SWITCH Africa Green National Networking Forum - Burkina Faso
4 – 5 June 2018 | Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

THEME:
IMPORTANCE OF STAKEHOLDER NETWORKING IN THE PROMOTION OF GREEN ENTERPRISE IN BURKINA FASO FOR A TRANSITION TO AN INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMY

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4 - 5 JUNE 2018
OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO

SWITCH Africa Green held the Burkina Faso National Networking Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production from 4 - 5 June 2018 at the Ramada Hotel in Ouagadougou with the theme: Importance of stakeholder networking in the promotion of Green Enterprise in Burkina Faso for a transition to an Inclusive Green Economy.

The main objective of the forum was to increase the visibility of SWITCH Africa Green programme and promote the various projects and initiatives at the national level. The meeting brought together 200 participants drawn from government ministries, civil society, private sector and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The forum was officiated by the Honorable Bassiere (Minister of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change), Mr Jérôme Compaoré (representative of the Prime Minister of Burkina Faso), Jean Lamy (Head of European Delegation in Burkina Faso) and Patrick Mwesigye (Regional Subprogramme Coordinator, UN Environment).

While delivering the keynote address, Honorable Bassiere acknowledged the various achievements by SWITCH Africa Green programme initiatives in Burkina Faso. “Burkina Faso has been engaged for several years in efforts to greening its economy and businesses through a number of initiatives,” he said highlighting the importance of the country’s transition towards an inclusive green economy, “…green economy is a collective response to a reality that is imposed on all of us: the ecological emergency!” he said. He reiterated that the SWITCH Africa Green programme had clearly shown that environmental issues were not a burden but a growth opportunity that could bring new skills and create new jobs. He noted that the SWITCH Africa Green programme had been instrumental in consolidating the ongoing initiatives in Burkina Faso specifically through regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SAG projects and providing linkages with other ongoing initiatives on SCP and green economy in the country. The minister hailed the programme noting that the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is a priority in the country and is integrated in the National Economic and Social Development Plan.

“The government is particularly interested in knowing the best practices illustrated by the SWITCH Africa Green programme to be able to inform its scale-up,” he said while encouraging the participants to leverage on the opportunity to take stock and share experiences. The minister thanked the European Union for funding the project and UN Environment for implementing the project in partnership with UNDP and UNOPS.

In his speech, the Head of European Delegation in Burkina Faso, Jean Lamy, congratulated the
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stakeholders in Burkina Faso for the progress made on sustainable development. He reiterated the European Union’s commitment to achieve environmental objectives while also stimulating growth and job creation. “The EU’s commitment to continue its cooperation in this area is illustrated by the commencement of Phase 2 of the SWITCH Africa Green Programme,” he said while emphasizing EU’s commitment in providing support to the development of policy frameworks for green economy, education and training.

Participants discussed opportunities, challenges and constraints faced by entrepreneurs in their transition to an inclusive, low-carbon green economy that promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns in Burkina Faso. It was noted that action should be taken to strengthen linkages between green economy activities being implemented by the various partners in the country to consolidate the interventions including the various policy interventions. During the session on green financing, the stakeholders agreed on the need for carrying out capacity building of financial institutions in financing and investing in rural based initiatives. In addition, the stakeholders explored ways and means to scale up and replicate green entrepreneurship in the context of professional associations, MSMEs, government policies and programs while networking and sharing knowledge and experiences.

The participants also held discussions on green business financing during which various topics were deliberated on including national and international funding opportunities, conditions to access these opportunities and the constraints for MSMEs in working towards accessing these funds. Some queries were raised by participants mainly relating to the lack of guaranty required by the banks, the high level of interest rate, the weakness of the proximity between banks and MSMEs and the lack

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EXHIBITION ON GREEN BUSINESS INNOVATION

GROUP WORK DISCUSSION AND PLENARY SESSIONS COVERING TOPICS ON GREEN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
of knowledge of banks about green business. Because there is a lot of untapped opportunity in the tourism sector, the government was asked to consider easing tariffs and provide a suitable policy environment that supports green business in the tourism sector. It was also suggested that banks needed to reinforce their capacity to have a better understanding on green economy and that enterprises need to increase their capacity on project writing. It was also agreed that more networking opportunities would be beneficial for sharing of knowledge and experience.

During the closing session, Rhoda Wachira (UN Environment) asked the entrepreneurs to continue sharing experiences and best practices among themselves. She also reiterated the need to replicate and scale up green business initiatives and the importance of networking among stakeholders and enterprises. Lamiene (Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change) called upon national stakeholders to take up the challenges and use the relevant political and legal instruments for the implementation of green economy and green entrepreneurship and highlighted the need to support actions designed to mobilize relevant stakeholders to enable the country move towards a more inclusive green economy.

About SWITCH Africa Green

The overall objective of SWITCH Africa Green is to support 6 countries in Africa to achieve sustainable development by engaging in transition towards an inclusive green economy, based on sustainable consumption and production patterns, while generating growth, creating decent jobs and reducing poverty. SWITCH Africa Green is developed and funded by the European Commission and implemented by UN Environment in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).