The information and commentary expressed here are the selection and views of the scanning organisation and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Rockefeller Foundation.
The Effects of Oil Companies' Activities on the Environment, Health and Development in sub-Saharan Africa

Think tank Chatham House recently released a European Parliament Report, produced for the Parliament's Committee on Development, which deals with the effects of oil companies' activities on the environment, health and development in sub-Saharan Africa. Key messages from the report include:

- Negative impacts of the oil industry are a major concern in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), threatening not only the health of local communities, but also the livelihoods they depend on.
- While oil companies are implementing certain measures to address these impacts, corporate social responsibility activities largely remain piecemeal and short-term. Community engagement is inadequate and requirements for accountability and transparency are either insufficient or not enforced.
- In oil-producing countries, the main challenges relate to the lack of political will and capacity to implement and enforce national regulations, highlighting underlying governance challenges that need to be addressed.
- The EU, as a major importer of SSA oil and host of international oil companies, has both the responsibility and the opportunity to promote greater sustainability and equity in the sector, in particular through engagement with 'new' producers.
- Current efforts to promote greater revenue transparency are important but need to go hand in hand with a push for better revenue management and a greater emphasis on preventing trade in oil sourced illegally or from conflict areas.
- There is a need for increased cooperation and coordination to mitigate negative impacts of oil industry activity among all stakeholders. Governments, oil companies, civil society and communities must positively engage and work more closely together.

The report also contains a useful set of regulatory recommendations for both EU-based and international oil companies. The report can be downloaded from here (pdf)

http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/0811ep_report_0.pdf

In 2010, Africa accounted for 13% of global oil production, with SSA, the focus of this study, contributing 7.25%. Most of the SSA production takes place in Nigeria and Angola while other African countries produce on a smaller scale or are still in the exploratory phase (such as Namibia that was featured in the July 2011 Scan).

In 2010, the EU relied on SSA for around 7% of its oil imports, amounting to 314 million barrels worth US$65 billion. Around 500 oil companies are estimated to operate in the African upstream oil and gas industry, with a recent and growing importance of Asian oil companies, including from China (the world's second largest importer), India, Malaysia, South Korea and the Gulf states.

Drop in overall disbursements for AIDS

Funding disbursements from donor governments for the AIDS response in low- and middle-income countries declined by 10% in 2010 compared to 2009. An annual funding analysis conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation and UNAIDS found that donor governments disbursed US$6.9 billion in 2010 for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support – US$740 million less than in 2009. The decrease was primarily due to a combination of three factors:

- actual reductions in development assistance,
- currency exchange fluctuations, and
- a slowdown in the pace of US disbursements.

To reach universal access goals towards HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, UNAIDS estimates that an investment of at least US$22 billion will be needed by 2015. Raising this level of funding could avert more than 12 million new HIV infections and more than 7 million AIDS-related deaths.

Source: http://www.kff.org/hivaids/hiv081511nr.cfm

Diaspora for Development in Africa

Migration presents significant untapped potential for development. The diaspora of developing countries can be a potent force for development through remittances, but also through the promotion of trade, investment, and knowledge and technology transfers. A new book published by the World Bank, Diaspora for Development in Africa, aims to consolidate research and evidence on these issues with a view to formulating policies in both sending and receiving countries. Policies to maximize the benefits of the diaspora are presented in this book, including the following:

- discussing the importance of getting to know each country’s diaspora
- understanding the role of embassies so that they can be equipped to

http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/0811ep_report_0.pdf
provide services for promotion of trade and investment
- analysing how the diaspora can contribute to the transfer of technology through peer reviewing, conducting joint research, teaching, and mentoring.


### ECONOMIC ISSUES

**New frontiers in micro-insurance distribution**

The International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Micro-insurance Innovation Facility (MIF) commissioned South African based think tank Centre for Financial Regulation and Inclusion (Cenfri) to compare innovative micro-insurance distribution models from India, South Africa, Colombia and Brazil. The study was based on several case studies conducted and commissioned by Cenfri ([click here](http://www.cenfri.org/documents/microinsurance/2011/Briefing%20note%20Beyond%20sales%20New%20frontiers%20in%20MI%20distribution.pdf) to access the South Africa case studies). The aim was to create a typology for innovative micro-insurance distribution channels and extract cross cutting lessons on successes and failures from both a consumer and business perspective.

Achieving scale through cost-effective distribution is one of the biggest challenges facing insurers in low-premium environments. The emphasis is increasingly falling on innovative distribution models as alternatives to traditional micro-insurance distribution approaches, which typically rely on microfinance institutions. During the last decade, insurance providers and their distribution partners have been experimenting internationally with developing and extending products to clients in new ways. The research identifies four categories of distribution models namely:

- Cash-based retailer,
- Credit-based retailer,
- Utility and Telecommunications companies and
- Third-party bill payment provider.


**More losers than winners if the Tripartite (Comesa, EAC, SADC) free trade area is fully implemented**

A computer analysis described in a recent [Tralac](http://www.tralac.org/cgi-bin/qiga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_news_item&cause_id=1694&news_id=104486&cat_id=1029) publication, “Cape to Cairo: An Assessment of the Tripartite FTA”, finds that there will be more losers than winners if the project is fully implemented. Though the researchers say their results using the latest Global Trade Analysis Project modelling technique are only indicative, they believe they offer “a very realistic view of the final outcome”.

They find that only South Africa and Mozambique stand to gain a lot. Mozambique gains by R387 million (±US$53 million). But South Africa’s welfare stands to increase by a whopping R8.8 billion (±US$1.2 billion) thanks to the boost sugar and manufactured exports would get as a result of improved access to East African countries, especially Kenya. Most other tripartite partners gain marginally or lose marginally since most already have multiple membership of overlapping FTAs.

Despite this, there is strong political backing for the Tripartite FTA from the rest of the continent. Their support is due partly to the idea that the project furthers the African political dream of a single monetary and economic union, but leaders also see it as key to unlocking the next phase of the region’s development. That’s because the project is not just about reducing tariff barriers. Its other pillars involve transport, and development of infrastructure and industry.


African insurance markets (excluding South Africa) typically contribute no more than 2% of GDP and serve less than 5% of the population. Insurance companies in these markets tend to fight for market share in the already-served market, without looking outwards to grow their market share. Yet several experiments and experiences suggest that there is much value to be realised from the low-income market. In order to extend the market beyond the current value that is generated, the following will be required:

- The development of alternative distribution channels that reach beyond broker, agent and employment networks;
- The development of products that fit the profiles and needs of low-income clients;
- Successful navigation of increasingly complex and uncertain regulatory environments; and
- A fundamental reinvention of the delivery of insurance.
Upgrade of Beitbridge border post to begin next month

Work on a US$90 million upgrade of Zimbabwe’s notoriously slow Beitbridge border post is to start next month, investor Old Mutual announced recently. The post is the busiest transit link in eastern and southern Africa, and the main axis of the North-South Corridor linking South Africa by road and rail with Zimbabwe, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and northern Mozambique. It processes more than 10-million tons of cargo a year. Construction would take 18 months and the development would see traffic diverted into three streams, one each for light vehicles, pedestrians and buses and trucks. This was because they had different risk profiles for customs officials. The old border post buildings would be razed and a new building erected. Construction would include a 5km access road from the junction of the roads from Bulawayo and Harare, and 250 free-standing houses for new border staff.

Source: http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.asp?id=150390

Kabila has won points with many Congolese for brokering a controversial US$9 billion deal with Beijing that would give China millions of tonnes of copper and cobalt in return for building a railway, roads, hospitals and schools -- more infrastructure than the Central African nation has ever had. The mineral-rich country is still trying to recover from decades of dictatorship and war that had eight African armies and 25 local militias fighting, above all, for control of the nation’s minerals.

On-going Malawi crisis, president sacks the entire cabinet

Malawian president, Bingu wa Mutharika, has sacked his 42-member cabinet and taken over all portfolios weeks after deadly anti-government riots killed 19 people. No reason was given for the sacking of the cabinet which Mutharika appointed in 2009 soon after his re-election. Mutharika is under fire over chronic fuel and foreign exchange shortages and is also accused of infringing democratic freedoms in the impoverished southern African country.


POLITICAL ISSUES

Will DRC vote tip the country back into violence?

The race to lead Southern Africa’s largest country kicked off during August with presidential candidates registering for the November election - a vote that threatens to spark even more violence in the nation already wracked by back-to-back civil wars, and still haunted by armed groups. Incumbent Joseph Kabila, who first took power after his father’s assassination more than a decade ago, had appeared all but certain of victory until the opposition announced some surprising challengers. Among them is Kabila’s main rival in the 2006 vote, Jean-Pierre Bemba, who awaits his war crimes trial at the International Criminal Court at The Hague. Even months before the election, analysts are already warning that the DRC could confront an electoral dilemma similar to the one that ravaged Côte d’Ivoire earlier this year when the incumbent refused to acknowledge defeat after losing the November run-off.

Kabila already has pushed a series of constitutional changes through Parliament that strengthen his powers and most importantly, replace the two-round voting system with just one winner-takes-all round. That move forces the opposition to band together if they have any hope of ousting him. Analysts, though, doubt that any of these politicians are willing to abandon their own personal ambitions in a country where parties are based on personalities, with each one’s ego bigger than the last.


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On-going Botswana political changes, ex ruling party Secretary General speaks out

 Estranged Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) Secretary General and Member of Parliament for Kanye, Ketsse Krammendi, recently shared his impressions of how Botswana has evolved from a “government of the people by the people for the people, to a government of president Ian Khama, by Ian Khama for Ian Khama”. Krammendi detailed how Khama has consolidated his power and built up a strong executive that has “rendered parliament irrelevant”. “You might as well dissolve parliament.

Source: http://www.sundaystandard.info/article.php?NewsID=11721&GroupID=1

SADC an ‘old boys club’ where it’s all form and no substance

At the recent Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit in Angola Southern African leaders were under pressure to address growing regional unrest and anti-government protests, as well as the leadership crises in Zimbabwe and Madagascar. The two-day summit would allow its 15 nations to “enhance our regional cooperation and integration”, Angolan President Jose dos Santos said in his 17 August welcome message. It would also allow countries to “harmonise our positions regarding key current affairs issues that may affect the peace and stability necessary to ensure sustainable development and the consolidation of democracy”, he said.

However, according to analysts, the summit was unlikely to affect the political crisis in Zimbabwe given the lack of regional consensus on the issue. The Zimbabwe crisis has divided SADC between liberation leaders who were comrades-in-arms with members of Mugabe’s Zanu-PF party and a new generation of politicians riding on the agenda of democracy and good governance.

Meanwhile Zimbabwean and Swaziland activists slammed the failure of a summit of regional leaders to act on political crises threatening their countries. Civil society groups said the summit had ended on 18 August without announcing decisive action on the political battles besetting the countries.

“The SADC has become an old boys club, an institution of heads of state. There was no subject of substance on the table for these leaders,” Swaziland pro-democracy activist Musa Hlophe said. The two-day regional leaders’ summit was expected to make pronouncements on the progress to implement Zimbabwe’s unity deal and a road map to new elections but instead reaffirmed a decision made in June urging faster reforms. SADC is faced with a growing number of regional ‘problem cases’ (Madagascar, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe) and must enforce its own commitments on human rights and democracy…, said a coalition of religious groups, unions and non-profit organisations.

For more detail and background see here:

http://mg.co.za/article/2011-08-17-sadc-how-are-we-behaving/


http://mg.co.za/article/2011-08-20-disappointing-sadc-is-just-an-old-boys-club/


In a related, similarly worrying matter, SADC’s council of ministers earlier this year terminated the SADC tribunal (the judicial arm of the regional economic community) by suspending all its activities and not reappointing its judges. In an interview the now sacked Chief Justice, Judge Ariranga Pillay, states: “You ask yourself, if the SADC’s leaders abuse the basic principles of law even in regard to the rights of the regional body’s highest officials and if the one organ that stood up for those rights has now been smashed, what is the broader prospect for human rights? The future looks bleak.”

Driving all aspects of Pillay’s multifaceted critique of SADC is his sense that the basic principles of law are often poorly understood by the organisation’s leadership and that, when they are understood, they are poorly valued and easily perverted to political ends.

In one matter what annoyed Pillay, however, is not so much the fact that Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Botswana would want to trade individual recourse to the regional court for national interest in respect of land, but rather the way that other SADC countries, “especially those like Mauritius who don’t have the same historical hangovers”, have effectively pandered to these concerns.

Implications for the poor and vulnerable in the region: Arguably less legally protected access to land and guaranteed individual human rights, especially second and third generation rights which may come into play given increasing resource scarcity and ‘fair shares’. In

SOCIAL ISSUES

Believing in AIDS conspiracy theories puts youth at risk of infection

Thirty years into the AIDS epidemic, conspiracy theories that posit the virus as man-made continue to enjoy support among
a segment of the South African youth – and these beliefs may be putting them at greater risk of HIV infection. A survey conducted among 3 000 South Africans aged 20-29 years in the greater Cape Town area has found that black Africans were eight times more likely to believe AIDS conspiracy theories, specifically that scientists engineered HIV. According to the research conducted by Nicoli Nattrass, director of the AIDS and Society Research Unit at the University of Cape Town, 20% of black African respondents believed that HIV was man-made and created by scientists as an attack on people of African descent. "Several recent studies show that there's an association between believing in conspiracies and reduced likelihood of using condoms, or having an HIV test or adhering to antiretrovirals," said Clara Rubincam of the London School of Economics and Political Science, who conducted related research with focus-group participants drawn from the Nattrass sample.

Source: http://www.cssr.uct.ac.za/publications/journal-article/2011/763

South Africa’s worsening maternal health due to 'unresponsive care' and lack of accountability, not only HIV/AIDS

Human Rights Watch (HRW) believes SA will miss its target of reducing maternal deaths by 75% under the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The organisation said at the release of its report on health in South Africa earlier this month that SA’s maternal mortality ratio increased to 625 deaths per 100 000 live births in 2007, from 1998’s 150 deaths per 100 000. The report is called "Stop Making Excuses: Accountability for Maternal Health Care in SA", which is based on field research done between April and August this year. "The UN estimates that 4 500 women die each year in SA due to preventable and treatable pregnancy and childbirth-related causes. "The government admits that it has a big problem on its hands and wants to do better," said Agnes Odhiambo, Africa women’s rights researcher at Human Rights Watch. "But for all SA’s good intentions, policies and strategies on paper would not save women’s lives without strong accountability systems to make sure policies are carried out," Odhiambo added.


While critically important, the impact of HIV and Aids on maternal deaths should be viewed in a broader context according to HRW. Similarly, the national and global debate on maternal health needs to move beyond its excessive focus on overall levels of health spending, and consider the range of factors that lead to poor health outcomes for pregnant women and new mothers. This research by HRW, conducted in South Africa’s Eastern Cape province, suggests that poor quality and unresponsive care for mothers and health systems devoid of effective accountability to patients or the public are particularly important in shaping (and worsening) maternal-health outcomes. The report found that the state fails to provide oversight and accountability for abusive staff and system failures. It said that complaint procedures in the Eastern Cape, which have the potential to address this challenge, do not function properly.

In a related ‘lack of accountability in the Eastern Cape’ matter (see here http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2011/08/25/education-crisis-row-intensifies for details) the Eastern Cape government (provincial level) has allegedly been defying the cabinet’s (national level) bid to rescue the province’s failing department of education. Since the announcement of the takeover by the national government, confusion has reigned over who was the accounting officer between education superintendent-general Modidima Manya and national intervention task team leader Matanzima Mweli. The practical implications of this ’lack of accountability and governance’ has meant amongst others:

- non-functioning school nutrition programmes,
- a lack of monitoring and evaluation,
- poor financial management systems,
- a lack of transport for pupils and
- overall poor management

The trigger for the intervention was the dismissal of some 4,000 temporary teachers earlier this year, which left many pupils without teachers in the province.

Perhaps a motivational and reminder SMS a day to frontline staff such as nurses and teachers could help improve accountability and increase care (see example in the Technological Issues section below)

South Africa’s planned youth wage subsidy ‘won’t make a difference’

The Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) recently released a summary of its latest round-table discussion entitled “Jobs for young people: Is a wage subsidy a good idea?”. It discusses the pros and cons of the youth wage subsidy in South Africa which is to be launched as part of next year’s national
The CDE is known for its pull-no-punches approach to the unemployment crisis and the executive summary (pdf) of its latest round-table discussion doesn’t disappoint. From the first paragraph, the shocking statistics on youth employment hit you like a cold shower on a Johannesburg winters day: 72% of South Africa’s unemployed are younger than 34 years old. The unemployment rate of under-25s (49%) is twice the national average (25%). Only 50% of job-seekers between 15 and 24 end up finding jobs, compared with an average of 80% in other emerging economies.

The treasury will introduce a youth wage subsidy in the 2012 national budget. It is aimed at workers aged 18 to 29 and will subsidise a portion of their wages for up to two years. The subsidy would be paid to registered employers and it’s estimated 133 000 new and sustainable jobs would be created over three years. With R5 billion (±US$700 million) allocated to the subsidy over the next three years, each new job will cost R37 000 (±US$5120).

The rationale behind the subsidy is simple. Young people have no work experience and few skills. Add to the mix the rigidity of existing labour laws (which make it very difficult and costly to fire non-performing workers) and it’s clear why many businesses are reluctant to hire young unskilled people. By making it cheaper to hire young workers, they will be more attractive to employers and will gain the necessary skills and experience over the two-year subsidy period.

These subsidies have been mooted by the ANC since 2007 and they’ve been shot down by its alliance partners (labour union Cosatu and the SA Communist Party) whenever they’ve been raised. Cosatu rightly fears the subsidies will result in downward pressure on its members’ wages and has succeeded in keeping subsidies off the agenda for the past four years.

The wage subsidies are going to happen. Will they make a difference? The CDE isn’t convinced. It points out that, when the subsidy was originally proposed by a group of Harvard economists, “it was deemed ‘essential’ to link the subsidy to the creation of a probationary period during which subsidised workers could be dismissed on a ‘no questions asked’ basis. In other words, reforms to labour legislation would need to be part of the overall package”. The CDE endorses this view, and points out (correctly) that 133 000 new jobs over three years barely addresses the problem. Make it easy to fire these new workers, says the CDE, and employers are likely to hire them in far greater numbers.

Attempts to open up the labour market to the young unemployed are almost entirely thwarted. What progress we have achieved, after a five-year back-and-forth debate, has been watered down to the point of a token gesture. We may create 133 000 jobs over the medium-term, during which time at least 10 times that number will enter the job market. The jobs created may turn out to be the cheapest and most sustainable government has created over the last decade. That’s a bit like recognising Sporty Spice as the most talented member of the Spice Girls; it’s patently true, but it’s not setting the bar very high.


In the latest development, the South African cabinet has moved to quash speculation that South Africa’s rigid labour legislation might be eased in the interests of job creation following pronouncements on the matter from, among others, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan and Minister in the Presidency Trevor Manuel, see here http://mg.co.za/article/2011-08-25-cabinet-no-pravin-we-wont-relax-sas-labour-laws/

And in a survey earlier this year asking people in Sub-Saharan Africa to rank different development objectives, it was found that providing jobs for young people was considered more important than reducing maternal mortality, providing universal primary education, or reducing the spread of malaria.

According to a Global Dashboard blog post: “While developing country governments have of course been long aware of this issue, there are signs that donors are waking up to it too.” DFID’s Bilateral Aid review (pdf) promised that the UK’s aid money would create just over 1 million jobs in 10 countries or regions, including 300 000 in South Africa, .... But thinking on how this might be done is somewhat ‘hazy’. There is optimism that improving the ‘investment climate’ might help, and that interventions such as improving infrastructure or providing training will also play a role. But will this be enough?

ODI has pored over the evidence and distilled country studies into five lessons for policymakers trying to boost jobs in developing countries:

1. Don’t assume that growth will automatically create jobs - If only it was that simple. In India, a magnet for foreign investment in recent years, each 1% increase in growth increases
employment by a mere 0.15%. This phenomenon of ‘jobless growth’ stalks countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. So growth policy has to be more nuanced – how and where will growth actually increase jobs?

2. Don’t assume that jobs will automatically reduce poverty. - There’s evidence that even when people are in work, they’re not necessarily earning enough to reduce poverty. So policy-makers have to focus not just on numbers of jobs, but on whether they offer the security and pay that allow people to escape poverty.

3. Don’t fixate on manufactures. - There’s a not unreasonable assumption, based mainly on the experience of East Asia, that building up low-skilled manufacturing industries like garments or electronics factories will create jobs that reduce poverty. But evidence suggests that jobs in agriculture or services are just as important for poverty reduction. In many countries it’s the services sector – providing haircuts, selling food, cleaning houses – that is the real growth area for jobs. The potential for expansion in any sector, whether manufacturing, agriculture or services is finite, and too much focus on any one sector is almost certain to reach a dead end before too long. The key is a mix of sectors and the ability to move people and money easily between them.

4. Don’t assume that movement out of agriculture is all one-way - In the long run, economic growth has always meant a one-way shift as jobs move out of agriculture and into industry or services. But movement between jobs has to be part of the mix. In 2009, after the financial crisis, global employment in industry fell, while those employed in agriculture actually rose. Policy-makers need to think not just about getting people into one job, but about social policies, such as providing cash transfers, that allow people to move between jobs.

5. Don’t worry about young people - This last hardly needs saying, after the events in the Middle East which provided a graphic – and, for many governments, frightening – illustration of the impact that a large number of unemployed young people can have.

There is inadequate foresight being applied in thinking through the jobs crisis, particularly in Southern Africa where approaches are reactive rather than proactive in considering the prospects of jobless futures, and the need for new conceptualisations of “jobs” and “work”. One of the most promising directions picked up is the Community Works programme in South Africa (which still needs to be massively scaled up). However much more needs to be done creatively and innovatively to address the challenges of unemployment and youth unemployment in particular.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

World’s largest conservation area launched: Peace Parks a unique, multifaceted approach

On 18 August 2011 at the SADC Summit in Luanda, Angola, the Presidents of the Republics of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe signed a Treaty which formally and legally establishes the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA). The surface area of the KAZA TFCA is over 444,000km\(^2\) (similar in size to Sweden) making it the world’s largest conservation area comprising multiple resource use areas including National Parks, Game Reserves, Forest Reserves, Conservancies, Game/Wildlife Management Areas and Communal lands. The "conservation and tourism area" will link 14 national parks and nature reserves, including world-famous Victoria Falls and the Okavango River delta.

By signing this Treaty, the five partner states aim to ensure that the natural resources they share across their international boundaries along the Kavango and Zambezi River Basins are conserved and managed prudently for present and future generations within the context of sustainable development. Tourism development in the TFCA will be one vehicle for socio-economic growth in the region, aimed at improving the livelihoods of the primary beneficiaries of this TFCA - the people that live within and around the TFCA who bear the opportunity costs for the biodiversity conservation.

"The KAZA TFCA is characterised by a mosaic of land uses; diversity of cultures, peoples and languages; differing national capacities, priorities and natural resource management practices; biodiversity of global significance; vast geographical extent; immense and in many places untapped tourism potential; and a growing human population with corresponding development needs. These
features offer both opportunities and challenges for realizing the KAZA vision. The KAZA Treaty signifies an enabling instrument through which these challenges can be addressed and these potential opportunities maximised."

The area will link parts of the historical elephant migration routes and is home range to approximately 250,000 elephants, most of which are in the Chobe area, said the foundation’s project manager Arrie van Wyk. “Where there are people we will build fences and elephant-restraining barriers around the fields,” he said. While electric fencing was an effective elephant deterrent it was expensive, mostly because it needed solar energy, but elephants could be controlled using chilli in various ways, such as embedding it in grease that was rubbed into ropes.

Source: http://www.peaceparks.org/ See also here for local media coverage
http://www.portalanop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticia s/ambiente/2011/7/32/Okavango-Zambezi-conservation-project-connect-natural-zones,b3ec24bad454.html and
http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.asp x?id=151211

Peace Parks Foundation (which has been highlighted by Southern Africa Scan before) facilitates the establishment of transfrontier conservation areas (peace parks) and develops human resources, thereby supporting sustainable economic development, the conservation of biodiversity and regional peace and stability. In order to support the sustainability of the parks, Peace Parks Foundation is in partnership with the Southern African Wildlife College and the SA College for Tourism in South Africa. These train wildlife managers and field guides in the effective management of conservation areas, and train people in the hospitality skills necessary to obtain employment at the guesthouses, lodges and other small accommodation facilities in and around the peace parks, as well as in the age-old skill of wildlife tracking.

The establishment and development of peace parks is a dynamic, exciting and multi-faceted approach to jointly manage natural resources across political boundaries. It is an exemplary process of partnerships between governments and the private sector - an African success story that aims to ensure peace, prosperity and stability for future generations.

Multi-stakeholder governance of African forests, a DRC case study
2011 is the United Nations Year of the Forest. It is also the year in which South Africa plays host to the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17). Forestry has come to occupy a central place at international climate negotiations. Yet despite many years of negotiations, the people of the world have not yet agreed on the best way in which to govern the forests of the world. In the absence of a global agreement on forestry, there is a plethora of initiatives, including REDD+ and FSC certification. In the field of trade, the European Union is working towards Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) with a couple of African states in the context of a bigger initiative entitled Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). Worldwide trends toward multi-stakeholder forest governance can also be seen from the local level to the regional and the global. One example of such multi-stakeholder governance was IUCN’s Strengthening Voices for Better Choices (SVBC) pilots.

For a good case study of SVBC in the Democratic Republic of Congo, download “Seeing the Wood for the Trees: Forestry Governance in the DRC” (pdf). This case study, with its excellent set of recommendations, forms part of a three-year project entitled Strengthening the Governance of Africa’s Natural Resources, conducted by the Governance of Africa’s Natural Resources Programme (GARP) of the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). Funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it aims to make a significant input into policy governing the exploitation and extraction of Africa’s natural resources by assessing existing governance regimes and suggesting alternatives to targeted stakeholders. The level and quality of governance within key states is central to the developmental trajectory of the entire continent.

Source: http://www.saiia.org.za/#

GARP examines the governance of a number of resource rich African countries within the context of cross-cutting themes such as environmental change and sustainability issues. Addressing these elements is critical for Africa to avoid deepening the challenges of governance and reducing its vulnerability to related crises, including climate change, energy security and environmental degradation. The programme focuses on four natural resource sectors in four African countries, i.e. mining, forestry, fisheries and petroleum in Tanzania, the DRC, Angola and Sudan.
Indigenous Boschveld chicken is one way of adapting to extreme weather and climate change in Namibia

Extreme weather conditions predicted because of climate change in Namibia are likely to have a tremendous effect on the 70% of the country's people who live in rural areas and depend heavily on agriculture. In a country where some of the biggest contributors to the national economy -- agriculture, fisheries and eco-tourism -- are dependent on natural resources, the change will require substantial adaptation. This is according to experts and technical advisors of the Africa Adaptation Project (AAP), a United Nations Development Programme initiative supported by the Japanese government that assists 20 African countries in implementing adaptation plans to deal with climate change.

One of the projects that does this is the Urban Indigenous Poultry Project, funded by AAP. Nelson Haulamba, a young farmer who is part of the project, says that the aim is to adapt to climate change, generate an income and offer a platform for those interested in agriculture. People involved with the project farm the Boschveld Chicken, a cross of three indigenous chicken breeds in Africa: the Venda, Matabele and Ovambo. “It is a no-fuss breed that can survive harsh conditions,” he says. The Boschveld Chicken can allegedly survive on “what nature can provide”. It therefore needs very little maintenance. They can also, according to Haulamba, withstand the varying climatic conditions of Africa and produce a good amount of eggs in free-range conditions. Source: [http://mg.co.za/article/2011-08-16-namibians-mull-life-after-climate-change/](http://mg.co.za/article/2011-08-16-namibians-mull-life-after-climate-change/)

Mosquitoes developing resistance to bed nets

In recent years bed nets have become a leading method of preventing malaria, especially in Africa. However, a recent study in the Lancet Infectious Diseases, journal suggests that insecticide-treated bed nets, whose use is being widely promoted in Africa to combat malaria, may paradoxically be linked to local resurgence of the disease. Based on observations in a village in Senegal, the study points to evidence that mosquitoes develop resistance to the insect-killing chemical that coats the nets. In addition, people may lose their immunity to the malaria parasite when the mosquito population is in decline, and then become exposed when the insect pest recovers, it suggests.

The researchers found that the proportion of Anopheles gambiae mosquitoes with a genetic variant conferring resistance to pyrethroid -- the insecticide used in the netting -- had risen from eight per cent in 2007 to 48% in late 2010. Source: [http://www.thenewage.co.za/26175-1019-53-Malaria_Researchers_raise_qualms_over_bednet_programme](http://www.thenewage.co.za/26175-1019-53-Malaria_Researchers_raise_qualms_over_bednet_programme)

TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

NPC Jam promises young people a voice

In a concerted effort to encourage young South Africans to air their views and debate around issues affecting them, the National Planning Commission (NPC) has launched the NPC Jam. The National Planning Commission was appointed last year by the president and given the job of drafting a long-term vision and plan for South Africa’s future (see June 2011 edition of Scan). In collaboration with global technology and consulting firm IBM, who designed the award-winning solution, the jam will be an online, interactive brainstorming event designed to bring massive audiences together to discuss economic, social and business challenges. Planning Minister, Trevor Manuel, explained at the launch of the Jam at the University of Johannesburg on 25 August that it will facilitate 20 000 young people and that they would be using different networks throughout the country, such as the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), universities, colleges, schools and libraries, to ensure that it was as inclusive as possible. Anyone joining the session would be able to put questions directly to the commissioners who were serving on the planning commission as well as post their ideas. Source: [http://www.businesslive.co.za/southafrica/sa_generalnews/2011/08/25npc-jam-promises-young-people-a-voice](http://www.businesslive.co.za/southafrica/sa_generalnews/2011/08/25npc-jam-promises-young-people-a-voice)

SMS a day keeps malaria at bay

Sending daily SMS reminders to health workers can mean nearly 25% more children are properly treated for malaria, according to
the results of a six month trial conducted in Kenya. Researchers reporting their findings in the *Lancet* said the technique -- where messages are sent urging health workers to check their patients and reminding them how to do it -- would be cheap and easy to extend to a national scale with the potential to save many lives and reduce the risk of drug resistance.

Researchers enrolled 119 health workers from 107 rural health facilities across Kenya and randomly assigned them to receive SMS reminders or not. The trial ran between March 2009 and May 2010 and SMSes consisted of two components -- a reminder about how to assess or manage a potential malaria case based on Kenyan national health guidelines, and a motivational quote. The study showed a 25% improvement in health workers practices in providing the right care to patients with malaria. The SMSes also resulted in a substantial increase in the number of patients who got prompt anti-malarial treatment at the health facility and were correctly advised about how and when to take remaining tablets when they were at home, the researchers said.

The cost of an SMS in Kenya is about one US cent, they said, which would translate into programme costs of US$2.60 per health worker, or US$39 000 if used for the estimated 15 000 health workers in all rural facilities across Kenya.

http://mg.co.za/article/2011-08-04-sms-a-day-keeps-malaria-at-bay/

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**Web-based disaster response system and risk map for Zambia**

In Zambia, the Government has launched a web-based spatial data infrastructure system embedded in the Zambia Preparedness and Response Information Management System (ZAPRIS) aimed at enhancing early detection of natural disasters in the country. With the support of the UN, the Government is also in the process of establishing a Geographic Information System (GIS) hazard risk map on natural and human induced disasters as well as sentinel sites which will have the capacity to provide data on food security, nutrition, health, water and sanitation.


**South-South cooperation on virtual nanotech to research food security and ‘diseases of the poor’**

Argentina is to collaborate with South Africa in a virtual nanotechnology centre aimed at improving the research capacity of both countries. An agreement, which builds on recent research collaboration between the two countries, was signed in Buenos Aires last month by Argentina’s science minister, Lino Barañao, and his South African counterpart, Naledi Pandor. National coordinators, to be appointed in the next three months, will identify financial sources and outline specific cooperation opportunities in several nanotechnology areas, such as food security and biomedicine. “Argentina has great experience and international quality in the area of nanomaterials, with strong groups that have already produced applicable results and patents,” said Agueda Menvielle, director of international relationships at Argentina’s science ministry. South Africa, meanwhile, will soon open three new nanotechnology research centres, some of them focusing on diseases of the poor, according to Menvielle. He added that it is important to see if this kind of South-South cooperation can foster “real independence of technology” from developed countries in the long term.


**Nokia unveils two cheap phones for emerging markets**

Ailing Nokia Oyj unveiled two cheap cellphone models inspired by consumer needs in Africa, aiming to strengthen its position against low-cost Asian rivals. The Nokia 101, which comes with slots for two different SIM cards, will be available this quarter for about 25 euros, excluding taxes and subsidies, while the Nokia 100 will be available next quarter for about 20 euros. The latest models mark the fifth duo-Sim models for Nokia in the last three months and were inspired by the needs of consumers in countries such as Kenya, where mobile phone penetration is more than 50%. “We are very focused on emerging markets and our overarching strategy is focus on the next billion consumers, so clearly Africa plays a huge role in that strategy,” Mary McDowell, executive vice president for mobile phones, said in a press interview.