

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2007 to June 2008

As the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), UNEP also continues to support the implementation of the decisions of AMCEN and its work programme, which is an integral part of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD. The 12th regular session of AMCEN, including its associated meetings and other related events was held from 7 to 12 June 2008 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The theme of the meeting was “*Enhancing the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD*”. The African environment ministers reviewed the implementation of the Action Plan and gave guidance on enhancing its implementation.

Support for specific programmes and projects relevant to the implementation of NEPAD

Programme area 1: Combating land degradation, drought and desertification

The President of AMCEN and the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) convened a Conference of African Ministers of Environment (AMCEN) on the TerrAfrica/GEF Strategic Investment Programme for Sustainable Land Management in Sub-Saharan Africa held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The outcome of the meeting was a ministerial declaration which was submitted to the GEF Council for approval and this was granted by the Council. It is envisaged that the approval of the Strategic Investment Programme will enable its implementation to be commenced marking a major step towards securing adequate investment in sustainable land management activities in Africa.

Programme area 2: Conserving Africa's wetlands

The action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD identified conservation of wetlands as one of the core programmatic areas for intervention. UNEP and the NEPAD secretariat have been working with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Regional Office for Southern Africa, with the help of World Bank funding, to develop wetland ecosystem inventories; to monitor and assess them, based on standardised methodologies, for the Southern African Development Community; and to advocate their use by environmental civil society organizations in Southern Africa.

Programme area 3: Preventing, control and management of invasive alien species

Invasive alien species are emerging as one of the major threats to sustainable development with impacts that disrupt life-support systems contributing to poverty, food insecurity and ill-health. During the reporting period, UNEP jointly with the Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI) and FAO, worked on issues of Invasive Alien Species in drylands of Kenya, focusing on invasions of *Prosopis juliflora*. As a result the partners agreed on developing an outline for a project on *Prosopis* control and utilization. A joint UNEP/FAO draft project outline inter-regional project is under preparation.

Programme area 4: Conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resource

The Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African region and the Abidjan Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African region support the implementation of the NEPAD Action Plan for the Environment Initiative with special focus on Programme Area 4 on marine and coastal resources.

Activities continue to be implemented within the framework of the Abidjan and Nairobi conventions and under the following sub-headings: Addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean Region (Wio-Lab) project; Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem; Sustainable Coastal Tourism Project, supported by a GEF project development fund block B grant; Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem; Integrated Coastal Management Projects; Assessments of “regional flagship species” (dugongs, coelacanth and manatees).

Programme area 5: Combating climate change in Africa

The 13th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP13) was held from 3-14 December 2007 in Bali, Indonesia. UNEP organized a pre-COP13 African Climate Change Negotiators meeting from 29-31 October 2007 in Abuja, Nigeria, to ensure that negotiators from African countries are abreast of the latest developments in intergovernmental climate change process and properly prepared to effectively and efficiently participate in the Bali discussions. Additionally, technical support was provided to the African delegates who attended the COP13. The conference culminated in the adoption of the Bali roadmap, which charts the course for a new negotiating process to be concluded by 2009 that will ultimately lead to a post-2012 international agreement on climate change.

UNEP supported the development of the MDG-Fund project document under the Thematic Window on Environment and Climate Change for Ethiopia and Mozambique and will subsequently be involved in the implementation of these projects over a 3-year period after approval of documents by the MDG-Fund Secretariat. The MDG Achievement Fund seeks to support the mainstreaming of environmental issues in policies and programs by broadening institutional, policy and fiscal options to reduce poverty and achieve the MDGs, expanding access to environmental finance and enhancing capacity to adapt to climate change.

Through the OzonAction's Compliance Assistance Programme, UNEP continues to provide capacity building and specialized technical support (through training and policy development at national and regional levels) to African countries to assist them in meeting reduction requirements in Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) consumption, achieve and sustain total phase-out of various ODS as set by the Montreal Protocol.

Programme area 6: Cross-border conservation or management of natural resources

Cross-border conservation or management of natural resources (including forests) has seen collaboration between UNEP and UNESCO in the development of the sub regional environmental action plan (SREAP) for Central Africa by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), with support from UNEP, GEF and

NEPAD Secretariat. It is worth mentioning that the SREAP for Central Africa was taken into account during the preparation of ECCAS' Strategic Plan for Environment and Natural Resource Management.

Regional and sub-regional actions were undertaken to enhance development (and peace) through conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in trans-boundary ecosystems and/or ecological networks, e.g. Elephant pathway for Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area in southern Africa. This project aims to complement efforts by the governments of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, who are working jointly towards the establishment of a Transfrontier Conservation Area known as the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA TFCA).

Cross-cutting issues: Health and the environment; transfer of environmentally sound technologies; assessment and early warning for natural disaster

Different environmental assessment and early warning activities in support of NEPAD were undertaken during this period. The eleventh regular session of AMCEN requested the Executive Director of UNEP to continue mobilizing financial support for capacity-building through the Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) and the Africa Environment Information Network (AEIN) processes and to support the production of the third Africa Environment Outlook (AEO-3) report as one of the main components of the programme of work of AMCEN. In this regard, an inception meeting for AEO-3 was held in Cairo, Egypt from 1 to 2 August 2007. This was a scoping meeting aimed at establishing the principal focus for the report (AEO-3) taking into account the "current environment and development debate in the African region and other global processes".

The objective of AEIN is to strengthen organizational networking and capacities related to the management of data and information for integrated environmental assessment and reporting (IEA) at national level as well as providing input into the regional reporting process to produce the AEO report. A total of 34 countries have participated in the Africa Environment Information Network (AEIN) initiative. Twelve of these countries participated in the pilot phase and 22 additional countries were included in the second phase. A joint workshop (UNEP/UNECA/UNSD) was held from 16 to 20 July 2007, on Environmental Statistics, towards implementation of AEIN and the UN Statistics Division programme on training and capacity building in environmental statistics.

The Action Plan for the NEPAD Environment Initiative identified post conflict environmental management as one of the priority issues to be addressed in Africa. During this period, UNEP continued to be involved in the process of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region by assisting countries to enhance and/or support on-going environmental and biodiversity initiatives e.g. inputs into conservation projects identified by the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region process.

Other post conflict activities included the preparation of the post-conflict assessment report for Sudan which was launched on 23 July 2007. The report gives a comprehensive analysis of the current status of the environment for all of Sudan with an emphasis on current conflicts, peace building and post-conflict recovery.

Following a meeting between the Executive Director of UNEP and the Environment Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 10 August 2007, UNEP agreed to work with the Government of DRC to develop a post conflict environmental assessment programme which will take into account issues of capacity building, waste management, the development of a framework environmental law, and legislation to strengthen the forestry code.

A comprehensive environmental assessment of oil-impacted sites in the Ogoni region of Nigeria's Niger Delta was also launched by UNEP, in collaboration with UNDP. The assessment will seek to identify, evaluate and minimize the immediate and long-term human, social, health and economic impacts of oil contamination in Ogoniland, as well as those related to environmentally and economically important ecosystems. The assessment is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

A consultative meeting was organized with the government of Tanzania in July 2007 to agree on the modalities of the development of a National Sustainable Consumption and Production programme for Tanzania. This is part of the follow-up on the further development and implementation of the African 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production at the national level. A Regional Experts Meeting on Ecolabelling was held from 11-13 June 2007 where a draft regional assessment report was presented and discussed. The NEPAD Secretariat made substantive inputs to the finalization of the report. The Fifth Session of the African Committee on Sustainable Development and a side event on the African Eco-labelling Mechanism were jointly organized with the African Union and UNECA from 21-26 October 2007 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

UNEP continues to support five pilot countries in Africa (one from each sub-region) to develop their NEPAD national action plans, in line with the proposals made by AMCEN. Initial consultations on the development of national action plans for Mozambique, Ethiopia, Libya, Ghana, and Cameroon have been held. These involved field missions to the above-mentioned countries. Based on the outcomes of these pilot countries' studies, the initiative could be replicated in other African countries.

Assessment of results and impact of the key programmes and projects implemented in 2006-2007

One of the major impacts of UNEP's support has been the operationalization of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD. It is also evident that the successful implementation of the Action Plan will depend on activities undertaken by African countries. To this end, there has been a sense of ownership of the process as demonstrated by several countries that have identified and are implementing a number of projects within the context of the implementation of the action plan.