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Synergies between Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's own development agenda key to advancement of the continent



NEPAD CEO Ibrahim Mayaki, Zambia Foreign Minister H.E. Harry Kalaba and AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture H.E. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace

On the sidelines of the historic Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit in New York, senior government officials, development experts and representatives from the NEPAD Agency agreed that it was critical that the ambitious targets outlined in the SDGs be streamlined within national priority programmes. At a high-level meeting co-organized by the Government of Zambia and the NEPAD Agency in collaboration with African Monitor – a broad coalition of civil society organizations - participants discussed the broad challenges faced by African countries ahead of the adoption of the set of global development goals.

In his keynote address, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Agency Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki underscored that “for Africa the SDGs comes at a time marked with significant milestones in Africa’s transformation agenda”. He highlighted that for the past 15 years the continent had seen comprehensive political and socio-economic reforms driven at the continental level by the African Union. Today, human development has improved with economic growth hovering around 5.2 percent in 2014. But despite these in-roads, Mayaki added, several challenges remain, particularly deepening inequality. “Achieving the SDGs would require strengthening and aligning systemic capacity, wise utilization of resources and building strong partnerships at all levels,” he said.

The CEO outlined that the five pillars of the NEPAD Agency’s operations: programme implementation; partnership building; resource mobilization; monitoring; and knowledge management positioned the Agency in an “unique position within the institutional landscape of the continent to support our Member States, civil society and other stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs and the attainment of sustained growth and prosperity for all its citizens”.

In his remarks, Zambia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Harry Kalaba noted that the NEPAD Agency had been “steadfast in its efforts at encouraging Member States to deliver on the SDGs.” He also outlined the significant strides that African countries had made in implementing continental programmes such as the

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Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). The Minister however pointed out that while it was important to find synergies between the work of the NEPAD Agency and the SDGs, Member States should continue to implement existing programmes while aligning them to the SDGs.

During her intervention African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture H.E. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace stressed implementation. "I believe that as far as commitments in the past 15 years are concerned, in addition to our Common Position on the SDGs, the scene has been set. What is really left now is how we 'catalyse' countries and regions to implement and for each country to embark on doing its 'homework' and then show the rest of the continent what has been done in terms of results and impact."

People-centred policies key to tackling the impact of climate change in Africa

Smart partnerships and innovative collaboration are key if Africa is to effectively tackle the deleterious impact of climate change on the agricultural sector, delegates heard at a side-event held on the margins of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit held at the United Nations in September.

The high-level meeting, jointly convened by the NEPAD Agency, the Government of Senegal and members of the NEPAD-INGO Climate Smart Alliance, aimed to engage a range of stakeholders on practical and grassroots-based action on agriculture and climate change.

In his opening remarks, H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Sudan Barnaba Benjamin stressed the importance of people-centred policies when tackling climate change on the continent. He said, "*We have to look at the environment, at the climatic conditions, and at the people who live on the land and how they deal with these issues of climate change when policies are formulated.*" The Minister added that while Africa had contributed very little to the negative impact of climate change, the continent is expected to bear the brunt of the fallout. "*These policies that aim to deal with climate change must be translated into benefits for the citizens of countries most affected. It is important that we learn from the Millennium Development Goals as we move forward in implementing the SDGs,*" he noted.

In his message to delegates, former President of Ghana H.E. John Kufour stressed the importance of technological know-how. "*The success of our efforts depends on sustained scientific knowledge. Africa knows what to do, but it must admit that it needs partnerships if it is to enter into and benefit from globalization. Without partnerships our efforts may take centuries to realize,*" he said. He added that, "*Africa is looking for sustainable solutions, results and action.*"

CEO of the NEPAD Agency Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki noted in his synthesis of the meeting that four clusters of issues had emerged during the deliberations. He underscored that there was a consensus that climate smart agriculture had to be mainstreamed. He added that it was also clear that there had to be greater empowerment of communities, especially during the formulation of policies. "*The current emphasis on a top-down approach has to change. There needs to be a greater emphasis on working from the bottom-up. By combining these two approaches one is able to reach greater coherence.*"

Dr. Mayaki further highlighted that it was important to integrate gender equity in policy-formulation. Too often, he remarked, gender equity was seen as an afterthought. Finally, he concluded by highlighting that the new generation of farmers across the continent, referred to as 'agripreneurs', while keen on actively engaging policy makers on climate smart agriculture, have voiced concerns about profitability and affordability.

"*The way forward is to ensure that we have knowledge. It is critical that we are constantly seeking out new knowledge so that we may progress,*" Mayaki said.

The NEPAD Agency supports the implementation of Climate Smart Agriculture in Africa through the Agriculture Climate Change programme and other related initiatives. These efforts will stimulate and galvanize multi-sectoral and transnational efforts to leverage political, policy, technical and financing action for implementation and scaling up of CSA to achieve Vision 2025.

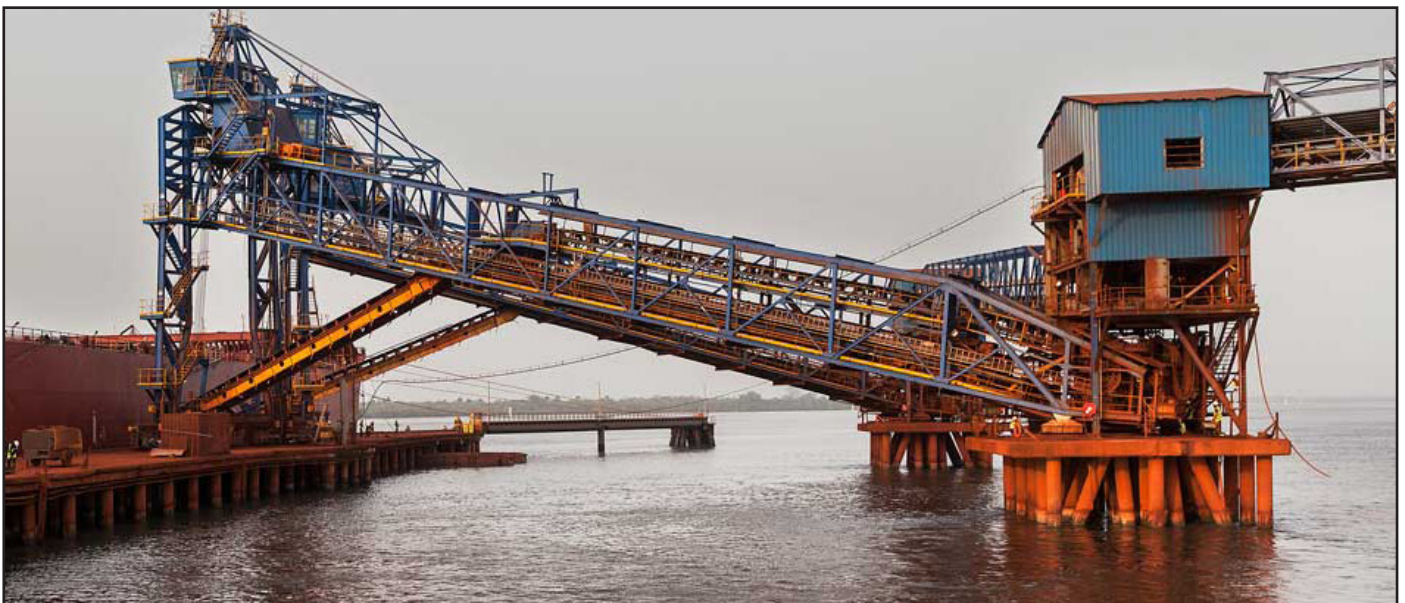
Capacity development in extractive industries needed, say senior policy-makers at NEPAD-led workshop

At the conclusion of an intensive three-day workshop on tax regulation in the extractives industry in September, senior policy-makers from across West and Central Africa called for greater regional cooperation and capacity development to support the effective management and governance of natural resources in their countries.

Participants also raised concern about the lack of adequate data in the sector, stressing that much more was needed to ensure access to relevant and reliable data.

Member States also signalled the critical importance of increased knowledge sharing within the region as well as with other

“The exploitation of African natural resources must contribute to the inclusive development and transformation of our economies. The high number of countries represented at a senior level at this inaugural meeting of the NEPAD Dialogue and Training series under the NEPAD Natural Resources and Governance Programme is a clear indication



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The NEPAD-led workshop held in Dakar, Senegal, aimed to provide government officials in the mining and fiscal ministries the opportunity to exchange experiences and engage regional and international experts on a range of issues related to the extractives industry sector.

Member State representatives underscored the need for the reinforcement of capacity, noting the current gap in the negotiating and technical skills between governments and international companies operating in the sector. The imbalance in technical know-how had often resulted in contracts skewed toward the benefit of foreign companies, they said.

stakeholders working in the extractives industry sector in developing and developed countries. This, they said, would increase their capacity to develop country-specific legal and tax frameworks which would, in the long term, provide benefits to local populations. A key outcome of the workshop included a request by Member States for the NEPAD Agency to develop a knowledge management platform, which would allow for the effective exchange of much-needed data, information, technical expertise and national experiences. Additionally, government representatives invited NEPAD to undertake additional training at the national level to further develop capacity and local expertise.

of the importance of designing tax and fiscal regimes that ensure equity and fairness in the flow of benefits to African governments and their populations,” said NEPAD Agency Director of Programme Implementation and Coordination Mrs. Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong.

The three-day meeting, supported by the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the German aid agency, GIZ, was the first in a series of planned workshops which the NEPAD Agency intends to undertake across the continent.

The workshop was a key activity in the Agency’s Natural Resource and Governance Programme, which aims to comprehensively develop the necessary technical



Mrs Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong with Senegal's Minister of Budget Hon. Birima Mangara

skills of Member States to ensure that ministries are adequately prepared to initiate, implement and administer the lifecycle of projects and make informed decisions throughout the valuechain in the extractives sector.

The Natural Resource and Governance Programme aims to support African Union Member States in the management of natural resources through facilitating the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision and other

instruments to build capacity and improve governance in the mining sector.

Rwanda dairy farmers praise the 'Climate Smart Brachiaria grass'

Ethel Makila

In the 'Land of a thousand hills' where the largely steep landscape has led to severe erosion, finding sufficient feed to support the growing dairy industry has been a major challenge to smallholder farmers.

However, a visit to farmers in the Eastern and Southern provinces of Rwanda in late July 2015 revealed that the climate smart Brachiaria grass—or ivugbwe as it is known locally—has the potential to extend forage availability throughout the year.

Despite it being the middle of the dry season with no rain expected until early September, the lush green vegetation on the Brachiaria fields stood out in contrast to the surrounding drying and wilting vegetation. The fields had been planted during the short rains of mid-April from seed distributed by the Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB), one of the national partners in the Swedish funded project on 'Climate smart Brachiaria grass to increase livestock production in East Africa' led by the Biosciences eastern and central Africa-International Livestock Research Institute (BecA-ILRI) Hub.

Through this programme, eight improved varieties of Brachiaria were evaluated by farmers in multiple locations representing different agroecological zones

in Rwanda and five best-bet varieties were identified. Four out of five farmer-selected varieties are being assessed on-farm for adaptation, herbage production and livestock productivity by over 500 Rwandan farmers and have quickly become a favourite for Rwanda livestock owners.

Francis Matabaro from Kivugiza in Bugesera district of eastern Rwanda affirms that Brachiaria grass is loved by his cattle.

"I love this grass because my cows love it!" he said. Matabaro who took up livestock farming in 1995 while on in exile in Tanzania says his farming has improved since he introduced Brachiaria grass to his cows. "I actually realised an increase in milk production by one litre within one day of the first feed," he added.



In a country where the government has invested heavily in small scale milk production to boost the economy, reports of increased milk yield by as high as 100 percent is music to the ears. The 'GIRINKA' (one cow per poor family) programme introduced by the Rwandan Government in 2006 has seen more than 200,000 farmers receive free dairy cows to date. A majority of farmers involved in the Brachiaria project are beneficiaries of this programme with very limited acreage on which to grow livestock feed. With proper management of Brachiaria grasses, farmers are able to get adequate feed from small pieces of land, often mere strips cultivated along terraces.

'What I liked best about this project was the training we received on how to manage Brachiaria grasses, and also on the nutritive value of the grasses' says Gahigi Vianney from Bishweshwe village in the Nyamagabe District of southern province of Rwanda.

Before joining the programme, Vianney relied on Napier grass and other local grasses harvested from the roadside, often experiencing feed shortage. 'Now I have a reliable supply of quality forage for my cows and I plan to start making hay to conserve for use during the dry season.'

Fifty-four year old Agnes Kangabe is now looking beyond the single cow she received from the

government. 'My current cow is crossbred dairy cow, but I believe with this grass I will be able to sustain a purebred milking cow,' she said.

As scientists work with farmers to determine the best suited forage for their local conditions, the climate-smart Brachiaria grass that revolutionized the beef and dairy industries in South and Central America, and Australia is quickly finding its place in Rwanda.

Moreover, best practices in mitigating the effects of climate change are also being identified from the studies conducted in the countries. These best practices will also be shared regionally as well as up-scaled within countries.

About the BecA-ILRI Hub:

The Biosciences eastern and central Africa-International Livestock Research Institute (BecA-ILRI) Hub is a world-class agricultural research and biosciences facility located at and managed by ILRI in Nairobi, Kenya. It provides support to African and international scientists conducting research on African agricultural challenges and acts as a focal point for learning, interaction and strategic research — enabling collaborations in the scientific community to benefit African farmers and markets within the region. The Hub was established as part of an African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) African Biosciences Initiative, which employs modern biotechnology to improve agriculture, livelihoods and food security in eastern and central Africa. ILRI is a member of the CGIAR Consortium. CGIAR is a global agriculture research partnership for a food-secure future. Its science is carried out by the 15 research centres that are members of the CGIAR Consortium in collaboration with hundreds of partner organizations.

<http://hub.africabiosciences.org/>
www.ilri.org

NEPAD supports thousands of women farmers impacted by climate change



Smallholder agriculture, the mainstay of most African countries is the sector that is most vulnerable to climate change. This sector is dominated by women farmers who account for over 80 percent of the continent's food production. Climate change affects agriculture, food security, water, energy and health, bringing about frequent and severe climatic shocks that disproportionately affect women. This is because of their limited adaptive capacity and high levels of vulnerability.

The NEPAD Agency's Gender Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) is a five year programme designed to support regional and country level interventions. Under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the GCCASP empowers rural women and other vulnerable populations to cope better with the adverse effects of climate change, while enhancing their resilience to shocks.

On 8 September, stakeholders at a meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, convened to enhance their partnerships and agree on implementing the GCCASP at regional level. The meeting was organised by the NEPAD Agency and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). Among the meeting participants were representatives from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, which has been sponsoring the programme from the onset. Other participants included both non-participating countries and countries that are part of the implementation phase of GCCASP – Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Rwanda.

The participating countries will see a total of 170,000 women (36,000 in Cameroon, Ethiopia and Niger; 50,000 in Malawi and 12,000 in Rwanda) benefiting from agricultural support in various interventions against the negative impacts of climate change. The four main intervention areas are: closing of institutional gaps; capacity building for women smallholder farmers; creation and strengthening of women platforms, and; increased investments in up-scaling successful and innovative practices.

As the lead driver for the GCCASP, the NEPAD Agency continues to provide technical support to the countries implementing the programme, as well as mobilising the much needed resources for the delivery of results.

So far a wealth of knowledge has been gathered in the five countries currently implementing GCCASP, through desk reviews, case studies, workshop reports, consultation reports and programme documents. This has helped to deepen the understanding of the many challenges faced by women farmers affected by climate change. The information generated by GCCASP has also helped to identify country priorities and specific intervention areas.

Moreover, best practices in mitigating the effects of climate change are also being identified from the studies conducted in the countries. These best practices will also be shared regionally as well as up-scaled within countries.

Women Participation in Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa - Challenges and Opportunities for Change

Historically, in much of Africa the science, technology and innovation (STI) workforce is largely dominated by males. Many interventions have been put in place to increase the number of women in the STI field. However, the lack of (or even the absence of) available and comparable gender dis-aggregated data or statistics makes it difficult to assess and monitor progress that has been achieved in many AU Member States. Statistics and indicators on women participation in STI are required to provide empirical evidence which will inform policy reviews and reforms aimed at building the capacity of women and mainstreaming gender in STI.



To address the need for indicators in STI in general and on women participation in STI in particular, for the past 8 years the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has partnered with ministries in –charge of STI and the National Bureaus of Statistics in member states of the African Union (AU) to implement the African Science, Technology and Innovation (ASTII) Initiative. Through this Initiative, professionals in member states are trained to carry out STI surveys and the consolidated results are published in country STI reports as well as in the African Innovation Outlook reports. The first African Innovation Outlook Report was published in 2010 (AIO, 2010) and the second one in 2014 (AIO 2014). Currently surveys are ongoing to collect data for the 3rd edition of the Outlook to be published in 2017. These reports provide the status of STI on in participating countries including statistics on women participation in STI activities such as research and experimental development (R&D). These data are dis-aggregated by qualification, field of research, age and the amount of time these women spend on research.

The share of women researchers as a percentage of total researchers is one important indicator that has been highlighted in the AIO-2014 to measure progress in women participation in STI. Table 1 below provides data of female R&D personnel and researchers and shares of total (head count) from 17 AU Member States that participated in the surveys. Four of the seventeen countries (Namibia, Cape Verde, South Africa and Kenya) reported shares of above 40% for women in R&D personnel. In these countries, except Kenya, the shares of women researchers reached 40% and above.

No major differences were observed in the reported percentages of women in R&D personnel as a whole and the female share of researchers. This suggests that women are actively participating in research activities and not merely fulfilling the role of support staff. Countries such as Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi and Togo reported less than 20% of women researchers. However, these figures call for further analysis and interpretation.

COUNTRIES	FEMALE R&D PERSONNEL	FEMLE RESEARCHERS	%FEMALE SHARE OF TOTAL R&D PERSONNEL	%FEMLE SHARE OF TOTAL RESEACHERS
Angola**	2 630	756	34.6	25.2
Burkina Faso	637	232	25.0	20.3
Cape Verde	63	51	43.2	39.8
Egypt	38 510	38 510	27.7	42.3
Ethiopia	1 351	477	10.3	6.5
Ghana	1 641	465	21.9	18.3
Kenya	25 281	3 338	40.8	25.7
Lesotho	16	13	30.2	31.0

COUNTRIES	FEMALE R&D PERSONNEL	FEMLE RESEARCHERS	%FEMALE SHARE OF TOTAL R&D PERSONNEL	%FEMLE SHARE OF TOTAL RESEACHERS
Malawi	751	360	19.7	19.5
Mali	404	144	20.8	16.0
Mozambique	1 110	512	33.5	32.2
Namibia	499	327	52.6	43.7
Senegal	2 885	2 031	27.1	24.9
South Africa	23 285	15 794	41.9	41.7
Togo	96	60	10.4	10.6
Uganda	1 096	987	25.7	24.3
Zimbabwe	1 044	692	28.2	25.3

Source: ASTII Surveys 2010 or latest year available

** In the case of Angola "R&D" and "researchers" include university lecturers who are not necessarily conducting research

Source: African Innovation Outlook 2014

A lot still needs to be done to develop an African-led STI system of indicators to measure women's participation and contribution to science and innovation activities in the socio-economic transformation of the continent. Some countries submitted partial data which means that certain comparisons cannot be made; and therefore these data on gender should be used with caution when making comparisons as some countries did not cover all the sectors in their R&D surveys. Normally these surveys should cover all the traditional sectors of the economy that perform R&D namely, the business sector, government sector, higher education sector and the private not-for profit sector. There has been however significant improvement in Africa's ability to establish indicators on women's participation in STI since the dawn of ASTII in 2007. Baseline indicators are still being established in most countries but already they are deriving very significant value from the progress made in establishing datasets which make it possible for them to measure and evaluate women's contribution in R&D. The ASTII initiative is an opportunity for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of various STI development frameworks and strategies on the continent including the Africa's the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024).

Major issues of concern that need to be addressed include:

- 1) Build human and institutional capacity in member states on STI indicators on a sustained basis;
- 2) Closely related to (1) above is the need to establish data and information management systems;
- 3) need to institutionalize STI data collection at county level so that they become part of official national statistics;
- 4) need to link STI indicators to policy making processes in member states so that data collection is not seen as an end in itself;
- 5) promote networking and collaborations (synergies) on STI in general and STI indicators in particular.

In conclusion, women's participation in research across the continent is very encouraging, with data indicating that they are active researchers and do not merely play supporting roles. This trend should continue. Building the capacity of women and mainstreaming gender in STI policies and implementation is vital to achieving universal sustainable development goals post 2015, the AU Agenda 2063, and national visions of many African countries. Africa should entrench the culture and tradition of measuring science and innovation activities in the socio-economic transformation of the continent for it is said that, "you cannot value what you do not measure".

Capacity building is key to infrastructure development, agrees PIDA core team

The NEPAD Agency in September concluded a PIDA Capacity Building project kickoff workshop in South Africa. The workshop, jointly convened with the African Development Bank aimed at regrouping all the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and agencies involved in the project for an intensive session to roll out implementation.

The focus was on orientating the RECs who are the project beneficiaries on operationalizing the 12 months NEPAD-RECs

The RECs were given an opportunity to present their draft workplan and procurement plans to the PIDA Core Team who then guided them on specific areas to focus on when prioritizing activities. The Finance and Procurement Units, along with the Communications Division briefed the RECs on the allocated budgets and outlined the areas that they would support the RECs on.

Representing the AfDB, Mtchera Johannes Chirwa, Chief

The PIDA Capacity Building Programme aims to enhance the technical capacity of primarily, the RECs, to enable them to support member states, to move the PIDA projects from concept to bankability and financing. The programme is supported through an \$8.6 million grant for a period of three years, funded by the AfDB.

“Infrastructure is important in promoting trade and regional development and the overall improvement of people’s



Representatives from the NEPAD Agency, AfDB and RECs attending the PIDA Capacity Building Project Workshop

workplans and budgets. This will help guide the RECs on issues such as procurement of services, drafting of budgets and outlining of clear workplans for the next 12 months.

“The successful implementation of RECs specific PIDA priority corridors, projects and activities will be dependent on the effective project management at REC level,” said Adama Deen, Project Coordinator for the PIDA Capacity Building Project (PIDA CAP)

He went on to highlight that the workplans need to be finalized to ensure that RECs are able to prioritise activities that will bring about positive results in the roll out of PIDA projects.

Infrastructure & PPP Specialist and Task Manager for the PIDA Capacity Building Project said that the Bank is privileged to be associated with this PIDA CAP as the bank sees it as an important programme to aid the execution of PIDA projects on the ground. The project will provide resources to move projects from their current stages to bankability, he said.

“The funding is ready to be used, but it cannot be disbursed without clear work plans from the RECs on the activities they plan to do during the next 12 months. It will be important for the RECs to rationalize and prioritise key projects for implementation. It’s the only way that PIDA projects can be moved to bankability” he concluded.

livelihoods. We as the RECs, will need to take ownership of this project to ensure that proper support is given to countries as well,” said the Director of Infrastructure for COMESA, Dr Abu Sufian Dafalla.

This workshop concludes successive workshops with individual RECs which began in late July.

Upcoming events

22 – 23 October 2015: Africa Global Partnership Platform Inauguration Meeting, Dakar, Senegal

28 – 30 October 2015: 6th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security, Kampala, Uganda

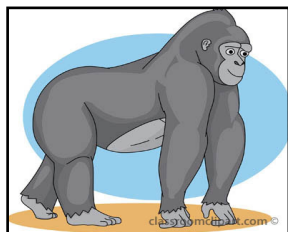
30 November – 11 December 2015: 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), Paris, France

30 November – 1 December 2015: Second Biennial Scientific Conference on Medicines Regulations in Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

2 – 4 December 2015: Fourth African Medicines Regulators Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

See also online at: www.nepad.org/events

Proverb



Congolese proverb ~

You do not teach the paths of the forest to an old gorilla.

Contact us

The NEPAD Communications Unit

Tel: +27 (0) 11 256 3615

Fax +27 (0) 11 206 3762

Email: info@nepad.org

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