

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Support to AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2009 to June 2010)

Introduction

Africa continues to be one of the priority areas of UNEP as mandated by its Governing Council (decisions 20/27 of 5 February 1999, 21/15 of 9 February 2001 and 22/9 of 7 February 2003 and 24/8 of 9 February 2007). Further, during the 25th session in February 2009, the Governing Council in its decision on support to Africa requested UNEP to continue extending implementation and institutional support to NEPAD, particularly with regard to the implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD, including the related sub-regional environmental action plans.

Collaboration with the African Union (AU) and its NEPAD programme

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 (RCM), 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. A special session of AMCEN on climate change was organized on 29 May 2009. The outputs of the special session included: the Nairobi Declaration on the African Process for Combating Climate Change, Draft African Union Decision on the African Process for Combating Climate Change, and the Conceptual Framework for African Climate Change Programmes.

On the basis of the UNEP GC decisions on support to Africa and NEPAD, UNEP and a number of UN agencies, have worked together within the RCM under the overall coordination of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). UNEP is the convenor of the cluster on Environment, Population and Urbanization of the RCM.

During the period from July 2009 to date, UNEP continued to extend support to NEPAD through the implementation of a number of activities in Africa. The specific areas of support include the following:

Programme Area 1: Combating land degradation, drought and desertification

The publication *Africa – Atlas of our Changing Environment* by UNEP highlighted the sharp and rapid decline of Mali's Lake Faguibine. In response to the Atlas' findings, the government of Mali invited UNEP and partners to work together to restore Lake Faguibine and its valuable services. The project commenced in 2009 with support from the government of Norway.

The 2009 publication *Kenya: Atlas of Our Changing Environment* produced by UNEP in collaboration with the government of Kenya revealed the grave extent of the depletion of the Mau Forest Complex. UNEP and the government of Kenya are working to restore this vital ecosystem. The launch of the Atlas has catalyzed actions in other African countries (Botswana, Libya, Mali, Rwanda, and Uganda) focusing on ecosystem restoration.

Programme Area 2: Conserving Africa's Wetlands

Thanks to a human-made wetland which treats and recycles wastewater, inmates in Shimo La Tewa in Mombasa benefited from a better diet of vegetables and fish. The initiative is part of the Addressing Land-Based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean (WioLAB) project implemented by UNEP-administered Nairobi Convention Secretariat.

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

During this period, UNEP, as Chair of the UN-Water/Africa group, enhanced its strategic focus and support to the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and other Pan-African institutions, including the AUC, African Development Bank (AfDB) and NEPAD. UN-Water/Africa played an active role in co-organizing the 2nd African Water Week held in Johannesburg in November 2009. The 2nd African Water Week discussed the implications of regional water initiatives as well as the continent's role in implementing the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments on Water and Sanitation adopted by African heads of state in July 2008. The Second Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water also took place in November 2009 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

UNEP also continued to give support (technical and financial) to the Bureau of AMCOW (otherwise known as the Steering Committee) and the consultative processes of its Technical Advisory Committee. The Seventh Ordinary Session of AMCOW (including the meetings respectively of the Technical Advisory Committee and Executive Committee of AMCOW) was held in November 2009 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Programme Area 5: Combating Climate Change in Africa

During the 12th session of AMCEN held in Johannesburg, South Africa on June 2008, AMCEN requested UNEP, in collaboration with the Commission of the African Union (AU), the secretariat of NEPAD, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), AfDB and other relevant intergovernmental institutions to organize a series of preparatory meetings for Africa's climate change negotiators and to provide the negotiators with substantive technical and policy analysis support to strengthen their preparations for the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to UNFCCC that was held in December 2009 in Copenhagen.

This process led to (i) a common negotiating position for Africa being developed in preparation for the Copenhagen meeting, and (ii) the building of the negotiators capacity in relevant areas. The development of the comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes and its associated frameworks of sub-regional climate change programmes presented a unique opportunity for enhanced collaboration between all the main actors working to combat climate

change in the African region. The African Process for Combating Climate Change laid a firm foundation for the continent to have a common and informed voice at Copenhagen 2009 and a shared vision for combating climate change in Africa in particular. Other partners involved in this process included the AU, NEPAD Secretariat, UNECA, AfDB and other relevant intergovernmental institutions in Africa. Similar support is being provided by UNEP in preparation for the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC to be held later in 2010 in Mexico.

UNEP continues to be involved in the implementation of the joint programmes on environment and climate change under the UNDP-Spanish Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F) Thematic Window for Environment and Climate Change in Egypt and Mozambique. The UNEP Addis Ababa Office and UNDP led the UNCT in Ethiopia in developing the joint programme on "Pastoralist Adaptation to Climate Change." Support was also extended to Tanzania, particularly for the finalization of the One UN joint programme on environment and climate change developed by the UN Country Team in collaboration with relevant government institutions.

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. In 2009 the CAP team specifically supported Institutional Strengthening (IS) of various countries in Africa to effectively implement Montreal Protocol activities through IS projects; assisted countries with establishing and implementing terminal phase out management plans (TPMP), and 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

In 2009, UNEP worked with partners to establish trans-boundary protected area shared by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo and Angola in the south-western part of the Congo Basin. Through the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP), UNEP is also helping to halt encroachment into DRC's Virunga National Park – home to half of the last remaining mountain gorillas.

UNEP support to NEPAD: health and the environment; transfer of environmentally sound technologies; assessment and early warning for natural disasters

The WHO-UNEP Joint Task Team (JTT) continued to work towards the implementation of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment that was adopted during the first Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa held in Libreville, Gabon 29 August 2008. In 2009, the JTT finalized the trial edition of the Situation Analysis and Needs Assessment (SANA) guide as a prerequisite for the preparation of national plans of joint action. The guide was field tested in two pilot countries - Gabon and Kenya – and finalized. The guide

will be published and disseminated for use by countries such as Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, and Republic of Congo.

UNEP continues to support the second phase of the African 10-Year Framework Programme (10-YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). In addition, the Task Force on Cooperation with Africa as one of the Marrakech Task Forces was launched by the Federal Ministry of Environment of Germany.

In 2009, UNEP further deepened its engagement in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by initiating a post-conflict environmental assessment, set within its wider environmental recovery programme.

Institutional support to the NEPAD Secretariat

UNEP is working with the NEPAD Secretariat to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide a framework of cooperation between the two institutions. The MoU will further their shared goals and objectives in regard to utilizing their respective comparative advantages to significantly strengthen and increase their collaboration in furtherance of the United Nations system's support for NEPAD with the aim of ensuring an environmentally sound and sustainable future for Africa.

In addition, UNEP finalized in 2009 a Small-Scale Funding Agreement with the NEPAD Secretariat of 100,000 USD to support the Secretariat to review the implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD. The review will focus on the work undertaken since the implementation of the Action Plan commenced, including achievements, challenges and lessons learnt.

Assessment of results and impact of the key programmes and projects implemented in 2007-2009

As a result of UNEP support, the momentum for the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD increased considerably during this period. This is demonstrated by the finalization of the NEPAD Sub-regional Environmental Action Plans and the development of the NEPAD National Action Plans. Therefore, one of the major impacts of this support has been the operationalization of the action plan. 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 NEPAD National Action Plans.