

Industrious Africa

A SELECTION OF UNIDO'S ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

CONTENTS

UNIDO'S AFRICA PROGRAMME	4
AFRICA INDUSTRIALIZATION DAY 2007	6
POWERING INDUSTRY	
investment monitoring platform	8
enhanced subcontracting arrangements	8
the energy challenge	9
REGIONAL INITIATIVES	
african productive capacity initiative	10
regional economic communities	11
west african and ...	12
... east african quality programme	13
UNIDO IN ACTION	
computers for all	14
coffee and cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire	16
keeping tabs on food	18
skills for refugees	20
developing a head for business	22
learning the way out of poverty	24
skills for peace and income	26
quality counts	28
cashing in on bananas	29
HIGH-LEVEL VISITS	30
NEW REPRESENTATION	32
GOODWILL AMBASSADOR	32

Copyright © 2007 by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Vienna International Centre,
P.O. Box 300, 1400 Vienna, Austria

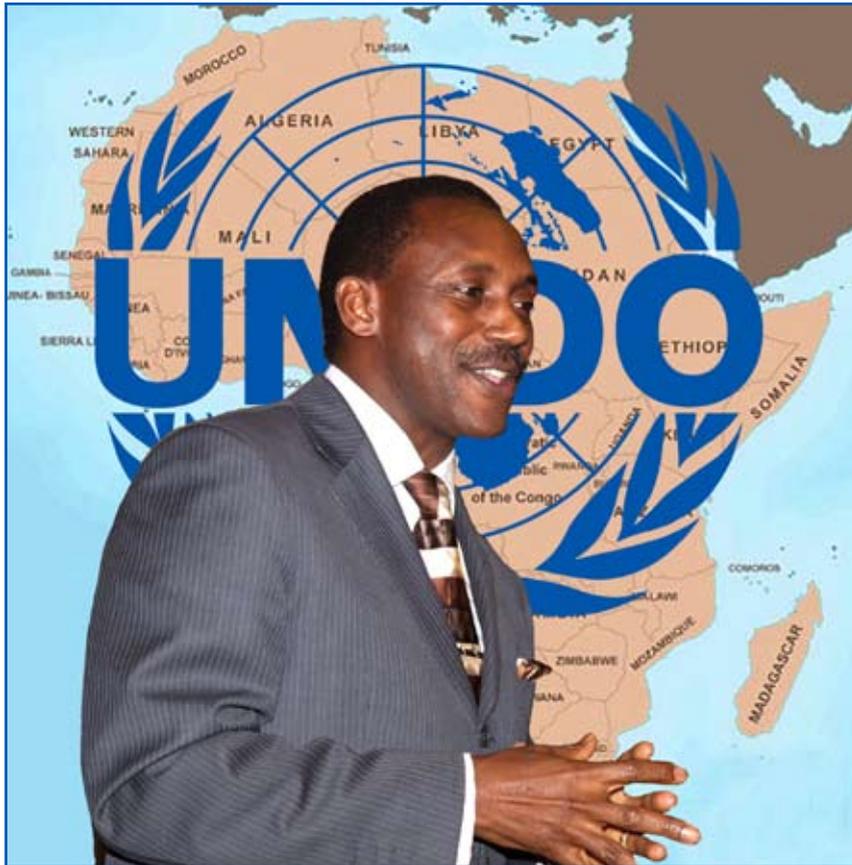
Tel: (+43-1) 26026-0, Fax: (+43-1) 26926-69, Internet: www.unido.org

Designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Designations including “developed”, “industrialized”, “advanced” or “developing” do not necessarily express a judgment about the state reached by a particular country or area in the development process. The opinions, figures and estimates given in the book are the responsibility of the author and should not necessarily be considered as reflecting the views or carrying the endorsement of UNIDO. The mention of firm names or commercial products does not imply endorsement by UNIDO.

All tons are metric and all dollars are US dollars. This book has not been formally edited.

Produced by the Africa Programme of the Regional and Field Coordination Branch,
Programme Coordination and Field Operations Division
Consultant: Judy Castelino

Printed in Austria



Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director-General of UNIDO

“What we need, in addition to the infrastructure and a supportive policy environment, is an emphasis on manufacturing. This enables us to export more and to create wealth in the economy. The synergies that we obtain from manufacturing are sustainable sources of development, with positive spill-overs on other sectors”

*Least Developed Countries
Ministerial Conference
Vienna, 29-30 November 2007*

“We cannot afford to be bystanders at the technological marvels that create economic value and transform societies. In an internationally competitive environment, we have to run fast even to stay where we are.”

*Extraordinary Conference of
African Ministers of Industry,
South Africa, 24-27 September 2007*

UNIDO'S AFRICA PROGRAMME



Discerning observers of Africa will have noticed that, despite the dire pictures shown on television or in the press, many African countries have emerged as open and democratic economies. The World Bank has recorded an average growth rate of 5.5 per cent in the last few years. If Africa is able to maintain this increase and at the same time pay attention to qualitative and equitable growth, we will soon see an acceleration in the number of jobs created. It is true that in some parts of Africa, perhaps many parts of Africa, poverty remains a serious challenge. But

in common with other Africans, I am convinced that poverty is not best served by handouts nor aid. What we need to do instead is to give people the tools, the skills, the education, the infrastructure to pull themselves out of poverty. An old and much quoted adage that says “If you teach a man to fish, you will be feeding him for life” is nowhere more relevant than in Africa.

UNIDO well understands the imperative of capacity building, and indeed it is the core element within our Organization's three thematic priorities: poverty reduction through productive activities, trade capacity building and energy and the environment. Several of the programmes illustrated in this booklet clearly show the efforts being made to build various kinds of capacities. We in UNIDO see the wisdom of trying to instil entrepreneurial skills in the young, before they leave school and join the competitive world of job-seekers. By teaching young people to stand on their own feet, armed with the knowledge and skills of their chosen

trade or profession, we will be saving an entire family, or perhaps an entire community, from poverty. Alongside the large-scale industries, it is essential to pay particular attention to small and micro industries.

This booklet, named *Industrious Africa* as a tribute to the hard work of countless millions of Africans who are learning to fish on their own in order to feed their families for life, can be seen as a follow-up to a publication issued last year by the Africa Bureau. *The Drum* reported on a number of events in and concerning Africa whereas this year, in line with the directives of the Director-General, we are concentrating on our projects and programmes, including programmes with a regional dimension. I trust that the many friends of Africa will find something of interest in this booklet. Obviously, this is only a small cross-section of UNIDO's activities in Africa, and information on other programmes is available from our web site or by contacting a member of the staff of the Africa Bureau (tel: +431 26026-3060).

I am pleased that this year, the Bureau has been strengthened by the addition of two professional staff members, while new appointments have been made to field posts in Africa. I also take great pride in the excellent collaboration that exists between the Headquarters and field staff that in turn benefits the countries we serve. I will take this opportunity to thank them all for their dedication both to the Bureau, and of course in the broader sense to Africa.

This year on the occasion of Africa Industrialization Day, I welcomed visitors and staff alike with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, a famous African American who said “I have a dream”. Africa too has a dream, a vision and a destiny.



We come from the world's oldest inhabited continent. Our forefathers spread out and populated the entire globe. We have our Mount Kilimanjaro, the pyramids, the Nile, the Victoria Falls and much more. Ours is the land of the Zulus, where once the Songhai and Benin empires reigned; where illustrious sons like Mandela ensure a world with a conscience. The people of Africa are imbued with the same spirit. They have hopes, dreams, visions. We in UNIDO are

determined to join them to realise those dreams, not by passing around the hat, but by giving them an opportunity to help themselves and each other so that one day Africans will be able to say "We had a vision ... and we achieved it".

Felix Ugbor
Chief, Africa Programme unit

AFRICA INDUSTRIALIZATION DAY 2007

The decision to name a special day to draw attention to the industrial development needs of Africa was taken by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989 within the framework of the Second Development Decade for Africa (resolution 44/237 of 22 December 1989). For the past 18 years, it has been marked by celebrations in Africa, Vienna and New York, coordinated by UNIDO, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union (formerly the Organization of African Unity). A special guest in Vienna at the 2007 celebration of Africa Industrialization Day was Mrs. Elisabeth Tankeu, Commission for Trade and Industry of the African Union (photo below). Mrs. Tankeu delivered a message on behalf of UNIDO, ECA and AU.



EXTRACT FROM THE STATEMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

“One of the most effective channels for eradicating poverty, creating wealth and enhancing competitiveness is through the acquisition, adaptation and application of relevant technologies. The New Partnership for Africa’s Development, under the auspices of the African Union, is making commendable efforts to provide a high-level platform for developing policies and setting priorities on science, technology and innovation for Africa’s socio-economic transformation.

Africa’s Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, endorsed by the African Union earlier this year, is an important step forward. The challenge now is to move forward with implementation. That means improving infrastructure for research and development and increasing the number of scientists, technicians and engineers on the continent. It means improving regional cooperation and building strong political and civil society constituencies supporting the promotion of science and technology in Africa.

On this Africa Industrialization Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to supporting the various efforts aimed at harnessing science and technology in support of the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals [MDGs] in Africa. The United Nations system, including UNIDO, will continue to support these efforts.

EXTRACT FROM THE JOINT AFRICAN UNION/ECA/UNIDO STATEMENT

“Africa has witnessed improved growth in recent years – averaging 5.5 per cent per annum. Its development prospects have never been brighter. Nevertheless, poverty remains a serious challenge. This is because growth alone is not sufficient to propel broad-based development. For growth to be translated into sustained poverty reduction, greater attention needs to be placed on the quality of growth, its sustainability and spread. In this context, greater access to, acquisition and application of science, technology and innovation are critical for African countries to raise the quality of their human capital and consequently, enhance pro-poor growth. The theme of today’s celebration [Technology and Innovation for Industry - Investing in People is Investing in the Future] is a clarion call for a reorientation of policies and strategies in support of science, technology and innovation in all African countries. Africa, like the South East Asian region, needs to mobilize science, technology and innovation to meet its development challenges and for making progress towards the MDGs. Food insecurity, illiteracy, energy shortages, inadequate shelter, diseases (including HIV and AIDS), environmental degradation, among others, can be effectively addressed through harnessing the opportunities which science, technology and innovation offer. ...

The First African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology held in 2003 under the auspices of the AU and its NEPAD Programme and the First Extraordinary Session of CAMI organized in September 2007 by the AU with the support of UNIDO have adopted respectively “Africa’s Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action” and the “Action Plan for Africa’s Industrial Development”, which provide road maps for the continent. We wish to record our appreciation for the support UNIDO has been providing to African countries in their effort to achieve sustainable industrial development.”

EXTRACT FROM THE STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

“I wish to commend the close working relationship between UNIDO and UNDP in supporting industrialization and development efforts in Africa and elsewhere around the world. At the country-level, the UN system should continue to strive for greater coherence and coordination in order to support national efforts more effectively. As we mark Africa Industrialization Day this year, we should all be encouraged by the recent announcement by the World Bank that African economies are now growing at the steady rates needed to reduce poverty and attract more foreign direct investment. Over the past decade, African economies have grown on average by 5.4 per cent. According to the World Bank, continuing these positive trends would be “critical not only to Africa’s capacity to attain the Millennium Development Goals, but also to becoming an exciting investment destination for global capital.”

global partnerships

For African Governments, information is indispensable in the design of effective investment promotion policies. The problem is that the information and data publicly available is usually too sketchy and fragmented to allow for informed decisions by the main players in the investment promotion process. UNIDO's investment promotion strategy is to address these challenges by developing an investment-related information platform, with the assistance of Microsoft, which draws on periodical and extensive enterprise-based surveys.

Once the methodology is in place, UNIDO will conduct an enterprise-level survey in 35 African countries and launch the investment monitoring platform. The concept was adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, and the ACP Committee to the European Commission. Financing for the platform is provided through the European Union Economic Development Fund as well as matching funds from UNIDO, Italy and possibly other countries. The platform links the main players and stakeholders—government and national authorities, private sector investors, financial institutions, civil societies and development partners—in the investment promotion and development process.

The use of the monitoring platform will facilitate new business partnerships and enable government institutions to allocate scarce resources on a more effective and sustainable base. Users are beneficiaries of the platform and providers of inputs to it. Investment Promotion Agencies, Regional Economic Communities and private sector organizations will benefit from UNIDO assistance to develop the capacities to utilize the platform for evidence based policy and strategy formulation and for making more informed investment decisions.

enhanced subcontracting arrangements

Over the last 25 years, UNIDO has established some 60 Subcontracting and Partnership Exchanges (SPXs) in more than 30 countries, that have been concentrating their efforts on information and matchmaking of local SMEs with international supply chains.

In line with the present dynamics of International business and the specific challenges in Africa, UNIDO will assign a new role to the SPXs aimed at promoting and understanding the requirements of the main contractors and buyers. The SPX will be based on supplier benchmarking to identify development gaps, which is a starting point for local upgrading requirements. In this context, the UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs), that are centres of expertise in development-oriented investment, will be mobilized for partnership promotion, technology infusion and financial support. Three SPXs of the new type are now established in Africa with different sources of funding. It is expected that they will be established in more African countries. Funding, envisaged under UNIDO's Industrial Restructuring and Upgrading Programme, is currently under negotiation within the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreements. UNIDO is developing the supplier benchmarking programme in South Africa in a pilot project which will be extended to other African countries.



“Poor access to energy entrenches poverty, constrains the delivery of social services, limits opportunities for women and erodes environmental sustainability”

World Economic Forum

The energy sector in most parts of Africa is characterized by a lack of access (especially in rural areas), low purchasing power, low energy efficiency and over-dependence on the traditional biomass for meeting basic energy needs. Since access to affordable energy is the central determinant of economic growth and poverty reduction efforts, Africa continues to face critical challenges related to its energy sector.

Access to electricity remains extremely limited, with rural areas in some Sub-Saharan countries having electrification rates of less than 1 per cent; traditional biofuels energy in those areas represents as much as 70 per cent of the primary energy supply, while energy intensity per capita is extremely low, at almost less than half of the world's average; all this despite the fact that the continent is endowed with vast energy resources that go unexploited. Further, Africa's higher energy intensity, coupled with the low levels of industrialization, also points to an inefficient energy use. An important element of energy security in Africa is, therefore, tapping the potential of cost-effective energy efficiency improvements in its industrial sector.

Keeping in view the key developmental issues relevant in the context of industrial growth and energy security in Africa, UNIDO along with its partner agencies and cooperating institutions has been implementing a large and diverse portfolio of energy projects and programmes in Africa in line with its core mandate to promote sustainable industrial development in developing countries, and within the broader priorities of MDGs and climate change. These projects mainly focus on enhancing access, promoting renewable energy for productive uses, improving industrial competitiveness through energy efficiency, and

strengthening policy and regulatory framework. Some of the important ongoing/completed UNIDO energy projects and programmes in Africa include, among others, the following: (a) setting up of a small hydropower demonstration plant to promote rural development in Rwanda; (b) renewable energy based mini-grids to augment rural electrification in Zambia; (c) cleaner and integral utilization of sisal waste for biogas and bio-fertilizers in Tanzania; and (d) training manual on sustainable energy regulation and policy-making for Africa.

Given the vast potential of biofuels to meet twin objectives of energy security and employment generation in Africa, UNIDO together with Africa Union and Brazil organized First High-Level Biofuels Seminar in Africa on 30 October to 1 November 2007 under the theme, 'Sustainable Biofuels Development in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges'. The seminar resulted in development of an action plan for promoting biofuels industries and markets in Africa. Further, UNIDO is developing a large umbrella rural energy programme "Lighting Up Rural Africa" to set-up more than 100 small hydropower systems to augment productive uses in next 3 years.

In addition, UNIDO is also preparing new projects and programmes to seek GEF funding as well as mobilize resources from multi/bilateral partners for promoting modern and reliable energy services based on renewable sources of energy in rural areas, and enhancing competitiveness of industrial sector through energy efficient technologies and measures in Africa. As a part of its global forum activities, UNIDO proposes to organize early in 2008 an international conference on renewable energy in Africa jointly with the Africa Union, the Government of Senegal and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

The Governments of African nations have long realized the imperative of industrialization for their economic and social growth. Over the years, several initiatives were launched that, it was hoped, would accelerate the industrial development of Africa, but for one reason or another, most of them were disappointing. In 2001, the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI) took a decision to focus on two aspects of industrialization rather than diluting its efforts by attempting to solve too many problems at once. It was agreed that the first items to tackle on the agenda for Africa's industrialization were (a) the improvement of industrial performance at the sub-regional level and on the diversification of productive capacities using Africa's own natural resource base as an input for industrial transformation and up-grading, and (b) the expansion of integration efforts, taking advantage of existing support measures to access regional and global markets.

The CAMI discussions took place against the backdrop of another pan-African initiative. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), was launched in July 2001, by the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union) to serve as a framework for the continent's efforts to achieve socio-economic development. November 2003 saw a synchronization of the two initiatives, when the African Union adopted the CAMI approach—that meanwhile had acquired the name African Productive Capacity Initiative (APCI)—as the industrial component of its broader development plan for Africa.

ACPI forced a rethinking of the continent's approach to industrial development. Up to that point, the emphasis had been on trade, with correspondingly less attention paid to productive capacity. There was little to be gained by

opening markets if the continent had no, or few, products of an appropriate standard to sell. Once the new approach had been understood and accepted by all countries, the next challenge was how to popularise the initiative at the national and regional levels. This is where a number of regional organizations in Africa came to be involved in ACPI (see next page).

UNIDO was a natural partner for ACPI and lost no time in mobilizing resources for the initiative. ACPI also found expression in regional African economic communities (see next page) that, like UNIDO are also concentrating on upgrading and modernization programmes. Under one such programme, UNIDO convened expert group meetings in cooperation with the regional economic communities, at which the national action plans of each country were presented. These formed the basis for the respective road-maps for the respective sub-region. By the end of 2006, five regional expert group meetings had taken place, and UNIDO began to put together sub-regional and national programmes, taking into account the priorities agreed upon in each expert group meeting. The emerging programmes include, to a greater or lesser extent, four main elements, namely productive capacity and quality promotion; standards and conformity assessment; regional accreditation; and industrial upgrading and modernization.



“It is important to nurture any new ideas and initiatives which can make a difference for Africa”

Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Laureate

ECOWAS

(Economic Community of West African States)

PROGRAMME: Industrial Modernization/Upgrading

COUNTRIES INVOLVED: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Mauritania

PARTNERSHIP: ECOWAS/EC/UNIDO

START: October 2007

BUDGET: under negotiation

COMESA

(Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa)

PROGRAMME: Industrial modernization/upgrading

COUNTRIES INVOLVED: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

PARTNERSHIP: COMESA/EC/UNIDO

START: May 2007

BUDGET: under negotiation

CEMAC

(Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa)

PROGRAMME: Quality infrastructure and industrial modernization/upgrading

COUNTRIES INVOLVED: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and São Tome and Principe

PARTNERSHIP: CEMAC/EC/UNIDO

START: April 2007

BUDGET: under negotiation

SADC

(Southern African Development Community)

PROGRAMME: Industrial Modernization/Upgrading

COUNTRIES INVOLVED: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania

PARTNERSHIP: SADC/EC/UNIDO

START: 2007

BUDGET: under negotiation



a common vision



As a major engine of growth and economic development for developing countries, trade plays an important role in reducing poverty. Although a number of duty- and quota-free initiatives have been launched to give developing countries better access to markets, many do not yet enjoy equitable participation in global trade. They are hampered by the absence of a supply capacity and inadequate quality infrastructure to prove compliance with market requirements, especially standards and technical regulations.

The greater part of the non-oil export revenues of West Africa originates from commodity exports such as coffee, cocoa, cotton and other agricultural produce. Most of these agro-based commodities have a potential for local processing that would increase local value-added.

Between 2001 and 2005, UNIDO implemented a programme to strengthen the export competitiveness of the eight West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) countries. Key exports included cotton, fish, fruit, vegetables, cashew nuts, oil seeds and edible oils. Internationally accredited microbiological and chemical testing and SPS compliance systems were not available to local exporters. The programme provided technical expertise mainly in accreditation, standardization, metrology, product testing and quality promotion and targeted agro-industrial sectors.

UNIDO assisted in: establishing a subregional institutional structure for coordinating standardization, certification and quality promotion; establishing modern national standardization institutes in each country; creating a subregional accreditation body; training 500 executives/scientists, 200 private consultants, 53 auditor-evaluators and 50 auditors in the region; adopting standards for 500 key products and giving easy access to international standards; developing a database for the standards and technical regulations of the eight participating countries; and establishing a quality awards system for the best performing enterprises.

The positive results achieved led to a successor programme in support of all 15 countries in the Economic Community of West African States and Mauritania, once more funded by the European Union. The programme aims to foster compliance with international trade rules and regulations, in particular the World Trade Organization agreements on technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures, through the establishment and strengthening of national and regional quality infrastructure for the entire West African region. The West African Quality Programme will contribute to the development of an enabling business environment that will allow enterprises to produce goods that meet market requirements, including public and private standards. The programme will, in particular, upgrade quality infrastructure and services for the internationally accepted proof of such compliance.

The €30 million programme, financed by the European Union, will comprise eight activities: trade analysis, accreditation, standardization, metrology, product testing, quality promotion, traceability and inspection.



The East African Community (EAC) is the regional intergovernmental organization of Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Burundi and Republic of Rwanda with its headquarters in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. The EAC aims at widening and deepening cooperation among the partner states in, among others, political, economic and social fields for their mutual benefit.

One common problem faced by all African countries is to produce goods that meet the stringent standards imposed by importers in Europe and elsewhere. Although in the EAC countries, most of the basic national capacities for food safety and quality have been established, they still need to raise substantially their capacity if they are to meet the increasingly stringent requirements in terms of quality, productivity, safety, health and the environment and their work force. Their inability to do so could be very costly in terms of economic and social costs.

The Trade Capacity Building Project for Agro-Industry is a three year initiative funded by Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD) and implemented by UNIDO in the



East African Community. The programme was launched by the Secretary General of EAC in December 2006. The main development objectives of the programme are to enhance the capacity of enterprises to produce according to international market requirements and to strengthen export-oriented support services mainly relating to conformity assessments.

The programme is managed by UNIDO through EAC Secretariat, a Regional Steering Committee with membership drawn from partner States and National Steering Committees at national level. The first Regional Steering Committee meeting was held in Arusha in June 2007 to establish work plans for the regional project. The meeting was attended by delegates from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda as well as development partners from NORAD and UNIDO and the EAC Secretariat.

The project will contribute to realising the EAC development strategy for 2006-2010, that aims to promote value addition, productivity and competitive agricultural supplies for cross-border and international trade and sustainable food security within the East African Community.



PROJECT DATA SHEET

<i>Project no.:</i>	
<i>Budget:</i>	<i>\$2.6 million</i>
<i>Donor:</i>	<i>Norway</i>
<i>Started:</i>	<i>2003</i>
<i>Duration:</i>	<i>3 years</i>
<i>Status:</i>	<i>ongoing</i>

UNIDO IN ACTION



On 7 June 2007, UNIDO and Microsoft announced a joint initiative that would create a bridge between companies discarding used computer equipment and small and medium enterprises in Africa that could refurbish and repair the equipment for their own use.

The Refurbished Computer Initiative for Small and Medium Entrepreneurs in Africa was signed by the Director-General of UNIDO and Dr. Cheick Diarra, Chairman of Microsoft Africa at the first African subregional Forum on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Best Practices, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. “Small and medium-size enterprises are the cornerstone of any economy. By providing computers, software and training to entrepreneurs, we aim to foster jobs and opportunities in SMEs in rural Africa”, said Dr. Kandeh Yumkella. Microsoft and UNIDO have been working together since July 2006 to promote innovative uses of ICTs that support entrepreneurship and help promote investment and create business opportunities for SMEs in Africa. According to Dr. Cheick Diarra, there is a great demand for affordable computers among the SME community in Africa. “Microsoft through its know-how with refurbished PC solutions and UNIDO through its experience in SME development, have the opportunity to help address this problem” he stated. The UNIDO-Microsoft initiative sets stringent quality criteria for refurbished computers, including warranties and after-sales service. Since electronic waste is a global problem, the agreement also stipulates ways for the eventual disposal and recycling of obsolete computers.

In a subsequent development on 21 September 2007, a letter of intent was signed jointly by UNIDO, the Government of Uganda and Microsoft aimed at promoting the development of local software solutions in Uganda. The letter of intent

“Microsoft can help create knowledge-based economies in Africa that generate new jobs and offer new opportunities for growth, prosperity and innovation”

Bill Gates, Founder and Chairman of Microsoft

followed a July 2006 memorandum of understanding between UNIDO and Microsoft in which both partners agreed on a new strategic collaboration to tackle the root causes of poverty by promoting innovative uses of information and communication technologies. These would, in turn, support entrepreneurship and help promote investment and create business opportunities, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa. Six district business information centres will provide rural businesses and those who operate them with integrated solutions, instruction in technology and entrepreneurial skills and Internet access. Under the second phase of the project, the number of these centres will be increased to eight. Microsoft has researched rural computing in India extensively and will now apply its knowledge in Uganda. “With this programme,” said Cheick Diarra, Microsoft’s Chairman for Africa, “we are able to make ICT and skills available to adults and young unemployed Africans who want to start a business.”

These initiatives built on an agreement signed by UNIDO and Microsoft on the occasion of the first Microsoft Government Leaders Forum for Africa in Cape Town, South Africa, with the theme “Accelerating Africa’s Global Competitiveness”. “More public-private partnerships are needed—such as the one we have established with Microsoft—to bring Africa closer to achieving the Millennium Development Goals” observed the UNIDO Director-General.

In November 2007, UNIDO and Microsoft received the Africa Investor Award 2007 in the category Best Initiative in Support of Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development for the Uganda Business Information Centre project. The award ceremony took place on 7 November in Lagos (picture right).



CÔTE D'IVOIRE



As the sun rises and people the world over go about their business of starting the day, millions upon millions will be sharing a common experience: the first, eagerly awaited cup of coffee. Connoisseurs of the beverage may be aware of the difference between the two types of coffee—robusta and arabica—but few of them would be able to pinpoint the country producing the beans that eventually find their way into their coffee mug. Nor would they be likely to pose many questions about the harvesting of the beans and their processing. If coffee has become a way of life, particularly



in the northern hemisphere and Latin America, another bean, first brought to Europe in 1544 and introduced to Africa by the colonial powers in 1879 has become part of most people's staple diet and a particular favourite among children.

Cocoa and coffee are the most important cash crops of Côte d'Ivoire. The country tops the list of the world's cocoa producers; cocoa represents 90 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings. For many years Côte d'Ivoire ranked third among coffee producing nations after Brazil and Colombia. Civil unrest took its toll on coffee production in 2002/2003 and beyond, while more recently Ivorian coffee and cocoa exports have suffered another setback in the form of a tropical fungus.

A carcinogenic toxin named *Ochratoxine A* secreted by some types of fungus can lead to liver and kidney damage and weaken the immune system. Recent studies have shown, however, that much of the toxin is in fact destroyed in processing coffee beans, although only 20 per cent is currently removed from the cocoa bean during processing. The toxin is found in far larger concentrations in cereals so it is more likely to be traced to the breakfast bowl than the breakfast mug. Much has been written about *Ochratoxine A* and its link to coffee and cocoa, and this has been potentially damaging for countries like Côte d'Ivoire. In an effort to regain the confidence of coffee and cocoa importers, particularly the European Union, UNIDO is helping to establish a laboratory that will have the facilities and accreditation necessary to provide an internationally acceptable analysis of the beans. UNIDO is working on three studies that (a) monitor the status of the toxin and the impact of its removal; (b) identify the critical points where

the bean picks up the fungus; and (c) check the relevance of the sampling methods used to establish the level of toxin.

The third component of the programme involves awareness-raising. Most of the contamination occurs outside on the plantation and during the first processing steps that take place on the farm. With 1.7 hectares of cocoa and over 600,000 hectares of coffee, producers must be made aware of the precautions that can be taken to avoid, or reduce, contamination.

Shortly after the launch of the project, the European Union decided to suspend the introduction of the new contamination limits that could have led to the rejection of coffee and cocoa emanating from Côte d'Ivoire. In the case of cocoa, only a small amount of the raw material is consumed daily, while the level of toxin in processed coffee is low. Nevertheless, the situation could change in the future if contamination is not brought under control. When all is said and done, the money and effort invested into ensuring high quality, uncontaminated coffee and cocoa reap benefits in terms of greater consumer protection and the renewed confidence of importers.



PROJECT DATA SHEET

<i>Project no.:</i>	<i>EEIVC07001</i>
<i>Budget:</i>	<i>€1,7 million</i>
<i>Donor:</i>	<i>European Union</i>
<i>Status:</i>	<i>ongoing</i>
<i>Started:</i>	<i>April 2007</i>



EGYPT



Globalization has done much to spice up the diets of consumers in the developed world. Restaurants featuring food from each corner of the globe have sprung up on every high-street, while open markets attract shoppers with a mysterious array of fruit and vegetables in different shapes and colours. They are finding their way onto Western dining tables and opening up exciting culinary horizons for consumers. While end-users and food-producers benefit from the impact of globalization on food availability, there is a growing preoccupation with food safety. Legislation to ensure food safety is in the interests both of the consumer and the supplier, anxious to export to European markets and beyond.

Egypt has excelled in growing vegetables since the time of the Pharaohs. Over three millennia later, the country still produces an impressive range of vegetables that are particularly popular in Europe. The agriculture sector accounts for over 20 per cent of Egyptian exports and employs 32 per cent of its working population. To ensure that Egyptian producers and exporters of agro-products can continue to market their produce abroad, the Ministry of Foreign Trade asked UNIDO to assist the Egyptian food

The aim of the UNIDO Traceability Project (ETRACE) is to enable companies, through documentation and recoding, to comprehensively trace and track the history of the product and its location along the whole supply chain. Traceability is essential to importers and government authorities, particularly in cases of health emergencies (contaminated food, SPS-related issues, etc.) where a product recall might be required, as it allows them to reach the source of the problem.

industry to comply with new European Union standards on food safety and circulation. UNIDO was also requested to establish a traceability scheme (see box). Quality in the post harvest sector has always been crucial for the agro-industrial sector in Egypt. Cold chain, product processing, quality control and certification, accreditation of certification bodies and exports are currently the most important challenges the country and its companies are facing in order to maintain and expand their role as an international food supplier.

The ETRACE project approach has been to build local capacity, a great deal of attention was paid to training national experts so that they could help users in the development and implementation of traceability schemes. The focus of training has been to assist fresh produce exporting companies to adopt the procedures necessary to conform to international quality and safety standards and SPS requirements. The project has trained over 1,500 nationals, including 52 experts who were trained as trainers. It involved a large number of producers and exporters across the entire food chain, including producers from Upper Egypt who are engaged in safe agricultural production, as well as food transporters and various other service providers.

Training covered the following topics:

- Traceability: concepts and implementation;
- Practical implementation of the traceability manual;
- EU and international standards for fresh produce, quality, safety and traceability;
- Post-harvest handling for quality exports;
- Personal hygiene and working conditions;
- Food safety concepts (e.G. HACCP);
- ISO 22000 (training and implementation);
- Study tours to Italy and other EU countries.



PROJECT DATA SHEET

<i>Project no.:</i>	<i>TF/EGY/03/003, TN/EGY/03/003, TN/EGY/03/A03</i>
<i>Budget:</i>	<i>\$6 million</i>
<i>Donor:</i>	<i>Egypt</i>
<i>Started:</i>	<i>2003</i>
<i>Duration:</i>	<i>2008</i>
<i>Status:</i>	<i>ongoing</i>



GHANA



The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has helped an estimated 50 million people towards a new life since it was established in 1950, shortly after the end of the Second World War. Tragically, the number of refugees does not seem to diminish with the years, and currently UNHCR is providing assistance to almost 33 million men, women and children.

For the past two decades, Ghana has enjoyed greater stability than its neighbours in West Africa and is consequently viewed as a haven for streams of refugees fleeing political persecution or poverty. The Buduburam Refugee Camp, the largest in Ghana, is located close to the capital Accra, and is home to some 42,000, mostly Liberian, refugees. The refugees have done much to organize themselves; the camp boasts its own open market, supermarket, newspaper, churches, mosques and many other features of a medium-size town. There is also a medical centre and a number of schools. Nonetheless, the camp faces chronic shortages

in the supply of water and electricity as well as a growing problem of sanitation and hygiene. A second refugee camp in Krisan is located some 300 km from the capital. With 1,700 refugees, it is altogether less bustling than Buduburam but has a wider mix of nationalities, languages and cultures. Food rations are supplied to relatively few people in Buduburam and rations in Krisan are not sufficient to feed a typical family for the entire month. The first priority of any assistance programme is to help refugees find profitable and sustainable activities to serve their short-term needs. For this, they need skills and experience that will enable them to be productive as soon as they are repatriated, relocated or integrated into the local community.

Compounding the problem of shortages is a lack of social cohesion that UNHCR, together with other partners, has tried to address by organizing a range of activities for refugees. Activities include skills training in areas such as construction, farming, carpentry, sewing, soap making, hairdressing and batik making, to mention a few. They have also facilitated micro-credit schemes to help launch refugee activities although with mixed results. Refugees are hampered by a lack of business skills and an entrepreneurial approach. Most of them do not speak a local language and encounter problems in marketing their products. To make matters worse, there is undoubtedly a measure of built-in resentment on the part of local communities towards the refugees.

Although the most closely involved, UNHCR is not the only United Nations body present in the two camps. UNIDO has a clear-cut role in teaching refugees the skills needed to set up their own micro or small-scale businesses, both for their own benefit and for that of their host communities. Under



a new project that began in October 2007, UNIDO is the lead agency addressing the income-earning potential of refugees. Food-processing is a clear choice and an area in which UNIDO has extensive experience, although there are many other options.

One interesting feature of the project is that it combines different aspects of agricultural production with an enterprise approach to processing and other activities. It calls for the concerted efforts of UNHCR, UNIDO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) who complement each other's activities in the camps and communities, with each organization working in its particular area of expertise and comparative advantage. The project differs from previous assistance in that it is based on feasibility studies and market assessments for enterprise development and started out with market studies. It also builds on information from the UNIDO Rural Enterprise Development Support project in terms of buyers and markets. The project is designed to familiarize trainees with a market-based approach to enterprise development

and allow them to see firsthand how to negotiate with buyers from end-markets, set prices and avoid middlemen. They will also be exposed to the demands of the market in terms of consistent product quality.

Considerable training time will be spent actually applying the technical skills learned in the classroom to the creation of functioning enterprises. In addition, the project will endeavour to integrate refugees and local communities in mutually reinforcing relationships of production and marketing. This has not been done in previous assistance, yet it provides the best chance for long-term sustainability and increased security for both the host communities and the refugee population. The local communities surrounding the refugee camps will also be active participants in the project and will be invited to take part in training activities. At least 20 per cent of all training activities will be especially designed for them and local trainers will be employed to the extent possible.

UNIDO is one of five United Nations agencies providing similar support in the United Republic of Tanzania, that hosts 500,000 refugees.



PROJECT DATA SHEET	
<i>Project no.:</i>	<i>TF/GHA/06/004</i>
<i>Budget:</i>	<i>\$1.7 million (all agencies)</i>
<i>Donor:</i>	<i>Japan through UNTFHS</i>
<i>Started:</i>	<i>October 2007</i>
<i>Duration:</i>	<i>2 years</i>



MOZAMBIQUE

"I always thought that when I'd finished my studies I'd have to rely on the public sector to employ me. But with the introduction of this course I understood how I could set up my own business and be self-sufficient. From now on, I'm going to do everything to become an entrepreneur."

Pinto A. P. L., 18 years old,
3rd year, Pemba, Mozambique

Mozambique is another country that has made considerable progress in recent years. The economy in particular has shown an impressive growth with current exports threefold the level of 1990. Most of its economic success, however, can be attributed to large industrial projects in the aluminium, gas, titanium and coal industries. The small and medium-size industry sector has not yet achieved its potential. One obvious constraint is that school-leavers have few of the skills required by the business sector. In order to address this problem, the Government decided to introduce entrepreneurship skills to the school curriculum, in addition to the traditional classes held at the secondary school level. The idea was to show young people from an early age the way to a productive future.

In 2003, UNIDO held a workshop on the Ugandan experience of entrepreneurial training in secondary schools that the Ministry of Education and Culture of Mozambique decided to emulate in a pilot operation in Cabo Delgado province. The pilot scheme was launched in April 2005 with an initial four schools and 960 students, extending to eight schools with 2,600 students in February 2006. The pilot programme



revealed that students acquired greater dignity and self-esteem and exhibited more of a self-help attitude and a better appreciation of community relations.

Following the success of the pilot project, in January 2007 UNIDO expanded the operation on a national scale to include 42 schools with a total of almost 12,000 students. The programme involves eleven schools in the Cabo Delgado province, as well as three schools in each of the other ten provinces: one rural school, one urban school and one technical and vocational school. Students range in age from

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”
Nelson Mandela, Nobel Peace Laureate

13 to 21. While initially teachers will be trained by UNIDO in entrepreneurship skills, this function will gradually be taken over by local staff during the course of the project. The number of schools participating in the Programme will be further increased to 214 in 2009, with a total of 129,700 students, rising to 270 schools in 2010

Students are shown that entrepreneurs create business, and that business generates employment, income and wealth. The Entrepreneurship Curriculum Programme aims at fostering an entrepreneurial attitude. Before



they enter the business world, students have a chance to learn the basic skills necessary to identify what people are interested in buying, how to turn opportunities into business and how best to manage enterprises in a competitive environment. They are shown the importance of paying attention to the community as well as the natural environment. They also acquire the qualities of creativity, innovation, resourcefulness, planning and leadership that are the trademarks of successful entrepreneurs. The course combines three elements: classroom teaching, the

involvement of prominent entrepreneurs who serve as role models, and practice in starting a business while they are still at school. The expansion of entrepreneurial human resources will form a national foundation for a growth-oriented economic environment. It will also represent an important step towards the reduction of poverty by producing a sufficient number of new entrepreneurs to build up a competitive private sector in Mozambique.

The scheme has already attracted a great deal of attention and many students who are not currently registered in the pilot Entrepreneurship Curriculum Programme classes as well as others who have already left school have said they would like to join the classes.

To give the community a better appreciation of the Entrepreneurship Curriculum Programme, the programme’s achievements were put on display in July 2006 in Cabo Delgado’s capital, Pemba. The venue was the Second National Festival of Traditional Music and Song. Mozambique’s President, Armando Guebuza opened the event and then visited the exhibition.

PROJECT DATA SHEET	
<i>Project no.:</i>	<i>TFMOZ07003</i>
<i>Budget:</i>	<i>\$2.4 million</i>
<i>Donor:</i>	<i>Norway</i>
<i>Status:</i>	<i>ongoing</i>
<i>Started:</i>	<i>April 2007</i>
<i>Duration:</i>	<i>4 years</i>



SUDAN



UNIDO has often been called in where others fear to tread. Its efforts to bring countless villagers in the south of war-torn Sudan closer to their goal of learning the skills needed for self-employment was one such instance where hope was fading fast. Both living conditions and the economy reflected the strain of years of civil conflict. Poverty was rife and the war had left a number of disabled ex-combatants as well as a generation of young, jobless people with little to look forward to.

The Malakal Training Centre, built some years earlier to provide vocational training to young Sudanese, had fallen into disrepair. Much of the equipment had been lost, stolen or damaged and the buildings were showing clear signs of dilapidation. The image of the institution itself had fallen prey to the popular misconception that vocational training was a last resort for those who were incapable of doing anything else. This was the white elephant inherited by UNIDO when it was asked both by the Sudanese Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan to put the Centre back on its feet so that young people would finally have a chance to learn the skills needed to earn a living

UNIDO saw its first task as revamping both the facilities and the image of the Training Centre in such a way as to bring it closer to the community. To overcome the initial lack of enthusiasm, UNIDO decided to involve the local community in its rehabilitation.

First, the problem of missing tools and equipment had to be tackled. With support and donations from the University of Amsterdam, UNIDO was able to buy new and second-hand equipment and machinery at very favourable rates from the multinational Philips that was refurbishing its own training centre in the Netherlands. The shopping list included machinery for welding, glass-blowing, cutting, grinding, lathing and for fine mechanical work. The next task was to set about getting the training halls in order and this proved to be a hands-on learning experience for countless young men and women, many of whom were considered displaced persons. They came from surrounding villages, on foot, on bicycles, the luckier ones by bus, and soon discovered that the skills acquired on the building project could enable them to gain an understanding of entrepreneurship and earn a livelihood for themselves and their families.



“Education is not a way of escaping the country’s poverty. It is a way of fighting it”
Julius Nyerere, former schoolteacher and first president of the United Republic of Tanzania

The number of female students has grown from two to over 100 in the two years since the project began. Many of them have been learning food-processing skills, and are now running a small catering business at the Training Centre. Some of the local peace-keepers come by for a pizza at lunch-time. Lessons learned from trainers from the United Republic of Tanzania were particularly valuable. Women food producers in Tanzania had themselves learned how to build small businesses from what had hitherto been a home chore. Pooled knowledge and shared experience is always useful, particularly when similar conditions prevail. Malakal

is a good example of UNIDO’s efforts to encourage technical cooperation among developing countries.

Since many of the young people, especially women in the food processing sector, had received little or no schooling, the programme included functional literacy skills. The addition of a communications satellite has enabled Internet access and a LAN system while the finishing touches are being put to an Internet café that will help reduce the digital divide. Classes in IT technology have drawn an enthusiastic attendance, particularly amongst young women, and will undoubtedly help in the development of business skills.

Although there is still a lot of work ahead before the Malakal Vocational Training Centre is fully functional, it has already attracted a great deal of attention. Because of its catalytic role in southern Sudan, Khartoum State asked UNIDO to rehabilitate a training centre in North Sudan and launch four completely new ones to promote young entrepreneurs. A market analysis has identified the sectors to be targeted and UNIDO is in the process of supplying material and equipment.



PROJECT DATA SHEET	
Project no.:	TE/SUD/05/002
Budget:	€700,6000
Donor:	Multi-donor Trust Fund and World Bank
Status:	ongoing
Started:	October 2005
Duration:	probable extension to end 2009

UGANDA



In common with other war-torn countries in Africa and elsewhere, the alleviation of poverty in Uganda has been hampered by years—in the case of Uganda, two decades—of political conflict. The war in northern Uganda not only wreaked havoc with the area's infrastructure, but also denied an entire generation of young men and women the chance of education and occupational training. Tragically, the only skill that many of them had mastered was how to handle a gun. The negotiated settlement of 2002 marked a turning-point in their lives and opened doors to a new future.

UNIDO was initially contacted by the Ugandan Veteran Assistance Board to participate in a special programme launched by the President for the reintegration of ex-combatants and former rebels in the Yumbe district of northern Uganda. One of the distinct drawbacks of training efforts up to that point was that while some veterans had been taught new skills, they had not been provided with the tool kits to practise those skills upon completion of their training.

On-the-job training holds a special appeal for many, particularly those who are in a hurry to acquire the new abilities that will help raise them out of poverty and ease their return to civilian life. Working alongside a local non-governmental organization, Participatory Rural Action for Development, UNIDO devised the Skills for Peace and Income Project (SKIPI), which would give students a range of technical abilities as well as a grounding in entrepreneurship. Discussions are under way with the Ministry of Education to put in place a nationally recognized curriculum.

The first step was to construct the buildings for the New Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) to house the courses and this proved a successful training exercise in itself. While some participants learned bricklaying and masonry, others were taught carpentry and joinery and built all the furniture for the training centre. Others opted for subjects ranging from metalwork to honey processing and motor mechanics to entrepreneurship development. Since few students had received any formal schooling and many were illiterate, theoretical courses were considered of limited value, and the emphasis was placed on “learning by doing”. The NVTI has served as a model for a new approach. The hands-on training ably demonstrated that the acquisition of new

“There is no development strategy more beneficial to society as a whole—women and men alike—than the one which involves women as central players”

Kofi Annan, Former United Nations Secretary-General



of five or six young men formed their own building company and opened for business. In the next few weeks, a meeting of alumni will be held where former students will exchange stories about the way the training centre has helped them. To date, some 355 young people, ranging in age from 18 to 35, have received or are receiving training. They, in turn, are able to train others in their newly acquired skills.



Building work was sufficiently advanced for the official opening to be held in September 2007, in the presence of the State Minister of Industry and representatives from the donor country, Japan. This event proved to be a highlight in the lives of the young students, who, perhaps for the very first time, experienced a feeling of recognition and self-worth.

skills did not necessarily involve sitting at a classroom desk for four years. Although the majority of students were war veterans, some 30 per cent were women who were either victims of violence or had been left to fend for themselves. Those who opted to learn dressmaking were delighted to receive a sewing machine each at the end of course, enabling them to start work immediately. Similarly, students in other disciplines received the tools of their trade upon completion of the course. This has enabled them to begin earning a living without delay. Shortly after graduation, one group

PROJECT DATA SHEET

<i>Project no.:</i>	<i>TFUGA05003</i>
<i>Status:</i>	<i>ongoing</i>
<i>Budget:</i>	<i>€ 1.4 million</i>
<i>Donor:</i>	<i>Government of Japan through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security</i>
<i>Duration:</i>	<i>3 years</i>
<i>Started:</i>	<i>April 2006</i>
<i>Status:</i>	<i>ongoing</i>

CAMEROON

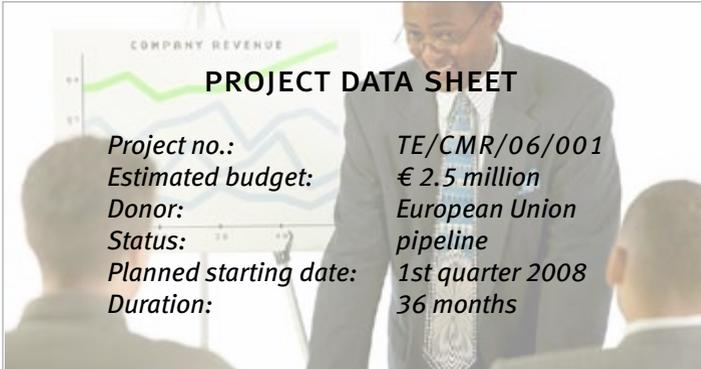
Seventy per cent of Cameroon's workforce is involved in the agricultural sector. Near the coast, the country's fertile soil lends itself to the cultivation of bananas, cocoa, oil palms, rubber and tea. Inland, cash crops include coffee, sugar and tobacco. Coffee is a major cash crop in the western highlands, and in the north, natural conditions favour cotton, groundnuts and rice. Cameroon has one of the best-endowed primary commodity economies in sub-Saharan Africa and enjoys political and social stability. It also has one of the highest school attendance and literacy rates in Africa.

Despite a number of natural advantages, Cameroon is still in the process of cultivating a favourable business climate. Much of the population earns a living as poor subsistence farmers using basic equipment and tools. For some years, the Government has been making efforts to upgrade its enterprises to meet the exacting standards of international markets.

Within the framework of its economic partnership with Cameroon, the European Union is implementing a large programme to give the economy a competitive edge and enable it to compete in the global marketplace. The programme comprises four components: agreement on the economic partnership; strengthening and upgrading the productive capacities of enterprises in Cameroon; support to standardization and quality infrastructure; and business environment and investment promotion. UNIDO has been entrusted with the implementation of the second and third components, namely competitiveness and quality. €2.5 million has been allocated for three years. One of the challenges is about building the capacity of the country to participate in international standard-setting activities and

to sensitize SMEs to the need for food safety and quality improvement principles so that they become competitive on the export markets. Although testing laboratories, certification bodies and inspection agencies exist in the country, they need to be upgraded before their services can be internationally recognised. One of the means promoted by WTO is "accreditation" against ISO standards, which proves competence and provides trust between parties. At present, Cameroon, relies on the services of outside accreditation bodies.

Despite a growth spurt in Cameroon's economy over the past few years, it remains vulnerable to fluctuations in the price of commodities on international markets. Its relatively small industrial sector that includes petroleum, aluminium, agro-industries, textiles and wood suffers from low performance caused, among other things, by an inability to match competitors, a lack of technology, problems of SMEs in obtaining financing, an underdeveloped standardization and metrology system, high production costs and the absence of a qualified workforce. Many of these constraints will be addressed by UNIDO in the course of the project.



PROJECT DATA SHEET	
<i>Project no.:</i>	<i>TE/CMR/06/001</i>
<i>Estimated budget:</i>	<i>€ 2.5 million</i>
<i>Donor:</i>	<i>European Union</i>
<i>Status:</i>	<i>pipeline</i>
<i>Planned starting date:</i>	<i>1st quarter 2008</i>
<i>Duration:</i>	<i>36 months</i>

LAKE VICTORIA



Originating in South-East Asia, bananas have become popular the world over. Classified as a berry, since they grow on plants rather than trees, bananas are both nourishing and low in fat, containing many of the minerals and vitamins essential for humans. They are often the first solid food tasted by babies. Bananas, or plantain, are a staple diet in many countries and are eaten raw or cooked. The preoccupation with healthy eating in

industrialized nations has led to an increase in the number of banana products on supermarket and health food store shelves. So-called high-energy, vitamin drinks are often banana-based.

Lake Victoria is Africa's largest inland body of water and borders Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Many farmers eke out a living along its shores, including banana and fruit farmers. Those who cannot earn a livelihood for their families are forced to move to the already overcrowded urban areas in search of alternative employment. In an effort to help banana farmers organize themselves more efficiently and improve their income, a number of United Nations bodies are launching a pilot project to strengthen the participation of farmers in banana

and fruit-based processing. The Pilot Project on Increased Farm Income from Banana-Based Beverages in the Lake Victoria Basin will be largely financed by the United Nations Common Fund for Commodities. In addition to UNIDO, the other agencies involved are the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HABITAT) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). UNIDO's role will be to establish five collection centres and two processing plants for high-quality long shelf-life banana and other fruit-based beverages; provide services to some 400 farmers, turning farms into viable and certified horticultural business units and providing training and support in mobilizing fixed and working capital; and increase the value received by farmers directly as a result of banana farming for the project.

Originally seen as a coffee diversification project, the overall development goal is to alleviate the poverty of banana farmers in the Lake Victoria region through commercialization of banana drinks in urban areas, thus contributing both to reducing the rate of rural-to-urban migration and achieving the poverty-related targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

PROJECT DATA SHEET	
<i>Project no.:</i>	YA/RAF/07/018
<i>Estimated budget:</i>	\$6.5 million (all agencies)
<i>Donors:</i>	Common Fund for Commodities and others
<i>Starting:</i>	2008
<i>Status:</i>	pipeline
<i>Duration:</i>	36 months

HIGH-LEVEL VISITS

BOTSWANA



On 28 June 2007, Mr. Festus G. Mogae, President of the Republic of Botswana, paid a courtesy visit to the Director-General, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, accompanied by the first lady, Mrs. Barbara Mogae, Minister of Justice, Defence and Security, Phandu Skelemani, as well as Botswana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Organizations in Vienna and other senior officials. President Mogae, who was attending the 7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government at the United Nations Office in Vienna, described some of his country's most pressing industrial development needs and shared Botswana's experience as a developing country that enjoys an international reputation for its good governance practice in the UN forum.

SENEGAL



During his visit to Vienna to attend the Industrial Development Board in June 2007, the Minister of Mining, Industry and Handicrafts of Senegal, Mr. Madické Niang, met the Director-General. The Minister congratulated the Director-General on UNIDO's integrated programme in his country as well as the upgrading programme that had achieved concrete results. He requested UNIDO technical assistance in preparing the International Conference on Renewable Energy in Africa, to take place in Senegal in February 2008. The Director-General assured the Minister that UNIDO would continue its assistance to Senegal, renewing the commitments he had made during his visit to Dakar earlier this year.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE



The Minister for Technical Education and Vocational Training of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Moussa Dosso, paid a visit to the UNIDO Director-General at the end of August 2007 to discuss future collaboration between his country and UNIDO, in particular UNIDO's assistance in rehabilitating specialized training centres in the construction manufacturing and service industries including: fabrication/welding; vehicle mechanics; woodworking/joinery; plumbing; building construction and electrics and electronics. The Minister and the Director-General also discussed the subregional Mano River Union Programme on Productive and Decent Work for Youth, as well as the Expert Group Meeting on Entrepreneurship Education in Secondary Schools, that took place on 22 November at UNIDO Headquarters.

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



The Minister for Industrial Development and Private Sector Promotion of the Republic of the Congo, Mr. Emile Mabonzo, met the Director-General on 17 October 2007 to sign a Trust Fund agreement relating to Congo's contribution to the funding of its Industrial Recovery Programme. Referring to UNIDO's integrated programme for Congo, the Minister expressed his satisfaction with progress made by the technical team sent by UNIDO. He asked the Director-General to make provisions for the appointment of a UNIDO staff member or technical adviser to supervise the implementation of the programme. The Director-General assured the Minister of effective implementation. He also agreed to increase UNIDO's financial contribution to the programme.

NEW REPRESENTATION

LESOTHO



Dr. Makase Nyaphisi, Ambassador of Lesotho to Austria, France, Germany and the Holy See, presented his credentials to the Director-General on 18 January 2007. Before embarking on a diplomatic career, Dr. Nyaphisi, who took his medical degree in Germany, worked at the Ministry of Health from 1981-1991 where he subsequently became Director of Hospital Services. He is a member of several national and international health organizations and has published scientific articles in specialized journals. Dr. Nyaphisi is married and has four children.

COTE D'IVOIRE



On 26 April 2007, Ambassador Youssoufou Bamba presented his credentials as Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to UNIDO. Ambassador Bamba began his career in 1976 with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Previous postings included Canada and his country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York where he was Counsellor. In 1988, he returned to the Côte d'Ivoire capital, Abidjan, where he served as assistant director for multilateral cooperation, before his appointment as adviser for economic affairs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Bamba is married with five children.

BOTSWANA



On 29 May 2007, Ambassador Boometswe Mokgothu presented his credentials to the Deputy to the Director-General as Permanent Representative of Botswana to UNIDO. After an early career in education and agriculture, Ambassador Mokgothu entered Parliament in 1982 where he became Assistant Minister of Local Government, Lands and Housing. He was later appointed as a Cabinet Minister of Minerals Energy and Water Resources.

On 26 July, Ambassador Ahmed Abdulhameed Menesi presented his credentials to the Director-General as Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to UNIDO. Ambassador Menesi, who obtained a Ph.D in economics at the University of Cologne, began his career as Professor of Economics at the University of Garyounis, Libya where he remained until 2001 when he was appointed Governor of the Central Bank of Libya. In 2006 until his appointment as Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna, he served as his country's Minister of Finance.



LIBYAN ARAB
JAMAHIRIYA

On 4 October, Ambassador Ehab Mohamed Mostafa Fawzy presented his credentials to the Director-General as Permanent Representative of Egypt to UNIDO. After a number of diplomatic postings, Mr. Fawzy served as Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for International Political Relations. During his appointment to the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations, New York, he was Rapporteur of the Special Political Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, Rapporteur as well as the Special Committee on Peacekeeping. He is married and has two children.



EGYPT



GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

Mansour Cama, a leading Senegalese businessman, has served as a Goodwill Ambassador for UNIDO since the introduction of the programme in October 2004. With extensive experience in manufacturing, mining, real estate and water distribution, he is Chairman and CEO of the Senegalese Investment Holding Company and a founding member, and Chairman, of the National Confederation of Senegal Employers. He is an advocate of widening international trade agreements with African countries for a sustainable social and economic development. He believes that the best way to combat poverty is through private sector promotion, job creation and income generation.

AFRICA PROGRAMME HQ STAFF



Matilda Muweme



Fatima Bennani-Baiti



Felix Ugbor



Helga Dungal



Massata Cisse



Marion Ruf



Liliane Bruck



Bashir Conde



Grace Luarca



Elham Hage



Gaby Loibl

FIELD STAFF IN AFRICA

Geoffrey Mariki	UNIDO Representative and Head, Regional Office, Ethiopia
Masayoshi Matsushita	UNIDO Representative and Head, Regional Office, Nigeria
Stefano Bologna	UNIDO Representative and Head, Regional Office, South Africa
Frank van Rompaey	UNIDO Representative, Cameroon
Alessandro Parlatore	UNIDO Representative, Côte d'Ivoire
Antonio Levisianos	UNIDO Representative, Ghana
Josep Koroma	UNIDO Representative, Guinea
Alexander Varghese	UNIDO Representative, Kenya
Patrick Gilabert	UNIDO Representative, Madagascar
Alain Nickels	UNIDO Representative, Senegal
Patricia Scott	UNIDO Representative, United Republic of Tanzania
Stevens Dils	National Programme Coordinator, Mozambique
Safyatou Ba	Head of UNIDO Operations, UNIDO Desk in Burkina Faso
Zerayacob Tesfazgy	Head of UNIDO Operations, UNIDO Desk in Eritrea
Bafotigui Sako	Head of UNIDO Operations, UNIDO Desk in Mali
Emmanuel Kalenzi	Head of UNIDO Operations, UNIDO Desk in Rwanda
Tichaona Mushayandebvu	Head of UNIDO Operations, UNIDO Desk in Zimbabwe
Outouloum A. Sambo	UNIDO National Director, Togo
Robinah Sabano	UNIDO National Programme Coordinator, Uganda



UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 300, A-1400 Vienna, Austria
Telephone: (+43 1) 26026-0; Fax: (+43 1) 26926-69
Email: unido@unido.org; Internet: www.unido.org