

United Nations Environment programme (UNEP)

Support to AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2010 to June 2011)

Collaboration with other UN agencies in support of NEPAD

On the basis of the UNEP GC decisions on support to Africa and NEPAD, UNEP and a number of UN agencies, continue to work together within the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), a mechanism for coordinated UN support to the African Union (AU) and its NEPAD programme, under the overall coordination of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). UNEP is the convener of the cluster on Environment, Population and Urbanization of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM).

Through its Addis Ababa office, UNEP has a strategic role and presence which facilitates closer cooperation in furtherance of the African Union Commission (AUC) programmes, including NEPAD. The UNEP Addis Ababa office also takes part in the UN partnerships aimed at extending support to the implementation of the actions recommended by the regional coordination mechanism particularly with respect to the UN clusters of support to NEPAD.

In addition, UNEP as the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) 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. It will be recalled that AMCEN led the process for the development of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD.

Financial support for NEPAD programmes and projects

During the period from July 2010 to April 2011, UNEP continued to extend support to NEPAD through the provision and mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of a number of activities. The specific areas of support include the following:

Programme Area 1: Combating land degradation, drought and desertification

It will be recalled that recognizing the pervasiveness and severity of land degradation and its impact on livelihoods and on the economies of sub-Saharan African countries, and to complement the Global Environment Facility country partnership programme targeting that problem, the World Bank initiated the TerrAfrica programme. TerrAfrica is a global partnership designed as a multi-partner platform organized around three programmatic outcomes, with a view to enabling African Governments and their partners to scale up the mainstreaming and financing of effective and efficient country-driven sustainable land management approaches. It serves to focus attention, facilitate sharing of knowledge and best practices, galvanize advocacy and make the case for increased investment in support of sustainable land management interventions.

In Kenya, UNEP has, during the period in consideration, been supporting the country to restore the Mau Forest Complex, which is the anchor of Kenya's natural resources. In 2009, UNEP in collaboration with the Government of Kenya produced the publication *Kenya: Atlas of Our Changing Environment* which revealed the grave extent of the forest's depletion – over 25 per cent of forest cover has been lost over the past two decades to ecosystem encroachments like unplanned settlements and illegal logging. Based on these findings, a ten-point plan was prepared

by the Mau Forest Task Force together with other major stakeholders. UNEP and the Government of Kenya are now working to restore this vital ecosystem.

Programmatic Area 4: Conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources

The implementation of the marine, coastal and freshwater resources component of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD continues to be implemented through the Abidjan Convention for Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African region (Abidjan Convention) and the Nairobi Convention for Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Nairobi Convention).

Through the implementation of the work programmes for the Nairobi and Abidjan conventions, a number of instruments aimed at enhancing the capacities of the Contracting Parties to sustainably manage the coastal and marine environment have been developed. The instruments include:

- Strategic Action Programme for the protection of coastal and marine environment for the Western Indian Ocean from land based sources and activities;
- Amended Convention for the Protection, management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment for the Western Indian Ocean (Amended Nairobi Convention);
- Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-Based Sources and Activities; and
- Draft Protocol to the Abidjan Convention Concerning Cooperation in the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land Based Sources and Activities.

It is noteworthy that the Abidjan Convention has now been fully revitalized and its secretariat was relocated from Nairobi to Abidjan in 2010.

In 2010, UNEP provided support in the area of assessment of fresh water resources through the production of the *Atlas of Africa's Water Resources: Challenges and opportunities*. The publication makes a major contribution to the state of knowledge about water in Africa by bringing together information about water issues in each country and summarizing the state of their progress towards the MDG water targets, synthesizing water issues by looking at them from the perspective of challenges and opportunities and providing distinctive profiles of trans-boundary water basins and country. The publication was launched during Africa Water Week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 25 November 2010.

Programme Area 5: Combating Climate Change in Africa

The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), at its 12th session, in Johannesburg (June 2008) made a landmark decision on climate change; namely (i) to support Africa's preparations for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012; and (ii) the development and implementation of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes. In view of this, among others, Africa has been able to work on a climate road map based on the continent's shared vision on adaptation and mitigation.

Summary of key results

Since AMCEN's landmark decision on climate change, significant progress has been made:

- An African common negotiating position on climate change was developed

- The African High-Level Expert Panel on Climate Change was established and this has provided a useful platform for African experts to deliberate on relevant and topical climate related issues.
- The established platform for consideration of climate change related matters resulted in better coherence in policy positions taken by African Ministers of Environment and experts, particularly during the global climate change negotiations.

Assessing impact of climate change in Africa through the “Economics of climate change adaptation in Africa” project is another area where UNEP was involved. Preliminary findings of a study carried out by UNEP estimates that the costs of climate change impact for the continent could be equivalent to 1.5-3% of GDP each year by 2030. Briefing notes on the methodology, results from integrated assessment models as well as investment and financial analysis were developed and preliminary results shared with AMCEN. Decisions adopted by AMCEN at the 13th session held in June 2010 acknowledge UNEP’s role in climate change.

UNEP has also carried out a pilot demonstration project to show case how vulnerability to climate change can be reduced through improved adaptation planning for water management and ecosystem restoration. The pilot project has been carried out in Mali with the objective of restoring the Lake Faguibine’s ecosystem and improving the livelihoods of about 200,000 people living in the area. Partnerships have been established with the other UN agencies such as UNDP, FAO, UNOPS and local communities engaged.

Through the OzonAction's Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP), UNEP provided capacity building and specialized technical support (through training and policy development at national and regional levels) to African countries to comply with the Montreal Protocol. The CAP team specifically supported Institutional Strengthening (IS) of various countries in Africa to effectively implement Montreal Protocol activities through IS projects; assisted counties establish and implement terminal phase out management plans (TPMP); assisted countries to accelerate the phase out of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) in line with the decision of the Meeting of the Parties to Montreal Protocol. Joint project development and implementation with other bilateral and implementing agencies was undertaken as well as the strengthening of cooperation and collaboration with sub-regional organizations and other international organizations.

Programme 6: Cross-Border Conservation or Management of Natural Resources

UNEP supported the holding of a special Pan-African High Level Ministerial Conference on biodiversity and poverty alleviation in Libreville from 12 to 17 September 2010 as a follow up to 13th session of AMCEN which came up with the Libreville Declaration and an African Common position for the 10th Conference of Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The conference initiated discussions that led to the adoption of concrete actions for valuing biodiversity, ecosystem services and renewable natural resources as factors contributing to economic growth, job creation, investment and poverty alleviation.

As a result of UNEP’s intervention, DR Congo and Cameroon embarked on developing national environmental framework laws to take into consideration regional/cross-boarder forests and wildlife conservation issues as well as the conservation of high-value forest landscapes.

UNEP is assisting the Governments of Angola, Congo and DR Congo to establish a transboundary dialogue on the management of the Congo Basin. UNEP work aims at establishing a regional biosphere reserve to implement ecosystem restoration measures in the Mayombe Forest – home to large populations of gorillas and chimpanzees – and now virtually disappeared in the two Congos. An implementation mechanism has been set up which includes a ministerial tripartite committee, a regional technical committee and three national technical committees. The

Governments of Angola, Congo and DR Congo have signed a tripartite declaration to establish a trans-boundary dialogue on the management of the Mayombe forest.

UNEP's support to NEPAD includes a number of cross cutting areas such as Health and the environment; Transfer of environmentally sound technologies; Assessment and Early warning for natural disaster

In the area of Health and Environment, the 2nd Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa, which was jointly organized by UNEP and WHO and hosted by the Government of Angola, took place in Luanda from 23 to 26 November 2010. The Conference was a follow up to the first Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa that was held in Libreville, Gabon in 2008.

The Luanda conference adopted three key mutually reinforcing documents of high political and organizational significance that will assist the countries to move the Libreville Declaration process ahead. These are:

- The Luanda Commitment which outlines the continent's health and environment priorities and commits countries to take further specific actions to address them;
- The Health and Environment Strategic Alliance (HESA), a mechanism that will stimulate policies and investments in favour of enhanced joint actions for health and environment in Africa; and
- A Joint Statement on Climate Change and Health that was tabled at the 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancun, Mexico.

The implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment has led to unprecedented dialogue on health and environment matters both at policy and technical levels, and the identification of gaps in knowledge on health and environment linkages within the countries. It has also led to country ownership of the process, as well as a clear and joint process of identification and validation of national priorities.

Institutional support to the NEPAD Secretariat

The African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (formerly the NEPAD Secretariat), and AMCEN, with the support of UNEP, started the process of reviewing the implementation of the Action Plan. This involves a comprehensive stock-taking exercise, analytical work, preparation of relevant documents with recommendations, key stakeholders consultative meeting, and the setting up of a partnership platform. The review work commenced in 2010.

Advocacy work by UNEP in support of African development

Within the framework of its medium-term strategy, UNEP's support for Africa's development is in the context of the six cross-cutting thematic priorities of its medium-term strategy: climate change; disasters and conflicts; ecosystem management; environmental governance; harmful substances and hazardous waste; and resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production.

In addition, UNEP continues to support AMCEN whose mandate is to provide advocacy for environmental protection in Africa; to ensure that basic human needs are met adequately and in a sustainable manner; to ensure that social and economic development is realized at all levels; and to ensure that agricultural activities and practices meet the food security needs of the region.