

# UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

## Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: 2004 – 2005

### Support for the implementation of the Action Plan on the Environment Initiative of NEPAD

Decisions taken by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council confirm NEPAD to be the framework for support to Africa.

From 2001 to 2003, UNEP, through resources provided by the Global Environment Facility, and in partnership with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the NEPAD Secretariat assisted the African countries to prepare an **Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD**. A framework was adopted at the ninth meeting of AMCEN held in Kampala in July 2002. The Action Plan was prepared through the convening of nine thematic workshops with the participation of more than 800 African experts. The Action Plan was adopted by the Second Special session of AMCEN held in Maputo in June 2003 and was subsequently endorsed in Maputo, on 12 July 2003 by the second ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union (Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.5(II)). The Action Plan together with 68 priority projects were submitted to the Partnership Conference organized in Algiers from 15-16 December 2003 in partnership between AMCEN, the NEPAD Secretariat and UNEP.

Since 1 July 2004, UNEP in partnership with the NEPAD Secretariat and AMCEN and with resources provided by the GEF has embarked on assisting the African Countries to prepare five **sub-regional Environmental Action Plans** of NEPAD. This project was submitted to and endorsed by the tenth meeting of AMCEN held in Sirte, Libya. To this end, UNEP and the NEPAD Secretariat signed on 10 January 2005 an agreement of three years duration (2005-2008) aimed at enhancing the human and institutional capacities for the implementation of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD of the five sub-regional African Economic communities. Therefore, Environment and Natural Resource Coordinators in the Regional Economic Communities (REC) will be recruited starting 1 April 2005. The First Technical training workshop on the implementation of the Environmental Initiative of NEPAD with the participation of sixty NEPAD focal points was organized by UNEP in Nairobi on 20-25 September 2004. The second technical workshop of NEPAD focal points on the environment will be held in Nairobi in 2005.

From April to June 2005, UNEP in partnership with the NEPAD Secretariat, the African Regional Economic Communities (REC) and AMCEN will organize in Algiers, Abuja, Djibouti, Libreville and Harare, five intergovernmental consultative meetings to review the first draft of environmental regional action plan of NEPAD. UNEP is also assisting the African countries to pilot the implementation of National NEPAD environmental action plan. In addition, UNEP assisted the Government of Senegal to organize the Second Partners Conference on the

Environment Initiative of NEPAD from 15 to 16 March 2005 in Dakar. UNEP also supported the technical segment of the second Partners Conference on the Environment Initiative of NEPAD held in Nairobi from 19 to 20 February, 2005. The main objectives for the technical session were to (i) review the implementation of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD, (ii) deliberate on the financial resources mobilization mechanisms for the implementation of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD, and (iii) make further recommendations to the ministerial session of the second Partners Conference on the Environment Initiative of NEPAD.

It is also worth noting that UNEP has responded positively to the request of the Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Secretariat to assist in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the **African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction**, including the establishment of an early warning system for the continent, which was submitted to the fourth Africa Partnership Forum held in Abuja, Nigeria on 8-9 April 2005. Under the environment initiative of NEPAD, UNEP is also piloting the synergy on the 3 Rio Conventions focusing on poverty alleviation in Uganda, Rwanda, Mozambique and Tanzania. The experience gained will be duplicated to all African countries.

UNEP has undertaken different **environmental assessment and early warning activities** in support of the NEPAD Environment Action Plan. The activities include the preparation of the second Africa Environment Outlook (AEO-2), which will be finalized for launch in 2006. UNEP also organized two training workshops in integrated environmental assessment and reporting (IEAR) for East and West Africa, a regional AEO policy analysis workshop. An environmental assessment brief on alien invasive species was also published to address Programme Area 3 of the NEPAD Environment Action Plan, which deals with the prevention, control and management of invasive alien species. A booklet (*AEO Tracking: Issues and Developments*, a UNEP contribution to the NEPAD process) tracking environmental developments in Africa was finalized. A website on the AEO process was finalized during 2004. Since mid-2004, UNEP has launched environmental information networks at both national and sub-regional levels as part of the implementation of the Africa Environment Information Network (AEIN).

As part of its contribution to NEPAD in the **water sector**, UNEP has continued to support the strengthening of the organs of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), and AMCOW activities, including all its ordinary sessions. UNEP provided technical and financial as well as logistical support to AMCOW to prepare its work programme, finalize its cooperative framework with the European Union, the African Development Bank and develop project concepts based on G8 Action Plan/German Initiative. Upon request by the fifth ordinary session of AMCOW, UNEP is establishing a trust fund for the Conference, assisting the chair in developing and implementing her work plan and supporting the secretariat in its functions.

The Action Plan for the NEPAD Environment Initiative identified **post conflict environmental management** as one of the priority issues to be addressed in Africa. In this context and as part of its global effort UNEP has initiated a post conflict environmental management programme in Africa. The first phase of the programme has been initiated in Liberia where a desk study was published on the Liberian Environment. The work plan for the Post Conflict Environment Programme (PCEP) in Liberia is in being finalised. Work to be undertaken in the first part of

2005 includes appointing the Programme Officer for Liberia, opening the office in Monrovia and appointing supporting national staff. UNEP is currently providing technical, financial and logistical support to the process of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. In this context, UNEP coordinated the preparation of a report on environmental issues in the region, which was fed into the documentation of the first International Conference held in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania in November 2004.

As part of its contribution to NEPAD and in response to UNEP Governing Council decision, which requested UNEP to increase and promote the knowledge about the existing linkages between poverty and environment in Africa, UNEP developed a conceptual framework that fully integrates the environment into the challenge of poverty reduction. This project on the conceptual framework is currently being implemented in seven countries, i.e. Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The overall objective of the project is to increase developing countries' capacity to mainstream environment in their development strategies.

### **Collaboration with other UN agencies**

UNEP in collaboration with the African Union, the United National Economic Commission for Africa and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification organized an African Ministerial Meeting on Energy, which was held from 7-8 May 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting passed four sets of recommendation including an African position on renewable energies, which were presented to the International Conference on Renewable Energies held in Bonn, Germany. UNEP is currently co-chairing the UN-Energy/Africa, which has been established based on the recommendation of the ministerial meeting and in the context of the UN-Cluster approach in support of NEPAD. UNEP is also an active member of the UN Cluster on Science and Technology and the UN Cluster on Environment, Water and Settlement that were established in support of NEPAD.