

## POLICY AND INNOVATION FORUM

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**Theme:** *Environmental Governance and Diplomacy in the Post Globalization Era*

**Date:** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Venue:** ICRAF Conference Hall, United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya

### Concept Note

#### I. Background

The [Stockholm Environment Institute](#) (SEI) is an independent international research institute founded in 1989 to support decision-making and sustainable development by providing integrative knowledge that bridges science and policy in the field of environment and development. Every year, SEI organizes the Annual Science Forum, a knowledge sharing platform that brings together SEI researchers to present ongoing research, innovations and public policy engagements, and to exchange ideas among researchers from the eight SEI Centres across the globe. As part of the Science Forum, SEI also organises a **Policy and Innovation Forum**, one day dedicated to providing an opportunity for SEI researchers to engage with a wide range of partners from government and intergovernmental agencies, universities and institutions of higher learning, research organisations, private sector/industry, Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and local communities. The 2019 Policy and Innovation Forum will be hosted by SEI Africa Center on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) campus in Gigiri in Nairobi.

#### II. Introduction

##### a. *Context and theme*

The 2019 Policy and Innovation Forum comes at a momentous time in the history of SEI as the organisation celebrates 30 years since its founding in 1989, and 10 years anniversary for the Africa Center. It also comes at a time when the world is looking forward to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the historic [1972 United Nations Conference on Human Environment](#) (the *Stockholm Conference*) which laid the foundational architecture of the current global environment governance, and in whose legacy SEI was founded. The *Stockholm Conference* marked a turning point in global environmental governance, including, the founding of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which is hosted in Nairobi, Kenya.

The theme of the 2019 Policy and Innovation Forum “**Environmental Governance and Diplomacy in the Post Globalization Era**”, reinforces the ongoing process by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 72/277 “[Towards a Global Pact for the Environment](#).” On 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019, the UNGA adopted a Resolution that endorses all the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)<sup>1</sup>, including a recommendation to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) “to prepare, at its fifth session in February 2021, a political declaration for a UN high level meeting subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of UN Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm from 5-16 June 1972, with a view to strengthening the implementation of international environmental law, and international environmental governance in line with paragraph 88 of the “Future we Want”.”<sup>2</sup>

The Policy and Innovation Forum also seeks to celebrate the leadership by the Government of Sweden and Kenya on global environment and climate diplomacy<sup>3</sup>, and to showcase the role of research and science in strengthening **Environmental and Climate Diplomacy**.<sup>4</sup> The Forum will consequently provide an opportunity for the Government of Kenya to share the outcomes from the “[Sustainable Blue Economy Conference](#)” held in Nairobi in November 2018, and to highlight the preparations towards the “[2020 United Nations Oceans Conference](#)” which will be held from 2-6 June 2020 in Lisbon and co-hosted jointly by Kenya, and Portugal.

*b. Objectives of the Policy and Innovation Forum*

The Policy and innovation Forum will provide a platform for participants to explore opportunities and deliberate on common actions needed to address the environment and development challenges at local, national and global levels. The specific objectives include;

- 1) To provide a platform for reflections and contributions towards the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1972 UN Conference on Human Environment (the *Stockholm Conference*) in 2022;
- 2) To commemorate SEI’s 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 10 years anniversary of the SEI Africa Center by raising the visibility of SEI among the Forum participants and partners;
- 3) To highlight SEI’s research at the interface of science and policy in the context of environment and climate diplomacy;
- 4) To showcase innovations through exhibitions by SEI and partners on research and technologies for environment and development.

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<sup>1</sup> In May 2018, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in resolution 72/277 established an *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) to consider technical and evidence-based report by the United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) (A/73/419) identifying and assessing possible gaps in International Environmental Law (IEL) and environment-related instruments with a view to strengthening their implementation.

<sup>2</sup> The *Ad Hoc* OEWG completed its mandate on 23 May 2019 with recommendations to the UNGA:

<https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/28367>

<sup>3</sup> See: Lars-Goran Engfeldt, Lars-Goran (2009). *From Stockholm to Johannesburg and beyond. The evolution of the international system for sustainable development governance and its implications*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden; Cheluget, Kipyego (Ed.) (2018). *Kenya’s 50 Years of Diplomatic Engagement; From Kenyatta to Kenyatta*. Moran Publishers, Nairobi.

<sup>4</sup> Environmental Diplomacy is one of the five pillars of Kenya Foreign Policy adopted in 2014. : <http://www.mfa.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Kenya-Foreign-Policy.pdf>

### c. *Expected Outputs and Outcomes*

The main output from the Policy and Innovation Forum will be a report of the event, and coverage of the discussions in several national, and global media. The expected outcomes include the following;

- 1) Increased awareness among the participants of the issues and processes towards the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1972 United Nations Conference on Human Environment (the *Stockholm Conference*);
- 2) Review the outcomes from the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference Science and Research Symposium and generate research inputs for consideration during the 2020 UN Oceans Conference;
- 3) Identify and discuss capacity needs for a science driven environment and climate diplomacy programme by SEI;
- 4) To showcase of ongoing research and innovations by SEI and partners through publications, presentations, and exhibitions.

### III. **Organisation**

The event will consist of five sessions and a running exhibition. The high-level opening session will include statements by representatives from the SEI, the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) as host institution, the UN Environment (UNEP), and a Keynote Speech by the Cabinet Secretary (CS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya. Session 2 will include an interactive dialogue with the CS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kenya, the Executive Director of UNEP, and members of the diplomatic corps on the role of science-driven Environment and Climate Diplomacy in the process towards and beyond “[The Global Pact on Environment](#).”

Session 3 on “*Climate Resilience beyond borders*” will include short presentations by SEI researchers highlighting some of the ground-breaking research and policy engagement on trans-boundary natural management, trans-national climate risks, and SDGs and climate finance, among others. This will be followed by a panel discussion with policy practitioners and technical experts from the regional organizations, national and county governments, private sector/industry, and academia.

Session 4 “*SDGs through Blue Economy and Oceans*” will include a Keynote presentation by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry, Kenya, followed by three short presentations by representatives from SEI, the East African Community (EAC), and the UN Environment (UNEP).

Session 5 in the afternoon will include three parallel break-out workshops to allow participants to deep dive on specific research and policy issues, explore collaboration and partnership opportunities, and allow for networking between SEI researchers and the participants. The three focus themes are: (1) Energy and climate for development; (2) Sustainable urbanization; and (3) Governance of natural resources for development. All the parallel breakouts will address the issues of how environmental management can better contribute to poverty reduction, human wellbeing, and gender inclusivity.

The Forum will also include a running exhibition by different institutions and industry to showcase projects, tools, and innovations for environmental research, management and development. The event will end with a cocktail in the evening to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SEI and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SEI Africa.

#### **IV. Participants**

The participant at the event will include representatives from the Government of Kenya, County Government, Parliamentarians, United Nations agencies, Intergovernmental organizations, research and academia, private sector and industry, civil society and community groups, and the diplomatic community.

#### **V. Contacts**

To participate at the event, contact the undersigned;

Mr. Emmanuel Mutisya Ngui

Communications Officer

Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Africa Center

E-mail: [emmanuel.ngui@sei.org](mailto:emmanuel.ngui@sei.org)