



*If we take care of the Earth,
the Earth will take care of us.*

Forum for Environment (FfE)

Greenbites: Environmental News

Issue Number 83

September 19, 2011

National news

Common effluent treatment plant to rescue Modjo leather industries

Addis Ababa, Capital- In an effort to come up with a solution as to how the many leather companies in Modjo can be helped to meet the new government regulations soon to be enforced by the government, a new joint effluent treatment plant has been planned. This plant can be utilized by many of the existing tanning companies currently working in Modjo. There are 12 tanning companies in the town. Among these, only five are new and have their own effluent treatment plant. The other industries have only a primary effluent treatment mechanism. Since many tanning companies are based in the town, a common treatment plant is planned to help companies become more environmentally friendly and to meet government standards.

(For the full article
www.capitalethiopia.com September 18, 2011)

Ethiopia, Egypt agree on Nile tripartite committee

Addis Ababa, Fortune- Egypt and Ethiopia agreed to hold a meeting of the tripartite committee on the Nile, which also includes Sudan, to assess the potential effects of Ethiopia's building the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the river. The two countries said they are waiting for Sudan's final reply to setting the committee's exact responsibilities. The committee will set mechanism for future cooperation between the three countries in developing the Blue Nile. According to an official from Ethiopia, the dam will bring economic returns to Egypt and Sudan, reduce the siltation that threatens the Sudanese and Egyptian dams, control flooding and regulate the flow of water to downstream countries throughout the year, as per the tripartite committee's tentative agreement.

(For the full article
www.addisfortune.com September 18, 2011)

Gibe III reaches 50% this year

Addis Ababa, Capital- The Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo) has set the target to finalize over 50 percent of the total construction of the Gibe III hydroelectric power project in this budget year. End of the just ended year about 46% of Gibe III construction, which was started in 2006, is finalized. According to an official from EEPCo, the most difficult

part of the project has now been finalized. From now on, no more additional delays are expected to happen on the project and it's expected to be concluded in 2013.

(For the full article
www.capitalethiopia.com September 18, 2011)

International news

Oxfam warns about effects of 'land rush'

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)- An increasing number of land deals are displacing farmers and leaving poor communities homeless, campaigning charity Oxfam has warned. It says up to 227m hectares (560m acres) have been sold or leased worldwide since 2001. Half of all deals that have been verified are in Africa, amounting to an area the size of Germany - 35m hectares, Oxfam says. Vulnerable communities in Uganda and South Sudan have been affected. The report also focuses on Honduras, Guatemala and Indonesia. The organisation's Chief Executive, Barbara Stocking, said the "blinkered scramble" for land by investors was ignoring the needs of those who live on the land and depend upon it for their survival. Many of the world's poorest people are being left worse off by the unprecedented pace of land deals and the frenetic competition for land." Oxfam says that among the worst affected by these so-called land grabs are women, who despite producing up to 80% of food in some poor countries, are often more vulnerable as they have weaker land rights. "Investors, no matter how noble they pertain to be, cannot sweep aside the needs and rights of poor communities who depend on the land they profit from," she said. The organisation said that land grabs had accelerated especially since 2008, when soaring prices highlighted the issue of food security. It said an increasing demand for food, combined with climate change and

the increase of agricultural land being used to grow biofuels, meant that the number of such deals would be likely to only rise in the future. It called on the EU to scrap its target of obtaining 10% transport fuels from renewable sources by 2020 - which has fuelled the planting of crops for biofuels - and asked investors and governments to implement policies to ensure land deals are fair and those affected are properly consulted.

(Source
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-15013396>)

Kenya's Nobel laureate Wangari Maathai dies aged 71

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)- Kenya's Nobel laureate Wangari Maathai has died in Nairobi while undergoing cancer treatment. She was 71. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for promoting conservation, women's rights and transparent government - the first African woman to get the award. She was elected as an MP in 2002 and served as a minister in the Kenyan government for a time. Ms Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, which has planted 20-30 million trees in Africa. Ms Maathai, who was a professor of veterinary anatomy, rose to international fame for campaigns against government-backed forest clearances in Kenya in the late 1980s-90s. Under the former government of President Daniel Arap Moi, she was arrested several times, and vilified.

(Source
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-15056502>)

Many thanks for reading and see you in the next issue!

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