)⁹, countries and companies are already divesting away from fossil fuels. Consequently, Africa's recently discovered renewable and non-renewable resources risk becoming stranded, i.e., their value will depreciate, they will become “unburnable”, and they may remain in the ground.¹⁰

What would stranding mean for African countries with fragile economies, which have been relatively late in discovering their natural resources? In answer, Dr. Denton said:

In many ways, if we do not have a strong domestic market, we are not going to be able to develop these resources to the extent that we want. So, resources are a sovereign issue. ... It is basically the state that decides. If the resources are not being sought after, if we do not have the demand, if we have suppressed demand then it means that we are not going to be able to develop our resources and they will become liabilities.

Disruption

Turning to the D for Disruption, Dr. Denton stressed that Africa would have to identify disruptive triggers or drivers of innovation to enable the continent to efficiently manage and utilize its natural resources to meet development aspirations. Highly productive agricultural systems will be needed to sustain the continent's rapidly growing population. To date, African agriculture has been constrained by over-reliance on subsistence farming, poor infrastructure, minimal digitalization and weak commercialization. For example, agribusiness cannot happen without the appropriate technology and the industrial, transport and energy infrastructure to take products from the farm to the market. Dr. Denton also emphasized the importance of science and innovation, hence, the need for Africa's universities to conduct research to feed into the development process.

And, while working towards industrialization, Africa has a unique opportunity of greening its industrial processes at the same time, and “moving towards an inclusive society and moving away from an obsessive extractive mentality.” She said:

We are going to have to think about future generations. There is a whole movement in Europe where young people ... are basically taking control and are calling their leaders to action. This can also happen in Africa. We have to start thinking about future generations and their role as custodians of those resources.

The importance of strong institutions for natural resource management

Strong institutions are going to be fundamentally important. And given the completely new challenges, new institutions may be needed. She said:

Some of the institutions that were created 30 years ago...they are not fit for purpose [to address] the cascading problems we have. It is not just climate change, it's rapid urbanization, it's ways in which we can decentralize our decision-making especially when it comes to natural resources, it's technology development, it's ensuring that women are not left in the periphery. ... These are not problems that can be addressed by the institutions that were created 30 years ago; those institutions do not have the tools. I think when we say, “We do not need new institutions”, it is an alibi. We have to be able to go beyond that statement to say, “We do need institutions that are fit for purpose, we do need institutions that are game changers, we do need institutions that understand the intersections between the problems that we have mentioned.”

She added that African governments and institutions must be accountable and transparent. In that way, others can be held accountable and transparent to environmental laws and rules. She said:

People come here when they want to dump their waste because enforcement policies are so poor, and because they know that they can get away with it.

She said that resource rents might be pouring into African countries, but she stressed the importance of looking to and emulating the development success of countries like Japan and South Korea that did not have natural resources but nonetheless have become strong, diversified economies. After 50 years of oil and gas extraction, oil and gas revenues still represent 65% of Nigeria's total government revenue. In contrast, South Korea does not have reserves of oil and gas but is now a high-tech

service-based economy. At one stage in the 1960s or 1970s, the country was almost at the same level as many African countries. Now, it is the 11th largest economy with a budget of 1.5 trillion in terms of GDP and a high human development index.

A frontier continent with massive human capital potential

Dr. Denton finished on a bright note. She believed that if Africa takes control of its resource development then the continent will be able to feed itself and the rest of the world, poverty can be alleviated, and the continent's wealth in renewable and non-renewable resources can enable its transformation.

She likened Africa to a frontier continent with the opportunity to leapfrog other economies. Unlike many mature economies, the continent does not need to retrofit infrastructure. It can start afresh. The continent also has tremendous human capital so long as women and young people are included.

If we leave women and youth behind, we are making a serious mistake because this is the single largest untapped capital that we have. They are a force to good! ... We need a new generation of skills, but we also need to work in an ... interdisciplinary way. The days are gone when we can just manage energy, manage water, manage forestry. We must find intersections between these areas of work.

And as H.E. Mkapa mentioned at the end of the plenary session, Africa will need courage and resolve. “Political will! We need that. We need the resolve. We need the vision and we need bagsful of courage.” In closing her presentation, Dr. Denton quoted the Tanzanian proverb, “Every bird flies with its own wings.” In explanation, she said:

We have the ability to fly with our own wings. We cannot be forced to fly. I think now more than any other time, ... I have the profound belief that effective management of our natural resources will enable our flight to prosperity.

⁹See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

¹⁰It is estimated that Sub-Saharan Africa has undiscovered but technically recoverable energy resources equivalent to 150 billion barrels of oil and 21 trillion cubic metres of gas.



From L-R: Ms. Julie Gichuru, H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, H.E. Hery Rajaonarimampianina, Amb. Ami Mpungwe, Dr. Fatima Denton, and Mr. Kaddu Sebunya.

B. Panel discussion

Moderator: Ms. Julie Gichuru

Panellists:

- H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania
- H.E. Hery Rajaonarimampianina, former President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar
- Dr. Fatima Denton, Director, United Nations University – Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA)
- Amb. Ami Mpungwe, former Ambassador, High Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania in South Africa

- Mr. Kaddu Sebunya, Chief Executive Officer, African Wildlife Foundation

The panel discussion delved further into what constitutes the basic principles of managing renewable resources in Africa. Important issues are summarized in the sections below but, as per Chatham House rules, contributions are not attributed to individual participants.

To begin, the facilitator asked each panellist to share what principles are foremost in their minds for protecting and managing the resource wealth of the continent.

Balancing the utilization and replenishment of renewable resources

To start, **H.E. Kikwete** highlighted the challenge of balancing the utilization of renewable resources with their replenishment to ensure that they remain renewable. In particular, he identified a common misperception among the people that since resources—the land and forests, the rivers and lakes—are given by God that these resources will always be available. He described that during his Presidency, regulations to protect water catchments were put in place, for example, agricultural activity was not permitted within 60 metres of riverbanks. Despite warnings that over time the water would dry up, people would ignore the regulations and continue to farm these areas, in effect saying, “God created this water, God will bring rain, do not waste our time.” Hence, educating the people about the consequences of over-utilization of resources is essential.

Like the problem of over-cultivation, land degradation and deforestation are being driven by over-stocking,

which, in turn, is contributing to conflict between farmers growing crops and herders grazing stock. He said:

People keep huge numbers of cattle. ... I have one friend who has 10,000 head of cattle, so he spends most of the time roaming with his cattle. They had over-stocked in the original areas where they lived, now the land has been degraded. There is no pasture. There is no water. What do you do? They just migrate, and they migrate to places where the people are settled cultivators. They graze [their cattle] in other people's farms.

Here again, education is sorely needed so that people are aware of and care about the carrying capacity of land. During his Presidency, action was taken to remove pastoralists and cattle from wetlands that feed the Great Ruaha River in southern Tanzania, which is also one of the principal sources of hydropower for the country.

However, echoing discussion from the plenary session, H.E. Kikwete said that the biggest challenge is how

to stop people in urban areas utilizing charcoal. Dar es Salaam consumes 40,000 bags of charcoal per day. Unfortunately, to date, alternative sources of energy are not widely accessible. Electricity is too expensive, and a city-wide grid would be needed to connect households to natural gas. And only a few companies have begun to invest in opportunities to utilize wind and solar for power generation. He stressed that governments must double their efforts to reduce the population's dependence on biomass, especially charcoal in urban areas.

In closing his remarks, he returned to the importance of education and connecting the existential challenges in communities with research initiatives in universities. For example, pasture development can help to overcome the issues of over-grazing and conflicts between nomadic pastoralists and farmers. Hence, a cultural shift needs to be part of Africa's transformation.

The sustainable management of natural resources needs to be an integral part of national strategies and the long-term vision for the continent

In addition to sensitization and education of the population, **H.E. Rajaonarimampianina** stressed that the sustainable and efficient management of natural resources as well as the issue of climate change need to be included in all government strategies and long-term visions for the continent. Reiterating his plenary comments, the human dimension must be incorporated in all policies as the sustainable management of natural resources cannot be separated from the needs of populations that directly rely on those resources.

The need for inclusive ownership and benefits from natural resources

Mr. Sebunya stressed the principles of leadership and inclusiveness to address the natural resource challenges confronting the continent. He said:

As an African, I do not think that we have ever lived at a time when Africans are more educated than any other time on this planet. We have more resources to use than any other time on this planet. Our economies are developing between 5% to 6%, more than any other time in this world, so what is it that really we cannot do, other than say what everybody has said here: it is the mindset, it is the leadership, it is the institutions, it is the ownership of our resources.

He stressed that poverty alleviation cannot be achieved unless we resolve the ownership of natural resources and who is going to benefit from those resources. He said:

Natural resources cannot continue to be free. We have to put a value on them and ownership so that the private sector can come and support and do what they do. They will not do that unless the environment has a value and it is owned.

Natural resource management needs to be transformed from a minority issue—because presently only a minority benefit from Africa's resource wealth—into a majority concern. For this to happen, he strongly agreed with Dr. Denton's assessment that new institutions will be needed to tie the sustainable use of resources to the economic aspirations of the continent and negotiate the space for wilderness and wildlife and the space for Africa's ballooning population. And just as happened during the struggles for independence and for ending apartheid in South Africa, inspired leadership will be essential to unite the continent as a matter of survival.

We all agreed this morning that the new issue today is natural resources because we are not going to survive. That is what science is telling us and we have looked at computer models. We are not going to survive on this continent as the world heats up. Africans are going to be the most affected by a warming world.

He concluded his remarks on an optimistic note. Personally, he was excited to hear the African leaders at the Forum speaking up on these issues as a united African voice. He was used to hearing Europeans and North Americans telling Africans why elephants and rhinos are important or why rivers and forests need to be protected. But what is truly needed is to hear the governors of African central banks and African ministers of finance when they are reading out their budgets tell us why forests, rivers, swamps and wildlife are important to national economies, and to hear African doctors tell us why water is important and why we need to conserve water sources.

Applying science and technology to optimally manage Africa's resources

Amb. Mpungwe spoke on the vital importance of applying breakthroughs in science and technology to optimally utilize natural resources to meet the needs of the population, but at the same time preserve and repair the damage caused in the process. He remarked that the world is in the midst of the fourth industrial revolution; the digital economy is here. And developments in science and technology can help solve many of the challenges identified by the Forum. He offered three practical examples.

His first example focused on Kilombero Sugar Company in Tanzania for which he is chairman of the company's board. Presently, the company sources 40% of its cane from out-growers but is seeking to expand this proportion to 60%. The company is mitigating this risk through leveraging technology. Over the last few years, the company has digitally mapped all out-grower areas and profiled each piece of land—including ownership, soil structure, fertilizer requirements, etc. The company has also developed an app to be rolled out to all 8,000 out-growers, which will enable the company to intervene in terms of extension services by offering timely advice on the use of fertilizers and pesticides, when to apply them, when to harvest. In this way, the company aims to boost production and manage the sugar-growing environment.

His second example also came from the sugar industry. In Swaziland, surface drip irrigation systems have been introduced. As a result, water consumption has fallen to one-third of usage compared with ordinary irrigation systems while production has trebled.

Amb. Mpungwe played a short video to introduce his final example of how emerging technology can be employed to overcome the natural resource management challenges on the continent. In this case, drones were used to plant trees. Seedlings are planted in biodegradable tubes along with measured amounts of fertilizers and/or pesticides. In this way, technology can be adopted to deal with the problem of deforestation. He said:

The drone hits exactly where you want to plant that seedling, and that drone can plant a hundred thousand seedlings per day. And, if you have ten of them, you can plant a million trees per day.

In quick reply, Mr. Sebunya agreed with Amb. Mpungwe that the appropriate application of technology is very important, but he added:

I do not want us to lose the point that planting trees is not the problem. ... The problem is: What causes us to cut the trees? We need to try to go back to the root causes of our problem. ... What drives Africans to cut the trees is where the solution is, not the tree being cut. So, yes, we can plant as many trees as we want. However, if we do not solve the problem, why people are cutting down trees, we are not going to get away from our problems.

Amb. Mpungwe did not dispute Mr. Sebunya's assertion that the root problem was the cutting down of trees. In clarification, he highlighted that his example of the sub-surface drip irrigation focused on the use of technology for the conservation of water resources while the use of drones offered an example of how technology can assist in rectifying a problem where the damage had already been done. In both instances, technological solutions are available to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of interventions to protect and replenish natural resources.

Africa has the capacity to leapfrog into the future through technological change

In contributions from the floor, one delegate reiterated that Africa has the capacity to leapfrog to the forefront of technological advances. He said:

Do not waste time to try and move gradually. ... East African countries led by Kenya have proven the principle of leapfrogging. We are the world leader in mobile money. We did not discover the mobile telephone. We did not design the system of mobile telephony, but we are a world leader in mobile money. Everybody is learning from us. So, we need to think about utilizing technology, that is number one.

He also recommended that government regulators, even leaders, should avoid over-regulation and simply get out of the way and allow technology to take its own course. For example, the revolution in mobile telephony and mobile money is driven by private enterprise, sometimes small start-ups. He said:

Regulations are actually following behind; they have to chase the revolution. They are not put upfront to guide the revolution to happen. Our biggest issue is now to get out of the way and allow bright young people [and] startups to march forward with technologies.

He also humorously suggested that Africa needs to get into the business of stealing technology.

Africans are the only people that are not caught stealing technology anywhere in the world. You see Koreans being caught in America stealing code technology. You see Chinese ... [but] have you ever seen an African being caught stealing technology? We need to get into that business of stealing technology.

Incentive structures to foster behaviour change in use of natural resources

Amb. Ombeni Sefue, former Chief Secretary of the United Republic of Tanzania agreed that education of the population is extremely important. However, in addition, he recommended that designing and putting in place incentive structures will also help to encourage behaviour change and enable people to make the transition to new sources of fuel.

We need incentive structures that will help to change behaviours and help the people to make that transition. Sometimes, this is just psychological. [For example] people have this notion that charcoal is cheap; but it is not the cheapest source of energy. So, how do we create incentive structures within local governments, within central governments, within different organizations to make sure that people appreciate that there are cheaper alternatives for cooking?

Political will and strong leadership to combat environmental destruction

Amb. Sefue also touched upon the need for political will. He doubted that many politicians will campaign on the green agenda in the upcoming elections in

Tanzania in 2020. Therefore, voters will need to impress upon the politicians that these issues are vitally important.

The roles now have to be reversed. On this one, I do not think we can count on politicians to take the lead; the people have to take the lead, then the politicians will pay attention.

However, **Mr. Mufuruki** was less sanguine about the role of the people and more definitive about the need for strong leadership to tackle environmental destruction. Given the dire situation facing the world, he considered that the population could not be left to their own devices by their leaders. He said:

When it comes to environment, it seems to me we have not quite understood the urgency of the problem. We have not quite understood that leaders of nations today are leading nations on a sure path to self-destruction, because of environmental destruction to their deaths; just like it would be three hours from now if there was no air and we could not leave this room.

Therefore, a very tough form of leadership may be required akin to that of South Korean President Park Chung-hee, who is credited with transforming his country into an economic powerhouse. He related:

In 1965, Park said to his people: "Forty years from now, we are going to be better than Japan." There were hardly ten people in that country who understood what he was talking about. He did not negotiate; he led them there.

A triangular relationship between government, the private sector and policy think tanks was a feature in South Korea's successful development

Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, took up the example of South Korea. She had lived in Korea and researched how Korea's per capita income had risen rapidly from 1967 to become a member of the OECD in 1996. She said that a number of factors were significant in the country's economic success. First, a triangular relationship was established between the government, the private sector and policy think tanks. The government set the policies/framework, but these evidence-based policies were informed by think

tanks in South Korea (like the UONGOZI Institute here in Tanzania). In addition, the government provided subsidies to establish the private sector and it invested heavily to develop the country's human capital. And, lastly, they dropped things that did not work. In closing, she looked optimistically to Africa's future. Yes, leadership is required that is action-oriented, time-bound and collaborates well with the private sector and with think tanks. But she said:

If you look at the data, whether it is the youth population or demographic trends, we are the next frontier after Asia and I think we can do it because we have done it before, after independence.

Developing value chains and expanding domestic markets for economic diversification

Mr. Gabriel Serafim Muthisse, former Minister for Transport and Communications in Mozambique, stressed the need for African states to develop the value chain for their raw materials and create economic diversification. In this way, countries will be able to transition from stratified economies to productive economies. He said:

If we developed the value chains for our resources, we would create employment, we would create revenues for the people. And people, for example, would change from using wood to cook because they will have money to use electricity or to use gas. Our economy must change so that we will change the way we are using our resources in Africa.

In addition, Africa must develop and become its own market. Presently, all of the continent's natural resources—minerals, fish, wood—are being exported cheaply as raw materials. He said:

We are not striving to develop our economies because we are not looking to our markets. ... Here in Africa, we are not the market for anything; the fish, the coal, the gold, the ... everything. We have to strive more and more here to have money to build schools, to build railways, to build everything ... but if we develop the value chains ... we would have to export less in terms of raw materials, and we would export priced goods.

In her closing remarks, **Dr. Denton** concurred. The continent needs to take advantage of the wealth it

already possesses. She said:

Africa is continent where very often we are standing knee deep in the river and we are dying of thirst. We need to really take advantage of what we have already.

Africa's youth dividend

In closing, Mr. Sebunya expressed his optimism in the continent's future. He said:

I am very optimistic, and the reason is that 70% of our population are young people that are below 30 [years of age]. And absolutely, those people are going to change this continent. They are thinking the right way. They are behaving more African than my generation for example. Their mindset is in the right place.

H.E. Rajaonarimampianina was similarly optimistic that Africa's young people would bring about the changes needed. He said:

As my predecessor said, we have a very young population that has the interest of the continent at heart, and despite all these problems I think that the will is there. We feel it in our society. We feel it because that will of the youth is going to create and to bring about changes. Today, you can see a lot of young people doing wonders.

Together with the continent's youth dividend, H.E. Rajaonarimampianina believed that the use of technology would enable the transformation of the continent.

And the other aspect ... is the strong and efficient use of technology. It is really promising. For instance, in the area of energy, in five years we have seen a boom of solar power in Africa. I am really positive we can use this solar energy as an alternative source of energy instead of charcoal.



Session II: Illicit practices in wildlife, fisheries and forestry in Africa

Illicit practices in the exploitation of renewable natural resources are widespread in Africa. The illicit trade in the forestry sector is estimated at USD 13 billion annually, and the poaching and illicit trade in wildlife and fish products are alarming. For example, more than 30,000 elephants are slaughtered each year for their ivory, and up to 26 million tons of fish are caught illegally, representing over 15% of the total annual catch and an estimated loss of between USD 1 and 2.5 billion every year. Beyond the local, national and regional drivers for these problems, illicit practices in renewable resources are influenced by global actors, institutions and structures. Therefore, combating the illegal exploitation of resources will require a common African voice as well as international cooperation and intervention.

Given the scale and significance of this issue, the second discussion session examined the domestic and international factors that contribute to the growing illegal trade in wildlife, fishery and forestry resources in Africa. Delegates were asked to identify the challenges (local, regional or global) in combating illicit practices in Africa, and what joint efforts (bilateral and multilateral agreements) are in place or can be put in place to prevent these ongoing losses. The session commenced with a presentation by Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) followed by a panel discussion.

A. Presentation: Illicit practices of renewable resources – Wildlife, fisheries and forestry resources in Africa

Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

To begin, Dr. Haile-Gabriel outlined the scope of his presentation, which would focus on four areas related to illicit practices in renewable resources in Africa, namely:

- The significance and strategic nature of the issue to the continent
- What forces are driving/contributing to the illegal exploitation of resources?
- What initiatives are presently in place to combat this challenge?
- What more needs to be done?

The magnitude of illicit practices in renewable resources

The issue of illicit practices in renewable resources is significant for two reasons. First and foremost, the magnitude

and rates of loss and environmental degradation are alarming.

Illegal fishing

Each day, hundreds of unlicensed fishing vessels enter African waters. Without the capacity to adequately monitor and control their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), including maritime areas, and the low chance of detection, African countries are attractive destinations for illegal fishing. Globally, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is estimated to total USD 23 billion annually. In Africa, the true extent of the loss and damage from IUU is not known due to lack of information and data on fishing vessels, but estimates suggest that at least one out of every four fish caught in Africa is illegally caught. In terms of monetary value, Africa loses between USD 1 and 2.5 billion each year.

Illegal logging and deforestation

The Food and Agricultural Organization estimates that Africa’s forest area declined by 2.8 million hectares between 2010 and 2015, which is comparable to the size of Tunisia. The rate of deforestation, estimated at 0.5% of Africa’s total forest per annum, is a much higher rate than any other region in the world. Africa stands at number one for the speed at which we are clearing our forests. The biggest contributing factor to the continent’s deforestation is the illegal expansion of agriculture into forest areas, which accounts for approximately 80% of the loss of tree cover. The illegal harvesting and trade of African timber and non-timber forest products have also been significant. The illicit trade in the forestry sector in Africa is estimated at USD 13 billion annually. The highest levels are reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Congo-Brazzaville, Gabon, Ghana, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.

Illicit trade in wildlife and wildlife products

Between 2008 and 2016, around two-thirds of Central Africa’s forest elephants were illegally killed, and, according to the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and World Wildlife Foundation, the elephant population in Tanzania dropped by 60% between 2009 and 2014. In 2015, poachers killed about 1,338 rhinos in Africa, the largest number in decades. Clearly, from just these few examples, the scale of wildlife loss is significant.

The economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit practices

Second, Dr. Haile-Gabriel said that the future impacts of such massive and accelerated loss and degradation could be unsustainable and irreversible. The costs of the illicit exploitation of renewable resources are borne by the source countries, in this case, African states. The burden can manifest on people’s livelihoods, the social fabric of communities, national economies, as well as environmental and political stability and sustainability. On the other hand, the benefits through product value chains and markets are global. Once again, this highlights a problem of economic asymmetry in the distribution of costs and benefits associated with illicit practices; Africa bears the burden and costs, others take accrue the benefits..

Economic costs

The direct revenue losses from illicit trading in forestry, fisheries and wildlife taken together are comparable to the losses due to illegal trading in oil and minerals in Africa. And, based on 2014 data from the African Development Bank, these losses in renewable resources are equivalent to 75% of the foreign direct investment (FDI) or 60% of overseas development assistance (ODA) received by the continent. It undermines the efforts of governments to provide resources for public purposes, including poverty reduction, and deprives countries of opportunities for value addition and decent job creation, especially for youth and women. It is impossible to add value to a fish which is illegally caught and transported without touching African soil. The same scenario exists for timber.

Impact on environmental sustainability

Deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and pollution due to illicit practices are serious concerns of environmental sustainability. Forests and fish stocks are being depleted at unsustainable rates, and extinction is a real threat for many important species. Often the practices are inter-linked, for example, the illicit removal of forest cover may be done to open up areas for illegal mining.

Social impact

Illicit practices contribute to conflict and crimes causing harm to affected people. Hundreds of wildlife wardens and the breadwinners of many poor families have been killed in Africa. Illicit practices and trade contribute to civil conflicts and have been linked to the financing of criminal and terrorist activities.

Political ramifications

Politically, illicit practices limit the fiscal space for governments to provide resources for public purposes. The loss of domestic revenue exacerbates the dependence of African governments on foreign aid and loans. It can also undermine national policies and other initiatives aimed at preserving and conserving natural resources. Governments may duly enact policies and regulations but may not be able to enforce them. And because of the international dimensions, such tendencies of threatening peace and the rule of law could lead to the weakening of legitimacy of governments with potential to undermine national sovereignty.

Factors contributing to illicit practices in renewable resources.

Dr. Haile-Gabriel identified three factors that drive the illicit exploitation of Africa’s resources. First, illicit practices are often economically attractive for the individuals and businesses involved. Not only does high and rising consumer demand exist for these resources in destination countries, but also African countries are attractive sites given the low chance of detection of illegal activities and the high profits involved. For example, according to a UNEP and Interpol report, huge price differentials exist between the cost of logging a tree (around USD 35 per ton) and its value at the export stage (USD 11,500 per ton). The combined result is that, the operators of illicit practices face low risk on the one hand and high profit on the other.

Second, there are factors triggered by what can be called “transformation failures”, i.e., as a result of low agricultural productivity and lack of livelihood opportunities, communities become dependent on the exploitation of natural resources for their survival.

The third reason is governance-related dysfunctions, including lack of capacity to enforce compliance by law enforcement agencies as well as official corruption. Reports document forest and wildlife products being routinely smuggled out of some African countries through their ports without due export clearances. In addition, African countries are often unprepared domestically to take advantage of rising demand for the products and services derived from natural resources and to convert these opportunities into legitimate and formal businesses domestically.

Existing protocols and frameworks to combat illicit dealings in Africa’s renewable resources

Dr. Haile-Gabriel said that there was no shortage of declarations, protocols, frameworks and agreements at the regional and global level for addressing illegal exploitation of Africa’s resources. Different groups of African countries have attempted to come together to put in place institutional and legal frameworks to stem corruption and prevent illicit trade in timber and other forest products. For example:

- The African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG) Ministerial Declaration in Yaoundé in 2003 seeks to “develop regional cooperation agreements to address cross-border trade issues.”

- The 2015 Zanzibar Declaration on Illegal Trade in Timber and other Forest Products was signed by five countries—Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Mozambique and Uganda—and endorsed by the EAC and SADC.

Similarly, regional agreements have been developed to combat wildlife trafficking and IUU fishing. For example:

- The Marrakech Declaration: A 10-point Action Plan to Combat Illicit Wildlife Trafficking, sponsored by AfDB and WWF.
- The Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA), the first binding international agreement, approved by the FAO Conference on 22 November 2009, entered into force in June 2016. It specifically targets IUU fishing by laying down a minimum set of standard measures for parties to apply when foreign vessels seek entry into their ports or while they are in their ports. Currently, there are 61 State Parties to the PSMA.

There are also transboundary initiatives to strengthen capacities for controlling and monitoring to fight illegal exploitation and trade. For example:

- Nine countries—Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo—participated in an INTERPOL coordinated Operation Log to address the illicit trade of timber and forest products sourced in West Africa. This operation resulted in seizure of illegally harvested rosewood with a value of USD 216 million and the arrest of 44 individuals, and further raised political awareness about the quantity of illegal trade of rosewood sourced from the West Africa region.
- The FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Programme (FAO-EU-FLEG Programme), implemented since 2016 and active in 11 countries across West, Central and East Africa is another initiative that aims to improve forest governance and combat illegal forest practices, by supporting participatory national decision-making processes and legislative and policy reforms, as well as increasing transparency in the forest sector.

These are some examples of good practices that can provide opportunities for experience sharing, lesson learning and forging partnerships that can work.

What more should be done to combat illicit practices?

The major problem in combating illicit practices is not really lack of frameworks for collaboration. Dr. Haile-Gabriel said that the real issues are associated with actions lagging intentions. To start with, African countries need to convince themselves that it is in their hands. No matter how often or articulately they lament and blame others, the problem squarely rests with them. The correct approach towards action should be to establish a clear sense of ownership and to approach possible solutions from inside out, not vice versa. What more can be done?



Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel

First, each African state needs to accurately know its resource endowments. This will require building databases on the type, quantity and value of natural resources within the country (and on the illicit trade). The practice of working based on wild “guesstimates” should no longer be tolerated.

One advantage of accurate information is that countries would be able to benefit from Forest Certification and product traceability mechanisms. Information systems also facilitate monitoring and enhance transparency and accountability. And they can facilitate agreements and collaborations between countries within the region to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.

Effective resource management also entails knowing and engaging stakeholders in the sector, which involves mapping of critical/key actors and stakeholders (e.g., government, local communities, private sector, etc.); engaging them on the basis of clear expectations, roles and responsibilities; and establishing and enhancing mutual accountabilities.

Second, illicit practices need to be dis-incentivized and the best way to do this is to provide adequate incentives to promote legal and legitimate practices through promoting sustainable and beneficial trade through formal and legal ways. It is vitally important to work on consumer demand outside of Africa, because the demand for Africa’s resources is high. Unless demand is tamed, it is going to be a real threat.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, African countries will need to promote effective leadership and strengthen institutional capacities towards the prevention and control of illicit practices, while encouraging competitive practices in a formal and legal manner. Leaders need to prioritize the issue, and, if so, back it up with investment and actions. Robust inter-agency coordination mechanisms will need to be put in place.

Africa should and could take advantage of the existing collaborative regional and global platforms—for example, Africa-China, Africa-Japan, Africa-EU, Africa-India, Africa-US, Africa-Russia etc.—and leverage collective actions. It is good that African leaders already participate in these platforms, but it would be even better if they used them to flag relevant issues and engage their counterparts based on a common African position. It is also essential that African countries should collaborate using global conventions and agreements, taking advantage of opportunities that they offer. Part of the work needs to focus on influencing demand for illicit natural resources products in foreign consumer markets, through mounting effective campaigns. The African Union and RECs could play key roles to facilitate these engagements, articulate common positions when leaders meet in Africa, and then explore opportunities for partnerships with the rest of the world.



From L-R: Ms. Julie Gichuru, Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel, H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, and Mr. Frederick Kumah.

B. Panel discussion

Moderator: Ms. Julie Gichuru

Panellists:

- H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, former President of the Federal Republic of Somalia
- Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Africa, Food and Agriculture Organisation
- Mr. Frederick Kumah, Africa Regional Director, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

African solidarity is needed to push for global mechanisms to stop the illicit plundering of the continent’s resources

To begin, **H.E. Mohamud** shared some experiences from his home country of Somalia. He said that Somalia has problems with illicit practices with respect to forests, wildlife and fisheries, including the alienation of the artisanal/traditional fishermen from the sea by branding them as pirates. The country also contends with the illegal dumping of toxic waste along its coastline and in its maritime areas. He agreed fully with Dr. Haile-Gabriel that individual countries cannot do

much to address these problems; concerted global and continental-level actions are needed to combat illicit activities. At a very minimum, regional approaches are required.

He described some of the biggest environmental challenges in Somalia and the government’s responses. During his Presidency, the country successfully advocated/pushed through a United Nations Security Council resolution in 2012 banning the export of charcoal. But, despite the presence of UN observers and the AU mission to the country, the resolution has never been implemented. With 3,300 kilometres of coastline—the longest of any African country—Somalia simply does not have the capacity to stop this illicit trade.

He also recalled a visit as a researcher to a remote area of southern Somalia in 1999 where very important trees were being cut down to produce charcoal for export to Gulf countries.

We told the villagers, ‘What you are consuming now is the future of your children.’ In response, an elder man said, ‘What you are saying is right. But here we have two difficult options to choose. We save the tree, or we save the man. So, we opt to save the man. We cut the trees and we are living on it.’

In addition to the ongoing external exploitation of the country’s forests, H.E. Mohamud described how everyday environmental degradation is caused by the ways of life of the Somalis.

We are a community whose way of life is nomadic, moving from one place to another with a lot of cattle, camel and goats. Whenever we move from one place to another, besides the grazing problem, ... we cut trees in order to make fences to protect our herd. Then, after few months, we move again from that place to another place and again we cut trees to make another fence for the livestock.

Continuing, H.E. Mohamud described the scale of environmental destruction.

One report says, 'Every 30 seconds, Somalia loses a tree.' Every 30 seconds! That means every one minute we lose two trees. So, imagine that continues for more than a decade ... almost two decades. This is the reality on the ground.

Along with the forests, the wildlife of Somalia is disappearing. He related:

My mother told me a story that when she was young, she saw a lot of giraffes in parts where we were living. I did not see giraffes, but I saw elephants in Somalia. Today, there is not one single elephant in Somalia. Forty years ago, forty-five years ago, there were elephants in parts of Somalia. There are none today.

Similarly, Somalia took the issue of IUU fishing to the United Nations Security Council, but one of the five permanent members blocked its discussion. The Somali government then sought the assistance of the African Union and also approached the Security Council member that had blocked the agenda but to no avail.

Hence, what is the appropriate response now? H.E. Mohamud proposed that, just as African leaders have been tried for human rights violations, the perpetrators of these crimes need to be prosecuted. He said:

Africa is not using the ivory. Africa is not using the rhino horn. Africa is not using charcoal as much as the export. Africa is not abusing its own fishery resources. Africa is not dumping wastes in its own oceans. So why, as a continent, why can't we pursue this to be a global criminal agenda? Those who do the illicit [activities] ... have to be criminalized at the global [level]. The violators have to be taken to the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

H.E. Mohamud said that no one single country can effectively address these challenges. International mechanisms of justice are needed to stop the illegal exploitation of Africa's resources.

The big stake African countries like South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, [even] they cannot do it alone. But, as Africa, if we combine together ... it may take some time ... but in the end we can succeed. All this illegal/ illicit trade of resources, natural resources, financial resources that are going out of Africa, draining the capacity of Africa [can be prevented]. Not only is it

the money that is going out, it is our future. ... It is the future of our children that is going out and never coming back.

H.E. Obasanjo concurred with the assessment by Dr. Abebe and H.E. Mohamud. Africa is being bled of its resources. He added:

One point that we need to realize is that this illegal depletion of our resources is also being used to foment trouble for us—criminality, terrorism, gun-running—and in fact it is now being used to affect our elections, our democratic processes ... and that to me is more dangerous.

He, too, stressed the urgent need for international action.

But then what do we do? I think Dr. Abebe talked about managing demand. We cannot manage demand on our own because the consumption is not on our side. But through international action we can impress, and, in fact, influence those who really have the consumption in their own location to manage demand.

Strong political will and action are required. He said:

I will talk about political will and political action. Not just political will; political will and political action at national, at community level. I believe there is a lot we can do to prevent what we do not want within our communities ... whether dealing with our own people or dealing with people who come into our community. [And] we have to also work together; bilaterally, multilaterally and regionally.

He emphasized the principle of self-reliance:

We must not just sit down in desperation and in frustration, ringing our hands, and saying, 'Well look, there is nothing we can do.' I want us to be angry. ... I want us to be angry, but our anger must not be the anger of the cripple who sits on the ground. ... Let us be angry and let our anger be the anger of the man who even if he is being hit, he is also hitting back, no matter how feeble he may think he is. Because when you hit back, then the man who is hitting you knows that, well, you mean business. And I think our doing nothing is what is bad. Let us make sure we do something. And do it together! Do it together!

The knock-on economic effects of wildlife poaching

Mr. Kumah said that Africa has an opportunity to show solidarity at this very moment. The UN through the Convention on Biological Diversity is presently meeting in Nairobi¹¹ to negotiate the post-2020 framework on how to safeguard nature, and he had observed that a common position among African representatives was emerging. But he stressed the importance to galvanize political will to support policy makers. If Africa's heads of state and leaders do not stand behind the negotiators, then Africa's recommendations for the framework can easily be shot down.

Speaking from a WWF perspective he said:

Nature must deliver for people. But for nature to deliver for people, we need—at least from an African perspective—to be very clear how that happens. There have to be benefits. There must be sustainable use. And there have to be ways in which development is spurred on without necessarily impacting nature. Our biosphere cannot take the current pressures anymore.

He agreed with Dr. Abebe that the monetary scale of illicit natural resource extraction is massive. But he added that African economies lose so much more. For example, when a poacher shoots an elephant in a national park, it has multiple spill-over effects on the tourism industry and on all livelihoods associated with that sector.

If you break it down: the poacher that is taking away that elephants from say, a Tanzanian national park, it is impacting tourism in that national park. ... That tourism is building the lives of many people; your transport industry, your hotels. [In turn] that has multiple effect in terms of the home state; parents being able to pay for schools and all of that. So, the impact is significant. It is calculated that, just from the poaching of elephants—and we lose thirty to forty thousand elephants every year in Africa now—we are losing close to 400 to 600 million dollars just from this one [illicit] activity. So, it is significant that we find a way of stemming that loss of nature unnecessarily.

The unsustainable expansion of agriculture into forests

Significant as they are, Mr. Kumah said that criminal activities account for only around 20% of illicit exploitation of natural resources; the other 80% is due to the illegal expansion of agriculture into forest areas. He said:

It does not feel 'wrong,' but it does impact significantly. ... We need to feed Africa [but] the way we are feeding Africa is not sustainable. Our productivity is extremely low, and it can be increased nine-fold. ... Most of all we produce today goes to waste because our post-harvest loss approaches are poor, so we lose about 40% of what we produce. We are in a sense hemorrhaging because of poor practices. Although there are illegalities in extreme in terms of crimes, there are very basic things that are within our control to solve.

Comprehensive Africa-wide governance around natural resources

What is needed to stem these losses? To start, Mr. Kumah considered that a comprehensive Africa-wide governance system for natural resources needs to be put in place. He said:

We need to understand and monitor where the money is going and where the resources are going. We need stronger law enforcement around illicit trade [and] we need better inter-regional cooperation.

He observed that most countries handle these issues by themselves, or, where cooperation exists it is quite porous. For example, as mentioned by Dr. Abebe, the Zanzibar Declaration on Illegal Trade in Timber and other Forest Products has been signed by five EAC and SADC countries, which is good but insufficient to ensure regional borders are not porous. He felt that the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement can pave the way for other agreements that support its implementation, especially on natural resource governance.

Echoing the message of collective responsibility, H.E. Mohamud spoke further on the issue of the illegal dumping of toxic waste. He said that huge containers are being dumped at sea and they are washing up on beaches. Nothing is written on the containers, so nobody knows what is inside them. He said that

¹¹ The first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework convened from 27-30 August 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya, to advance preparations for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This negotiating process will culminate in the adoption of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at the UN Biodiversity Conference in 2020.

Somalia had raised the issue with IGAD, its regional organization, but with little success. What is now perceived as only Somalia's problem will inevitably affect neighbouring states.

It is a matter of time when we see those containers on the beaches of Kenya or on the beaches of Tanzania even. It will come.

Formalize the participation in natural resource sectors

Mr. Kumah also recommended the expansion of the formal sector across all forms of production. In his home country of Ghana, the formal sector in the forestry industry accounts for 50,000 jobs compared with 260,000 jobs in the informal sector. With little or no governance, the informal sector can promote illicit actions which impact nature. Formalization also has flow-on benefits for government (including increased revenue through taxes), businesses and public-private partnerships. He felt that investing in small and medium-sized businesses and community-based initiatives in fisheries, forestry and agriculture were “very low hanging fruit” which can provide the incentives to reduce illicit natural resources exploitation.

Africa's opportunity to lead the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Mr. Kumah's last recommendation was global in scope. He said that the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is an opportunity that will come only every ten years and he strongly felt that Africa can lead this initiative.

We can put our foot down and say to the world community, we need targets around biodiversity that are realistic but ambitious. And those targets must be very clear in terms of what we protect. We also need to tell the world community very clearly that we have a shared responsibility for safeguarding biodiversity. Africa contributes a quarter of biodiversity in the world and so Africa should receive financial support to push that biodiversity implementation plan at a country level. ... And lastly, we need to tell the world that if this does not happen collectively, we have no future.

Regional trade, information sharing and monitoring on natural resources

In comments from the floor, **Ms. Elsa Da Gloria Patricia**, Chairperson of Stop Illegal Fishing – Botswana, stressed the need for information sharing between African government agencies to learn from each other's mistakes and develop best practices for stopping illicit activities. For example, regional coordination and patrolling of seas can help fight illegal fishing.

Another speaker highlighted the issue that that Africans do not fish their own waters! Rather, governments are selling licenses for paltry amounts of money that permit foreign interests to fish in the EEZs. He said:

What we have not asked ourselves is: “Why we allow people to come and give them a license while that fish is waiting for us to catch?” It might be expensive, but it is better to be able to say, “Let us take control of this thing.”

H.E. Kikwete observed that ways must be found to encourage the African private sector to invest in deep-sea fishing. Presently, the domestic fishing industry fishes only in shallow waters. Problems arise when foreigners are given licenses for deep-sea fishing. Without bigger ships for high seas, African countries do not have the capacity to oversee these activities.

On a closely related front, **Ms. Abena Serwah**, Technical Advisor for the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf For Guinea, pleaded for intra-regional trade of natural resources. Perversely, it seems easier to sell goods to China or Europe than sell something within Africa. She referenced a recent study by the World Fish Centre to track intra-regional fish trade across Ghana, Benin and Togo, which revealed a host of bottlenecks. By promoting natural resources trade within Africa, she felt that the continent would be able to better control the demand for its resources.

Political instability as a driver of natural resources crime

Prof. Jafari Kideghesho, Rector at the College of African Wildlife Management, remarked that political instability is one of the major drivers of illicit destruction of natural resources. For instance, massive deforestation took place in western Tanzania during the

influx of refugees from Rwanda, Burundi and Congo to provide firewood and charcoal for cooking and heating for these populations. In addition, over 80% of wildlife were poached to provide a source of protein as most of the displaced had no land to farm. In conflict situations, it is practically impossible to put in place conservation measures such as anti-poaching and other control measures. Hence, greater awareness and emphasis needs to be accorded to the link between political instability and natural resources crime.

African governments need to invest in natural resource sectors

One delegate highlighted the need for greater public investment in Africa's natural resource sectors. Taken together, the four sectors—forestry, fisheries, wildlife and agriculture—constitute about 25% of Africa's GDP, yet public investment in those sectors is approximately 4%. He said that you cannot hope to have positive economic outcomes if you invest negligible financial resources into developing those sectors. He said:

It pays to invest in these sectors. Even where you make very little investments into forest management or fisheries management, the results are fairly positive. But African countries collectively are under-investing in all of these sectors. Because we are natural resource-based economies, we really do need to invest in these sectors.

Protecting natural resources is an issue of national and continental sovereignty

Harking back to former President Obasanjo's comments early in the discussion, **Mr. Sebunya** felt that Africa will continue to lack the investment, the financing, the institutions and the collaboration to develop and protect its natural resources until the majority of Africans care about the issues being talked about, and are rightfully angry about the losses being incurred. He believed that the wellspring of this anger will not be from the benefits that the resources can bring but from the reason that they rightfully belong to Africa.

Lastly, as Africans, the anger is going to come not so much as from benefitting from these resources, although we can. But the idea that they are ours, the idea that international trade has exploited our continent for a very long time, the idea that from slavery ... they traded us as human beings, they colonized us because of our resources because of our weaknesses. ... These are our resources. They are only found here. They are our heritage. They are our names. Sometimes, they are our religion. Sometimes they define who we are as Africans. For that reason, we need to protect them without even discussing how they benefit us.

Dr. Haile-Gabriel concurred with Mr. Sebunya. He said that all African citizens should be angry. The management of natural resources and the prevention of illicit trade should be prominently on national agendas not left to weak sector ministries. He believed that the brazen theft of the continent's resources was a form of aggression that effectively undermines national sovereignty.

If national sovereignty is being undermined, what else is there? And what is the reason why our leaders—to start with—and everybody else should not get angry?

Session III: Climate change and its impact on natural resources

Climate change is a growing environmental, economic and social threat the African continent. The incidence of extreme weather events, including flood and drought, are increasing, which adds to the pressures on natural resources and their management.



Prof. Youba Sokona: Africa must show leadership and ownership in setting the energy agenda at national, regional and continental levels

For example, many forests and their associated products have been adversely affected by persistent drought associated with climate change, and the rapid decrease in the volume of some water bodies has led to substantial fish losses. Although climate change is a global problem, its impacts are diverse and context specific. Therefore, African countries need to identify ways of analyzing, adapting to and mitigating the local impacts.

This third and final session of the Forum discussed how climate change impacts Africa’s natural resources and the livelihoods of people who directly rely upon those resources, and what measures need to be put in place to address these challenges. The session also examined the roles of global governance institutions in addressing climate change and what challenges they have imposed on the continent, and whether a common African perspective on climate change exists and if that perspective has influenced the response of policy makers.

The session commenced with a presentation by Prof. Youba Sokona, Special Advisor for Sustainable Development, South Centre. His address focused on how expanding access to adequate, reliable, affordable energy services while minimizing the risk of catastrophic global warming lies at the heart of Africa’s development challenge. His presentation was followed by a panel discussion.

A. Presentation: Africa’s perspective on climate change and its impacts on natural resources – Deconstructing the energy narrative as a key prerequisite

Prof. Youba Sokona, Special Advisor for Sustainable Development, South Centre

Climate change: The biggest challenge to humankind

Climate change is the biggest challenge facing humankind. It is a fundamental threat to development, good natural resource management and the fight against poverty. The whole world—south, north, rich and poor—is urgently in need of transformative solutions that can bend the present trajectories towards a more sustainable future with greater well-being for all. Increasing the access to adequate, reliable, affordable energy services while minimizing the risk of catastrophic global warming lies at the heart of Africa’s development challenge.

Prof. Sokona stated that [the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) unequivocally indicates the human influence on the world’s climate and that continued greenhouse gas emission will cause further warming and amplify the risks to human survival and the natural environment.¹² The scientific evidence to date indicates that climate change is already affecting people, ecosystems and livelihoods all around the world. It also identifies multiple pathways to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius. The report also found clear benefits to keeping warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared with a 2 degree rise in global temperatures, in other words, every increment of warming matters significantly, and goes hand-in-hand with prospects for achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty. The report concludes that limiting global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius is not impossible but would require unprecedented transitions in all aspects of society. Every year and every choice matters.

The impact of global warming on Africa

Despite a limited number of scientific papers on the effects of climate change to the African continent, the evidence from the IPCC indicates increasing risks for the continent’s physical, biological and human management systems. The difference in impacts between 1.5 degrees and 2 degrees of warming are substantial. For example:

- If global temperatures rise by 1.5 degrees, heatwaves in southern Africa are estimated to last less than 20 days; at 2

- degrees, 40-day-long heatwaves can be expected;
- Warm extremes will double at 1.5 degrees, but increase 600% at 2 degrees;
- The average drought length will increase by four months at 1.5 degrees, by six months at 2 degrees, and up to a staggering 19 months at 3 degrees; and
- Five million more people would be exposed to water scarcity at 2 degrees compared with 1.5 degrees.

The system changes needed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius

The report identified four critical areas that require rapid and far-reaching transitions to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees by the end of the century: energy, land, urban and infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems. For Africa, Prof. Sokona said that the improvement in energy systems will be fundamental. If the continent does not address the energy issue, land resources will continue to be rapidly and severely degraded, urban systems will be a mess and the industrialization of the continent will be completely foreclosed. On this last point, he observed that investment to industrialize African countries will not materialize where energy tariffs are exorbitantly expensive at US 50 cents per kilowatt and above.

The transition of the African energy sector for social and economic transformation

The current energy picture for the continent is well documented, not least the unsustainable use of firewood and charcoal. Overall, Africa has a persistently low-quality energy system, which is inherently unfit for the purpose of powering the continent’s development. Moreover, the continent has never looked at energy as a critical geopolitical issue. Countries have largely viewed energy resources as commodities for export, rather than a strategic issue for national and continental development. Unless this changes, more Africans will be without access to energy by 2030 than today.

¹² IPCC. (2019). Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, et al. (Eds)]. A Summary for Policy Makers can be downloaded at <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/>
13 Refers to the increase in the global average surface temperature since the pre-industrial era (1880-1900)

Along with the national development agenda of individual countries, the African Union's Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement to combat climate change all provide valuable context and motivation for the transitions needed in the energy sector to expand sustainable energy access.

In particular, the realization of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are strongly related to the achievement of SDG 7 that aims to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.” Hence, it will be crucial to identify and analyze the barriers and opportunities that will contribute to meeting SDG 7. See Figure 2.

Figure 2: The central importance of SDG 7 on energy



Source: IRENA (2017) Rethinking Energy

Expanding renewable sources of energy are key to achieving SDG 7

Prof. Sokona said that renewable sources of energy will be key for countries to meet SDG 7, and solar energy will be an important part of the renewable energy mix. Solar is suitable for household, agricultural, industrial and utility-scale electricity generation, and is also a valuable source of heat and light. In addition, the technology required to use solar power can be deployed at almost any scale, from 3 watts to charge a torch to 100 megawatts to power a city. And unlike most competing sources of energy, solar can be deployed at the same location as, or very close to, users. This is very important as solar power can be generated and used locally instead of power requiring infrastructure and transmission systems over long distances. Like other technologies, the price of solar is coming down and will become more cost effective if appropriate energy policies are adopted. Positively, renewable sources of energy have increased faster than expected, storage systems are improving, and investment in the electrification of the transport sector is ramping up. All these developments offer huge opportunities for Africa to leapfrog into the future.

Energy for Development: An African vision on energy

Prof. Sokona strongly asserted that Africa needs a vision on energy and that vision must be “Energy for Development.” Critical thinking and discussion must be encouraged around the central role of energy in addressing the priorities for the continent so as to align the imperatives of national development aspirations with the goals of Agenda 2063, the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement in ways that maximize synergies and minimize trade-offs. Energy is a fundamental element for sustainable development, including natural resource management.

The design of a continental vision on energy will need to address a set of important questions, including:

- What is the time horizon for the transition in African energy systems?
- Which sectors should be prioritized?
- How to address the fossil fuels dilemma, i.e., can the continent develop and use its oil, gas and coal reserves?
- What lessons can be learned from the outcomes and constraints of existing initiatives?
- What lessons can be learned from elsewhere?

The mobilization and enhanced participation and interaction of all stakeholders across the policy, practice and research communities will be essential. See Figure 3.

Figure 3: Stakeholder participation in setting and implementing an African vision for energy



Finally, Prof. Sokona enumerated a set of guiding principles for promoting the energy sector in Africa. First, he stressed that Africa must show leadership and ownership in setting the energy agenda at national, regional and continental levels. The issue of energy must be prioritized on the political agenda as a key component of structural transformation, and the continent's energy resources need to be efficiently mobilized, including the huge potential for renewables. To do this, new and innovative institutions with access to long-term resources (including but not limited to financial resources) will be required to deliver the vision. And perhaps the most difficult aspect of the problem is solving the immediate fuel problem while still investing in longer-term interventions. For example, in the short-term, liquefied natural gas can replace the use of firewood and charcoal, then over the mid- to long-term solar-generated electricity can fuel the continent's development. Optimistically, in closing he said that these transitions are possible in the next 10 to 20 years.



From L-R: Ms. Julie Gichuru, Ms. Joyce Msuya, H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, H.E. Thabo Mbeki, Prof. Youba Sokona, and Dr. Pius Yanda.

B. Panel discussion

Moderator: Ms. Julie Gichuru

Panellists:

- H.E. Thabo Mbeki, former President of the Republic of South Africa
- H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania
- Prof. Youba Sokona, Special Advisor, South Centre
- Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Dr. Pius Yanda, Research Professor and Director, Centre for Climate Change Studies, University of Dar es Salaam, and Vice Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II

A fragmented approach by African states to access climate change funds

To begin the panel discussion, **Ms. Msuya**, shared findings from two additional pieces of pertinent research. First, a [global assessment report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#) estimates that one million species of animals and plants are threatened with extinction, many within decades, and more than at any time before in human history. Second, the [Emissions Gap Report](#) produced by UNEP states that greenhouse gas emissions must be net zero by 2050 if the rise in average global temperatures is to be kept to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius. So, what does this mean for Africa?

Ms Msuya observed that the impacts of climate change on Africa's 54 countries will vary widely. Nonetheless, African states should also acknowledge the global political movement on climate change—the Paris Agreement and SDGs—and that dedicated funds have been set up, for example, the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#) and the [Green Climate Fund](#) that actually prioritize Africa. However, she said that African countries are not taking advantage of these opportunities because the continent continues to take a fragmented approach in accessing funds. Similarly, she highlighted the need for improved representation and technical expertise in international meetings, to enable Africa to bring a more united voice and agenda. She felt that the UN Climate Action Summit 2019 next month provided an opportunity for African leaders to attend with a strong unified voice.

Climate change responses

Given the diversity of the continent, she said there is no “one size fits all” response to climate change. The challenges faced by Burkina Faso are very different from South Africa, so sub-regional diagnosis of the climate challenges and solutions are required. At the same time, Ms Msuya remarked:

It is important to keep in mind that climate change issues do not have passports or do not geographical borders. I live in Nairobi, if there is air pollution, it crosses over to Kilimanjaro, so how do we work through our sub-regional political but also technical platforms to deliver?

She said that UNEP’s [Global Environment Outlook \(GEO\)](#) report which was published in March recommended that climate change issues need to be looked at within three interconnected systems. The first one is the food system which encompasses not only the entire supply chain from agriculture to production and processing, but also how we as citizens consume food and waste food and/or recycle food. The second is the energy sector, which again looks at the entire supply chain as well as how waste can be turned into wealth by creating jobs through recycling and by establishing sustainable industries that not only limit the waste generated but also re-use the waste that is produced. Positively, she highlighted that Africa is at the forefront of many global environmental responses, for example, more than 25 African countries have led the way in banning single-use plastic bags. These actions are having a ripple effect internationally and attracting admiration from other nations.

Africa’s resource wealth can be a pension fund for our children and grandchildren

Echoing previous discussion, Ms. Msuya said that the opportunity costs of climate change are already substantial; on average, 20% of national GDP is lost due to climate change, and conservative estimates from UNEP indicate that Africa loses USD 195 billion per year from illicit trade. All of this lost money could go to education, to health, to urban and rural development. To conclude her comments, Ms Msuya said:

In conclusion, I would like to give my personal view especially as an African. I really see Africa’s vast and varied natural wealth as a pension fund for our children and for our grandchildren, and I guess the question for us as adults now is, how do we manage and capitalize this fund for the generations to come.

The practical constraints in Africa’s response to climate change

In his remarks, **H.E. Mbeki** highlighted that the continent’s response to climate change will have to consider the practical constraints facing Africa. For example, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda have all recently discovered large deposits of fossil fuels (oil and gas). What should they do? What advice should we give? He said:

I do not have the answers to these questions; I cannot possibly turn around to say to President Magufuli, “Just shut down your gas production because it is going to add to greenhouse gases.”

Similarly, the state-owned national electricity company in South Africa has been producing electricity for a hundred years using coal-fired power stations, and the company is in the process of building two new big coal-fired power stations to expand its generating capacity. In response to this situation, the government has offered incentives to independent power producers to generate electricity using renewable methods, including solar and wind. Continuing, he said:

However, the state electricity company is broke, so they cannot buy the electricity from these independent power producers. Some people in the country are drifting towards writing-off some of these public assets in order to create space for the private producers to come in. Because so long as you have this whole fleet of coal-fired power stations functioning ... then the country does not need extra electricity from solar panels. To create the space for the solar powers, we have got to close down some of the power stations. [And] That will meet lots of resistance. People will say, “No, you cannot! Why are you reducing the state sector in favour of the private sector, of people who are selling energy not for development purposes but to make profit?”

Third, he said that the continent has had a dream for a long time of a major hydroelectricity scheme on the Inga Falls in the DRC, which has the potential to produce sufficient electricity, in this instance, clean energy for development, to power the continent and even for export. However, the continent cannot afford the billions of dollars to build the scheme.

In closing his remarks, he said:

We need to look at the practicalities of the challenges that we face on the continent in order to be able to answer appropriately. How do we respond in a manner that responds also to this challenge of climate change? ... On the context of the topic we are discussing in this session, it needs a more detailed [look], a closer look because, practically, the presentations are correct but the African response to this thing is I think a bit more complicated.

African countries have been working together in international forums to address climate change

H.E. Kikwete said that Africa was fully aware of the climate change problem and that without urgent action, the future for humanity was bleak. The effects of climate change are real. In Tanzania, the snows on the top of Mount Kilimanjaro are declining and only two glaciers are left. Sea level is rising. In Pangani, an island called Maziwe where green turtles had been coming ashore to lay their eggs has disappeared. In Bagamoyo, sea water is intruding into freshwater wells along the coast. And the incidence of diseases, such as malaria, are moving into highland areas that were once malaria-free due to global warming.

Based on this awareness, Africa has been taking action. The Committee of African Heads of State on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) of the African Union has developed a concept note and road map on climate change as well as proposals on measures to be taken. The CAHOSCC also has a committee of experts, which was initially established and financed by UNEP, that analyzes and develops common African positions, and, on this basis, Africa has been negotiating as a block at COP meetings. He assured the Forum that Africa is indeed well organized on the issues of climate change. There is clarity of vision; the continent does have a common stance.

However, he said the question remains whether any and all actions by Africa are going to be enough. At present, the continent only contributes 3% of the world’s total carbon emissions. Even if Africa stopped the use of charcoal today and switched to solar cookers, it is the big polluting countries who are contributing 97% of emissions and they are not ready to act. H.E. Kikwete was not sure what impact Africa’s action would have at the global scale, but he said:

We must get out of charcoal. We must get out of depending on biomass for energy and so on ... and as we develop, we should take the green path of industrialization.

He also remarked at the present absurdity of accessing carbon credits. As a Presidential candidate, he had visited the Njombe and Makete areas in Tanzania’s Southern Highlands and encouraged villagers to plant trees so as to access carbon credits, but local organizations told him that they could not access carbon credits unless they had a partner from a developed country!

Community-based responses to climate change

As an expert in the field of climate change, **Dr. Yanda** was asked what measures are required to build sustainability on the ground and to translate climate policies into meaningful improvements for communities. In response, he listed two broad categories of interventions. The first group of responses are referred to as “climate change mitigation” but as H.E. Kikwete had just elaborated, Africa’s contribution to GHG emissions is very low. On the other hand, the continent is highly impacted by global warming. Hence, the second category of interventions are focused on “climate change adaptation”, i.e., responses to impacts that are already affecting communities. Optimistically, he remarked that:

“Communities are innovative ... and we have to really recognize that much as they are impacted, they are not just sitting down waiting for someone from above to come and help.”

However, he added that community-based responses may not always be the appropriate interventions to achieve “sustainable climate resilience”. For example, the movement of farmers/pastoralists into wetlands

due to prevailing drought conditions in traditional rain-fed farming areas can have very serious environmental implications as well. Hence, Dr. Yanda counselled that all interventions need to be assessed and only those that are best practice should be implemented.

The need for integrated solutions to build climate resilience

Dr. Yanda also emphasized the need for integrated solutions to build climate resilience. As Prof. Youba had pointed out, climate change impacts on both natural and social systems, especially where communities are directly dependent on natural resources for their survival and well-being. Hence interventions must recognize this complexity. Similarly, initiatives to respond to global warming can go hand-in-hand with poverty reduction as well as sustainable development efforts. Rather than attempt to separate interventions into separate silos and funding windows, integrated solutions will be required to tackle these issues to achieve long-term resilience.

Four things that African leaders can do to address climate change

Dr. Denton suggested that African leaders can do four things. First, she believed that African leaders should stay the course. Through the leadership of the CAHOSCC, several initiatives have been created, for example, the [African Renewable Energy Initiative \(AREI\)](#) and the [African Adaptation Initiative \(AAI\)](#). To ensure continued ‘clarity of vision’ as mentioned by H.E. Kikwete, the continent must follow through on these initiatives. Second, as is being done elsewhere, Africa needs to make a business case out of climate change. Governments and businesses in other nations are commoditizing carbon emissions. Why isn’t Africa doing the same? Third, Prof. Sokona talked about the world’s remaining carbon budget, which is fast running out. Hence, before it disappears, how can the continent front-load our systems, such as food and energy, to ensure that the continent takes full advantage within the available carbon budget? Fourth and last, climate adaptation is an imperative, complemented by climate mitigation efforts.

Africa must resist forces trying to push old technology onto the continent

Mr. Pooven Moodley, Executive Director of Natural Justice, remarked that China has created 13 million jobs in the renewable energy sector in order to lift people out of poverty. Yet, at the same time, China is investing to build coal plants in Africa, for example, in Lamu, Kenya. In that instance, the community took the issue to court and won the case, which upset both China and America. Similarly, Russia has been trying to push nine nuclear plants on South Africa, which would be disastrous. Hence, to enable Africa to leapfrog into the future through renewables, it is imperative that leaders must resist these forces and offers to push out-dated and highly polluting technologies onto the continent.

The transition to renewable forms of energy is unavoidable

Mr. Mufuruki agreed that Africa must transition to a different kind of energy. It is unavoidable. He said:

If we are serious, then we have to embrace the idea of undertaking something that has never been done before in terms of magnitude, in terms of cost, in terms of ambition ... something as ambitious as the Inga Dam Project.

But up to now, the consensus of discussions in Africa is that such a project is too big, too expensive, that we cannot do it. But, in closing, he added:

My question to this audience: How is it possible that a project that could potentially generate 100,000 megawatts of electricity is a problem not an opportunity?

In his closing remarks, **Prof. Sokona** observed that the problem with any major transition is that it is an inherently slow process. For example, the history of energy in humanity has taken more than hundred years. He also believed that the Inga Dam project would be realized not for African development but because it is a strategic part of China’s future to decarbonize its transport system. Therefore, Africa will need to think ahead and anticipate the changes. Inevitably, oil and gas will be end up like coal, not because these resources will be exhausted but because there will be no demand to invest in them.

Develop the evidence base for Africa to support climate change negotiations

In his closing remarks, Dr. Yanda emphasized that although climate change is a global issue, its impacts are geographically specific, hence, regional solutions need to be developed within Africa. However, only limited research has been undertaken on the continent, which can undermine Africa’s ability to argue its stance on climate change issues during IPCC processes and other international meetings. Therefore, he strongly recommended investment in generating data that will influence COP negotiations. Africa is already generating a number of IPCC reports, but these documents can be further customized to the African context. In contributions from the floor, one delegate recommended investing in research focusing on indigenous ecological knowledge as a tool for climate change resilience and adaptation.

Common but Differentiated Responsibility for addressing climate change

H.E. Kikwete agreed with Dr. Yanda. Climate change is a global phenomenon, but its effects are country specific. Therefore, each country must have a national climate action plan. The plans need to clearly identify what the country can do as well as what the rest of the world can support. At the same time, Africa needs to continue to shout, as Mwalimu Nyerere counselled, ‘The strength of the weak is in their unity.’ African countries need to keep working together, even if the powerful are

stepping on our toes. He said that at COP 21 it was very difficult to convince global powers on the principle of ‘equal but differentiated responsibilities’ in addressing climate change.¹⁴ But, in the end, this principle was enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

H.E. Mbeki concurred with H.E. Kikwete. To make a positive impact on climate change, Africa needs to insist upon the Common but Differentiated Approach as the continent’s present contribution to global emissions is miniscule compared with the principal polluters. It will also help deal with the challenge of the continent producing more fossil fuels within the overall global context of reducing greenhouse gases. He said:

It does not matter what we do about it in the sense of the energy sector. It is not going to make any change, unless others act.

Finally, he agreed with Mr. Mufuruki that the issue of the Inga Falls and power generation—hydroelectric, renewable, clean—has been around for a long time, and perhaps the time had come to view the project as an opportunity rather than a problem. He said:

As a continent, we have failed to produce the capital that is going to be needed to build that. Why? I do not know. Maybe we do not have it. I do not know. But he says let us not treat it as a problem but let us treat it as an opportunity. And Ali fortunately is a successful businessman, so he must lead us in this thing to make it a real opportunity.

¹⁴ For further explanation on the principle of ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’ with respect to climate change, see <https://climatenexus.org/climate-change-news/common-but-differentiated-responsibilities-and-respective-capabilities-cbdr-rc/>

Closing Remarks by H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, former President of Tanzania

With warmth and good humour, H.E. Mkapa extended his thanks to all participants of the Forum, which had drawn people from all parts of the continent, politically and linguistically, and from a diverse range of professions in academia, government, business, industry and civil society. He commended delegates:

...for demonstrating a common perception for what the problems are and how they are interrelated, but above all for identifying the kind of unity, interaction and cooperation which can advance the course of African economic independence through proper use and deployment of the natural resources.

Most importantly, he wished to thank presenters and participants for advancing the understanding that the continent's natural resources on land and in sea rightfully belonged to Africa. He said:

They are ours. We all can write about them as if they belong to those who are exploiting them, to those who colonized us. They are not; they are ours [and] that is the starting point for us setting our right to those natural resources.

He emphasized that it is now the responsibility of participants to carry this message forward to stimulate discussion and action on the management of natural resources and climate change.

I have heard that word 'anger' used very often. What I want to emphasize is that now that anger must start with us.

In closing, he thanked the Government of Finland and the other sponsors of the Forum, UONGOZI Institute for their organization of the event, and the Heads of State and Government who honoured the invitation to attend. Of note, he wished to thank H.E. Mbeki for observing that the pathways chosen to deal with these problems rest too much on the initiative of the continent's leadership. He said:

In order to get momentum, it must also be driven from the populous. This is very important because otherwise we have a top-down initiative which winds up at the top. But if it is a down initiative which pushes the top, then you can start having results. That is why it must start with us. I know that is a tall political order and it can be a potential for misunderstandings and conflict, but it is true. Leaders must also be held responsible in office by the drive of the people they lead and those who are downtrodden and dispossessed.

Statement of the African Leadership Forum 2019

The sixth African Leadership Forum (ALF) took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 29 – 30 August, 2019, under the theme "Promoting Good Natural Resource Management for Socio-economic Transformation in Africa".

The objective of the Forum was to reflect on the potential for land, wildlife, fishery and forestry in fostering socio-economic transformation in Africa and address the noted widespread unsustainable use of natural resources across the continent as well as the anticipated socio-economic, environmental and climate change consequences.

The keynote address, expanding on the theme, was delivered by H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Patron of the Forum. The organization was managed by UONGOZI Institute.

Similar to previous events, ALF 2019 was organized over a day and a half period with an open plenary and closed sessions under the same theme. The closed sessions were held under Chatham House Rules to encourage frank, open and in-depth discussion. The plenary session of the Forum was graced by the attendance of H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, who later on delivered an address. H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Vice President of The United Republic of Tanzania; H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; H.E. Thabo Mbeki, former President of the Republic of South Africa; H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania; H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, former President of the Federal Republic of Somalia; and H.E. Hery Rajaonarimampianina, former President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar; were in attendance. Also in attendance were diplomats, heads of international organizations and regional communities, and leaders from the public sector, private sector, academia and civil society from across Africa.

Under the overarching theme, the Forum considered three sub-themes, namely Basic Principles for Managing Renewable Resources, Illicit Practices of Renewable Resources in Africa, and Africa's Perspective on Climate Change and its Impact on Natural Resources.

After the Keynote address, participants addressed the question on whether Africa is aware of the potentials of available land, wildlife, fishery and forestry resources in fostering socio-economic transformation.

- There are differences in the levels of awareness depending on who is being addressed. The learned, technocrats and scientists are aware of the potentials and intricacies of using natural resources. However, the common man (citizens) and especially the lowly educated population may be less knowledgeable about the potential that Africa has, or about the consequences of alternative uses of natural resources.
- From a different angle, Africans may be very aware of the potentials of natural resources, but fail in the 'know-how' of how to sustainably tap these resources. The Forum observed that when natural resources are used for livelihoods, it is in ways that draw negative impacts to the environment. A good example is the dilemma elucidated by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Infotech Group Limited, Mr. Ali Mufuruki, *"The scale of charcoal business in Africa, the fact that governments generate revenues from charcoal through taxation, versus the negative impact on environment places governments in a serious dilemma of what to do."*
- Awareness may be there, but there is an apparent lack of effort to prioritize issues centered around factors leading to negative impacts of natural resources: land tenure, population growth, sub-optimal water catchments management systems, unsustainable harvesting of forestry and fishery resources, and the like. This awareness ought to be linked with Africa's education systems such that

future generations manage natural resources more sustainably.

- H.E. Thabo Mbeki alerted on the need to disaggregate the challenges such that we are context specific in articulating solutions for the various observed challenges. Such differentiation could be by types of natural resources or by geographical locations. He also stressed the need for the common man to press and force leadership to be more responsible in managing Africa's natural resources.

Recommendations to African Governments

- Governments should invest in research whose results would inform leaders about better natural resources management strategies. Such research should focus especially on rural economies, their socio-economic development strategies and how to mitigate negative environmental impacts. An example is research on the use of alternative energy sources, starting with addressing the problem of cutting trees for domestic charcoal.
- Governments are advised to pursue aggressive awareness raising campaigns about the implications of mismanaging natural resources and ultimate consequences on economic development. The target should not only be the common man, but also the political leadership. The goal should be to harness political will for proper management of natural resources.
- Governments' initiatives to undertake natural resources management ought to be implemented with clear understanding of the needs of the people in terms of their livelihoods and their medium- and long-term development perspectives and desires.

Session 1: Basic Principles for Managing Renewable Resources

Presenter: Dr. Fatima Denton, Director, United Nations University – Institute for Natural Resources in Africa

The session dealt with the basic principles for managing land, wildlife, fishery and forestry to achieve maximum benefits; and went on to address the challenges of executing such principles and what African governments should be doing.

Participants considered that having abundant natural resources does not necessarily confer wealth. It was clear that resource rich countries in Africa have not been able to share resource gains and at times leading to greatest cases of income inequality.

Development under such circumstances can be analogous to survival of the fittest. Subsequently, the resulting natural resource mismanagement, compounded with climate change, will reverse many of the hard-won development gains. All the above are a result of not adopting good basic principles of good natural resources management.

Participants concurred that in order to properly articulate relevant natural resource management practices, we have to start by understanding the key threats. The Chief Executive Officer of African Wildlife Foundation, Mr. Kaddu Sebunya, refers to such threats as the "drivers of resource mismanagement." These are: poverty, elements of the traditional African socio-economic set up, certain cultural values and beliefs which do not align with changes over time, and the vast informal sector. The ultimate natural resource management principles and good practices, ought to be tailor-made to suit the African context encompassing the above threats.

To achieve this, using H.E. Jakaya Kikwete's words, there is need for a better comprehension of the "Required balance between utilization and the rate of replenishment of renewable resource" and move away from the notion that such resources are unlimited and simply "God Given" with eternal availability.

At the heart of achieving an all-inclusive strategy, principles and good practices of managing natural resources must recognize the issue of "ownership". We need to address the question of 'who owns the natural resources in Africa?'

Three major challenges that limit African countries in their efforts to properly manage natural resources were outlined as follows: (i) human capacities, (ii) financial resources, and (iii) political will.

H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa argued that, "Africa never benefitted by the processes that generated the carbon emissions leading to the disastrous depletion of the ozone layer, and thus in turn Africa does not have financial resources and adequate knowledge on how to contend with the effects."

As a result, we observe lack of coordination among authorities, poor definition of roles and responsibilities, and lack of harmonization of laws and policies related to environmental management within African countries and at continental level.

Mr. Ali Mufuruki touched on an issue regarding mindset. He pointed out the tendency of African leaders getting overwhelmed by the problems we face. They thus quickly resort to sourcing external assistance and aid. He argued that, "*We have outsourced the task of taking care of our problems and at the same time the opportunities we have.*" For that matter what is required is a mindset change on our abilities to solve our problems and particularly so those concerned with natural resources management.

Recommendations to African Governments

- Africa needs two things: leadership in Natural Resource Management and African Institutions that can have a continental voice.
- Africa ought to embrace the fact that it is capable of leading the global transformation process towards green economies by way of leapfrogging experience and technology. To achieve this, African governments have to pursue five transitions that are with us now, namely: promotion of sustainable urbanization; investment in digital economies and full participation in the Fourth Industrial Revolution; promotion of alternative energy opportunities; investment to achieve sustainable and highly productive agriculture; and leveraging better natural resource management by investing in supportive infrastructure.

- Africa should address the human capital challenge. This will have to cover: improvements in the education systems, prioritizing special needs of women and youth - the single largest untapped potential force for doing good in our societies.
- African governments should attempt to diversify their economies away from relying on direct and unsustainable utilization of natural resources. Amongst measures that are pertinent is to put value to our natural resources and enhance responsible ownership.

Session 2: Illicit Practices of Renewable Resources in Africa

Presenter: Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization

The session addressed the problem of illicit practices in wildlife, fishery and forestry resources in Africa. Participants took note of the significance and strategic nature of illicit natural resource deployment. This was elucidated using various examples including: the hundreds of illegal fishing vessels that ply Africa territories. A thing that is made easy because of Africa's weak capacity to monitor and control deep sea fishing. At least one out of four fish harvested in Africa is caught illegally; Over 0.5% of Africa's forestry cover is cleared every year of which over 80% is illegal agriculture encroachment into forest areas; illegal harvesting of the African timber is estimated to be worth USD 13 billion. Between 2008 and 2016 2/3 of central Africa's elephants were illegally poached. Between 2009 and 2016 the elephant population was reduced by 60%. Illicit trade of resources above the ground is equal or more than that of underground resources such as, oil and minerals. For example, in 2014, illicit trade of natural resources was estimated to be over 75% of Africa's FDI.

Factors that contribute to increasing illicit practices in wildlife, fishery and forestry resources in Africa include:

- Illegal natural resource trade: A lucrative businesses, with high consumer demand. It is relatively higher in the continent because of low chance of detection and low cost of executing illegal practices.
- The link between illicit trade of natural resources

and political instability: Examples include effects of refugees’ movements across country borders and activities of warlords.

- Transformation failures: Includes unsuccessful development of agriculture, which has led to encroachment of forestry reserves, poor management of water etc.
- Shortfalls in legal frameworks: These open a door for failures to enforce laws and incentivizing corruption.

Participants further took note of bilateral and multilateral agreements to combat illicit dealings associated with wildlife, fishery and forestry resources in Africa, including:

- Joint declarations for protecting forestry reserves, barring illegal timber, agreements on ports management measures and corresponding agreement.
- Contingency and regional funds and/or systems to support victims of natural disasters.
- Local initiatives to conserve natural resources: Here, H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa quoted several useful approaches, including efforts by the late Wangari Muta Maathai, who managed to plant 50 million trees in Nairobi as well as his own support to replant trees around Mount Kilimanjaro.

Recommendations to African Governments

- African governments, and Regional Economic Communities, ought to raise awareness regarding Africa’s ownership of resources, and do so in a manner that generates anger amongst leaders and the population about how the outside world exploits our resources. Such anger will drive actions to establish policies and institutions that protect our natural resources. Illicit trade of Africa’s natural resources is an act of interference with the sovereignty of African countries.

- African governments should facilitate Public and joint Public-Private initiatives to protect African wildlife. Protecting African wildlife is equated to, and considered synonymous, to protecting Africa’s future.
- African governments need to convince themselves that the problem is in their hands. Solutions should come from within the continent. This includes according adequate weight to political instability as a driver to illicit natural resources trade.
- Governments ought to design incentives for legal natural resources businesses; encourage intra-regional trade in natural resources and also encourage private sector to investment in areas such as deep sea fishing, currently only done by foreign firms.
- Governments should press for international measures to depress consumer demand of Africa’s natural resources, especially wildlife.
- African governments should advocate for criminalization of illicit trade of natural resources globally.

Session 3: Africa’s Perspective on Climate Change and its Impact on Natural Resources

Presenter: Prof. Youba Sokona, Special Advisor for Sustainable Development, South Centre

Climate change is the biggest challenge facing humanity at the moment. It poses a fundamental threat to development, good natural resource management and the fight against poverty.

Climate change is increasingly becoming not only an environmental but also economic and social challenge in Africa; and Africa is relatively more vulnerable than sister continents. Rising climate change vulnerability imposes constraints on land, wildlife, fishery and forestry management. To quote the UN Environment Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Joyce Msuya, “1 million species out of 8 million are in danger of extinction.” Continued greenhouse emissions also stand out as a major challenge calling for action.

There is now a recognition that African countries need to stand together in the global arena to protect Africa’s natural resources. H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo took the audience back to cases where Africa stood together and emerged stronger than when each country worked in solitary. H.E. Jakaya Kikwete touched on the African Union initiative, the Committee of Heads of State on Climate Change and position that the continent has taken. Ms. Joyce Msuya reiterated on the need to abandon the fragmented Africa approaches and voices.

Recommendations to African Governments

- African governments ought to profile higher global warming and continue to institute measures to deal with the problem. Jointly, Africa should continue to put pressure on major contributors to greenhouse gases to take proportionate responsibility and honor commitments such as the one on carbon credit with relaxed conditions. In turn, Africa has to curve out a business case out of the climate change mitigation and adaptation agenda.
- African governments need to urgently address access to energy services through a rapid and wide scale expansion of both electricity generating capacity – on-grid and off-grid – and the supply of other forms of energy.
- The Forum concurred that whereas climate change is a global phenomenon, the impacts remain country specific. Therefore, governments ought to continue investing in and promoting appropriate and proven mitigation and adaptation measures. In doing so they should bring together the three pertinent communities of practice: policy, research and practice in a more organized manner, and approach the challenge holistically via systems.

Appendix A: List of Delegates

S/N	NAME	POSITION/ORGANIZATION
1	H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli	President of the United Republic of Tanzania
2	H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan	Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania
3	H.E. Benjamin Mkapa	Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania
4	H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo	Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
5	H.E. Thabo Mbeki	Former President of the Republic of South Africa
6	H.E. Jakaya Kikwete	Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania
7	H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud	Former President of the Federal Republic of Somalia
8	H.E. Hery Rajaonarimampianina	Former President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar
9	H.E. Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax	Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community
10	Dr. Abebe Haile-gabriel	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – Ghana
11	Dr. Abel Kinyondo	College of Education - University of Dar es Salaam
12	Ms. Abena Serwah	Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf for Guinea
13	Mr. Adam Issara	Officer of the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania – H.E. Jakaya Kikwete
14	Mr. Ahmed Salim	Shell Tanzania
15	Mr. Al-hamndou Dorsouma	The African Development Bank
16	Mr. Alan Pillay	Officer of the former President of the Republic of South Africa – H.E. Thabo Mbeki
17	Mr. Albert Jonkergouw	National Microfinance Bank
18	Mr. Ali Mufuruki	Infotech Investment Group Limited
19	Amb. Ami Mpungwe	Former Tanzanian Ambassador to South Africa
20	Prof. Ammon Mbelle	University of Dar es Salaam
21	Dr. Amos Ibrahim	Tanzania Revenue Authority
22	Prof. Andrew Temu	Diligent Consulting Ltd.
23	Ms. Angel Mbogoro	Impact Advisory
24	Ms. Anitha Maswe	Food World Media
25	Ms. Anna Henga	Legal and Human Rights Centre
26	Dr. Ato Solomon Mekonnen	Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Department
27	Mr. Audax Rukonge	Agriculture Non-state Actors Forum
28	Mr. Augustine Maurice	Office of the former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria – H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo
29	Mr. Baraka Nelson Peneza	Jwapano Bamboo
30	Dr. Bashiru Ally	Chama Cha Mapinduzi
31	Ms. Beatrice Muliahela	Farm Africa Tanzania

S/N	NAME	POSITION/ORGANIZATION
32	Ms. Bronwyn Llewellyn	USAID
33	Ms. Cisse N. Wassa	UONGOZI Institute Essay Competition Winner
34	Dr. Cosmas Ochieng	African Natural Resource Center – African Development Bank
35	Mr. Davis Lumala	Tanzania Media Women's Association
36	Mr. Deogratius Rweyunga	Independent Television Tanzania
37	Ms. Devotha Likokola	Village Community Bank
38	Mr. Dimowo Ofuje Cosmas	UONGOZI Institute Essay Competition Winner
39	Dr. Donald Mmari	REPOA
40	Ms. Dorothea Francis Massawe	Tanzania Tourist Board
41	Mr. Edward Kessy	National Economic Empowerment Council
42	Mr. Edwin Tambara	African Wildlife Foundation
43	Ms. Eileen Swai	Office of the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania – H.E. Benjamin Mkapa
44	Ms. Eileen Mumbi	African Wildlife Foundation
45	Ms. Elsa Da Gloria Patria	Stop Illegal Fishing Secretariat
46	Ms. Esther Mwaigomole	National Development Corporation
47	Dr. Eva Subira Munishi	Global Water Partnership Tanzania
48	Ms. Faidha Msangi	Institute of Adult Education
49	Mrs. Faraja Nyalandu	Shule Direct
50	Dr. Fatima Denton	Institute for Natural Resources in Africa – United Nations University
51	Ms. Fatma Hamis	Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
52	Ms. Fatuma Amour	Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology
53	Dr. Felician Kilahama	African Forestry
54	Mr. Francis Nanai	Mwanachi Communications Limited
55	Mr. Francis Kiwanga	Foundation for Civil Society
56	Mr. Frederick Kumah	World Wide Fund for Nature
57	Mr. Gabriel Serafim Muthisse	Former Minister for Transport and Communications in Mozambique
58	Mr. Geoffrey Rucho	Aquaculture Association of Tanzania
59	Ms. Gladness Alex Gasper	Centre for Foreign Relations
60	Dr. Harrison Charo Karisa	WorldFish
61	Ms. Irene Kiwia	Frontline Media Management - Africa
62	Prof. Issa Shivji	Kavazi La Mwalimu Nyerere
63	Prof. Jafari Kideghesho	College of African Wildlife Management
64	Mr. James Isiche	International Fund for Animal Welfare
65	Dr. Jeremia Ponera	Centre for Foreign Relations

S/N	NAME	POSITION/ORGANIZATION
66	Mr. Joao Abel	Interpol Regional Bureau for Southern Africa/ Sarpcco Coordination Office
67	Mr. John Ulanga	Trademark East Africa
68	Hon. John Cheyo	United Democratic Party
69	Mr. John Seel Muraguri	Arimus Media Ltd.
70	Dr. Josaphat Kweka	Talanta International Limited
71	Prof. Joseph Semboja	UONGOZI Institute
72	Mr. Joseph Butiku	Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation
73	Col (retd.) Joseph Leon Simbakalia	Tanzania Export Processing Zones
74	Ms. Joyce Msuya	Un Environment
75	Ms. Julie Gichuru	Arimus Media Ltd.
76	Mr. Juma Sebughe	TIRDO
77	Mr. Kaddu Sebunya	African Wildlife Foundation
78	Ms. Kelly Moichubedi	Southern African Development Community
79	Mr. Kelvin Mugisha Mutagwaba	UONGOZI Institute Essay Competition Winner
80	Mr. Khalifa Suleiman Khalifa	Civic United Front
81	Ms. Khalila Mbowe	Global Shapers Community Dar es Salaam
82	Mr. Laibor Kalanga	University of Dodoma
83	Leonid Santana	Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries
84	Dr. Lucas Katera	REPOA
85	Mr. Lwaga Elly Anangisye	Tanzania Revenue Authority
86	Mr. Macocha Tembele	Office of the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania – H.E. Benjamin Mkapa
87	Mr. Malago Malagashimba	Office of the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania – H.E. Benjamin Mkapa
88	Prof. Mark Appiah	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
89	H.E. Maryvonne Pool	Consulate of The Republic of Seychelles
90	Dr. Maureen Were	United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)
91	Mr. Mauri Starckman	Finish Institute of Public Management (HAUS)
92	Mr. Max Boqwana	Office of the former President of the Republic of South Africa – Thabo Mbeki
93	Mr. Mohamed Abdirisak	Office of the former President of the Federal Republic of Somalia – H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud
94	Mr. Mohamed Maslah	Office of the former President of the Federal Republic of Somalia – H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud
95	Prof. Mohammed Sheikh	Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology
96	Dr. Namwaka Omari	USAID

S/N	NAME	POSITION/ORGANIZATION
97	Mr. Naofumi Yamamura	Japan International Cooperation Agency
98	Mr. Ntahli Matete	Ministry of Mining – Kingdom of Lesotho
99	Prof. Nuhu Khatibu	Agra Tanzania
100	Dr. Ola Bello	Good Governance Africa
101	Amb. Ombeni Sefue	Former Chief Secretary of the United Republic of Tanzania
102	Mr. Panashe G. R Gombero	UONGOZI Institute Essay Competition Winner
103	Ms. Petrider Paul	National Democratic Institute
104	Mr. Philemon Luhanjo	Former Board Member of UONGOZI Institute
105	Dr. Pius Yanda	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – Working Group II
106	Mr. Pooven Moodley	Natural Justice
107	Ms. Rahima Njaidi	Tanzania Community Forest Network
108	Mr. Ramamonjiarivelo Lahinirina	Office of the former President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar – H.E. Hery Rajaonarimampianina
109	Ms. Rehema Tukai	KPMG
110	Dr. Revocatus Mushumbusi	Tanzania Forestry Research Institute
111	Ms. Riikka Raatikanen	Embassy of Finland
112	Mr. Sachin Gupta	I4id - Palladium Group
113	Ms. Salha Aziz	Binti Salha Foundation
114	Ms. Santina Majengo	CEO Roundtable
115	Ms. Sarah Majengo	Africa Practice
116	Prof. Shadrack Msafiri	Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy
117	Dr. Shigalla Mahongo	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
118	Hon. Sophia Mjema	Ilala Municipal Council
119	Mr. Stanslaus Peter Kadugalize	Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students Organization
120	Mr. Stephen Aloys	Agenda Participation Initiative
121	Mr. Tehindrazanarivelo Djacoba	Office of the former President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar – H.E. Hery Rajaonarimampianina
122	Mr. Theobald Sabi	NBC Bank Limited
123	Mr. Thomas Shauri	Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students Organization
124	Amb. Tuvako Manongi	Former Permanent Representative of Tanzania to the United Nations
125	Dr. Ubaldus Tumaini	College of Business Education
126	Ms. Victoria Panadero	UN Environment
127	Mr. Vincent Kaja	Uganda Timber Growers Association
128	Mr. Walter Bgoya	Mkuki Na Nyota Publishers
129	Mr. William Mshery	Vijana Think Tank
130	Prof. Youba Sokona	South Center – Geneva
131	Mrs. Zuhura Muro	Lindam Group Limited

Appendix B: Agenda of the Forum

Day 1
Thursday 29 August, 2019
Moderator: Ms. Julie Gichuru

Time	Activity	Particulars
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival and Registration	All
09:00 – 10:10	Welcoming Remarks and Keynote Address	H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania
10:00 – 12:30	Plenary Session: <i>"Promoting Good Natural Resources Management for Socio-Economic Transformation in Africa"</i>	Panelists: 1. H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 2. H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania 3. H.E. Thabo Mbeki, former President of the Republic of South Africa 4. H.E Hery Rajaonarimampianina, former President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar 5. Mr. Ali Mufuruki, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Infotech Investment Group Limited
12:30 – 14:00	Group Photo, Lunch and Networking	All
14:00 – 15:30	Session I: <i>"Basic Principles for Managing Renewable Resources"</i>	Presenter: Dr. Fatima Denton, Director, United Nation University - Institute for Natural Resources in Africa Panelists: 1. H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania 2. H.E Hery Rajaonarimampianina, former President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar 3. Dr. Fatima Denton, Director, Institute for Natural Resources in Africa – United Nations University 4. Amb. Ami Mpungwe, former Ambassador, High Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania in South Africa 5. Mr. Kaddu Sebunya, Chief Executive Officer, African Wildlife Foundation
15:30 – 16:00	Tea Break	All
16:00 – 17:30	Session II: <i>"Illicit Practices of Renewable Resources in Africa"</i>	Presenter: Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization Panelists: 1. H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 2. H.E. Hassan Mohamud, former President of the Federal Republic of Somalia 3. Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Africa, Food and Agriculture Organisation 4. Mr. Frederick Kumah, Africa Regional Director, World Wide Fund for Nature
18:30 – 21:30	Gala Dinner	All (Plenary and Closed Session)

Day 2
Friday 30 August, 2019
Moderator: Ms. Julie Gichuru

Time	Activity	Particulars
09:30 – 11:00	Session III: <i>"Africa's Perspective on Climate Change and Its Impact on Natural Resources"</i>	Presenter: Dr. Youba Sokona, Special Advisor for Sustainable Development, South Center Panelists: 1. H.E. Thabo Mbeki, former President of the Republic of South Africa 2. H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania 3. Dr. Youba Sokona, Special Advisor, South Centre 4. Ms. Joyce Msuya, UN Environment Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations 5. Dr. Pius Yanda, Center for Climate Studies, University of Dar es Salaam
11:00 – 11:30	Tea Break	All
11:30 – 12:00	Statement of the Forum	Prof. Andrew Temu
12:00 – 12:15	Closing Remarks	H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania
12:15	Lunch	All

About the African Leadership Forum

The African Leadership Forum was conceived of as a space for Africa's eminent elders to interact with current and future leaders around the strategic challenges facing the continent. The dialogues are to comprehend the leadership issues that are behind the implementation of solutions to Africa's sustainable development challenges, and that rarely find space for reflection and engagement. The Forum draws upon the experiences and insights of former Heads of State to guide decision-makers through the trials and tribulations of leading change on the continent. Since inception (2014), the Forums have been convened by H.E. Benjamin Mkapa and organized by UONGOZI Institute.

To date, six Forums have been held annually, covering:

- Meeting the challenges of Africa's transformation (2014)
- Moving towards an Integrated Africa: What needs to be done? (2015)
- Enabling African Businesses to Transform the Continent (2016)
- Peace and Security for an Integrated, United, and Sustainable Africa (2017)
- Financing Africa's Transformation for Sustainable Development (2018)
- Promoting Good Natural Resource Management for Socio-economic Transformation in Africa (2019)

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