



African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

Conférence ministérielle africaine sur l'environnement (CMAE)

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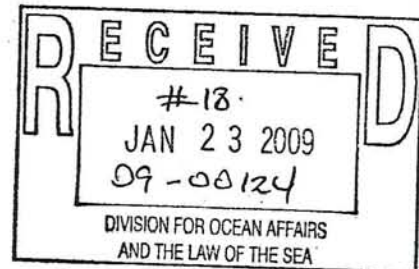
Dear Ms. Patricia O'Brien,

I wish to refer to your letter with reference number LOS/ICP/2009 and dated 10th December 2009 on the subject of "Oceans and the law of the sea" and inform you that the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) has been carrying out its work programme as an integral part of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). There are six thematic areas for the Action Plan *including conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources*. Work in this thematic area is being undertaken by UNEP and collaborators through (i) the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region; and (ii) the Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention).

Please find under the cover of this mail a brief report on the implementation of the marine, coastal and freshwater resources component of the above-mentioned Action Plan.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Acquah (PhD)
Deputy Director and AMCEN Secretary



Ms. Patricia O'Brien
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs
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Secretariat de la CMAE



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ANNEX

Brief report

1. The implementation of the marine, coastal and freshwater resources component of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD is being implemented through the Abidjan and Nairobi conventions. This is being done as a direct follow-up to the recommendations of World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002. This is also being done under the four main themes of assessment, management, coordination and legal aspects, and cross-cutting issues such as information dissemination and exchange and emerging issues.
2. The Global Environment Facility, with the support of the contracting parties to the Nairobi Convention and their development partners, have embraced an ecosystem-wide approach to management of the large marine ecosystems of the region. UNEP, the Global Environment Facility and the contracting parties are investing over \$78 million, between 2004 and 2012, to support large marine ecosystem projects in the Western Indian Ocean.
3. The three main projects include: the South West Indian Ocean fisheries project, with a budget of \$35,670,000, implemented by the World Bank; the Agulhas and Somalia Current large marine ecosystem project, with a budget of \$31,186,000, implemented by UNDP; and the project on land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-LaB) with a budget of \$11,413,000 from the following sources: contracting parties – \$3,136,750; the Norwegian Government – \$3,395,650; UNEP – \$375,000; and the Global Environment Facility – \$4,511,140.

Progress in the implementation of the WIO-LaB project

4. Since its inception in 2004, the WIO-LaB project has made considerable progress; several national and regional reports and activities have been completed. Thus, the lead national institutions in all participating countries have prepared national pollution status reports, and also proposals for the implementation of national water and sediment quality monitoring. A regional water and sediment quality monitoring programme has been put in place.
5. National policies, legal and institutional frameworks, including the status of ratification of environmental conventions relevant to land-based sources and activities, have been reviewed. Based on the findings of the review and recommendations from the legal and technical regional task force, a draft protocol on land-based sources and activities for the Nairobi Convention has been developed. The draft protocol was submitted for endorsement at the meeting of the contracting parties in November 2007 and now awaits adoption by a conference of plenipotentiaries in 2008.

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6. The WIO-LaB project has also prepared a regional transboundary diagnostic analysis focused on land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean region. The analysis forms the basis for a regional strategic action programme on land-based activities for the region.

Progress in implementation of the project to strengthen the coordination mechanism, management, and assessment activities within the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions

7. A toolkit on marine protected areas has been developed through collaboration between World Conservation Union (IUCN) and Western Indian Ocean Marine Sciences Association (WIOMSA).
8. The Abidjan Convention and its protocols have been reviewed and updated through collaboration with the Guinea Current large marine ecosystem (GCLME) project, and a new protocol on land-based sources and activities has been developed.
9. The secretariat has established partnerships with national focal institutions with the view to strengthening the Nairobi Convention's national focal points; to operationalize their offices; and to compile reports on the state of the marine environment.
10. Partnerships have been forged such as the network of academic and research institutions in the eastern Africa region; and a consortium for the conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean.
11. The consortium, known as "WIO-C", has been formed. This is a partnership between major non-governmental organizations and other regional organizations in the Western Indian Ocean, such as WWF, IUCN, WIOMSA, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).
12. UNEP through the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and with the help of Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) funding, signed agreements with Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Tanzania to support the Nairobi Convention national focal points to operationalise their offices and to compile national status report on the coastal and marine environment (similar agreements had been signed with Comoros and Kenya in 2005). The same process to support focal points of ratified countries of the Abidjan Convention (Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo) was initiated through the Abidjan Convention Secretariat. The support established the focal points as national "hubs" for information exchange, a national reporting mechanism for the two Conventions, and gave guidance on national priorities within coastal and marine management in preparation for the Conventions' work programmes for 2007-2009.
13. With support from UNEP/RSP, ICRAN and SIDA, a workshop was held (23rd-25th February 2006) in Mafia, Tanzania in collaboration with IUCN and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, that trained marine protected area, fisheries and forestry managers and practitioners in managing Marine Protected Areas using a toolkit produced by UNEP as well as a workbook for MPA management effectiveness and the Western Indian Ocean Fisheries database. The products are a result of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Biodiversity Conservation Project; a collaborative

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project between UNEP through the Nairobi Convention, World Wildlife Fund, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, the World Conservation Center for East Africa and NORAD to implement the Jakarta Mandate of the CBD in the region. The MPA Toolkit and the Workbook are the first of a kind, adapted to a specific region and including local experiences and cases studies. The capacity-building exercise for practitioners supports improved management and effectiveness of MPAs in the region.

14. In line with the decision GC23/5, UNEP through the Division of the Global Environment Facility (DGEF) and the Abidjan and Nairobi Convention Secretariat submitted a PDF-B proposal "Atlantic and Indian Ocean Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Integrated Water Resource and Wastewater" to the GEF for funding the development of an African SIDS project focused on water resource management. The project is a partnership between UNDP and UNEP and will be implemented under the Nairobi and Abidjan Convention Secretariat.
15. UNEP/RSP supported Wetlands International through to produce, in collaboration with Abidjan Convention Focal Points, a conservation strategy for the West African manatee throughout its entire distribution. A first draft has been produced and will amended during upcoming review process.
16. UNEP/RSP supported the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) to strengthen the Nairobi Convention Forum of Academic and Research Institutions (FARI).

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