

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Support to NEPAD

Period of report: March 2001 to May 2004

Orientation of work in support of NEPAD

UNEP has been closely associated with the development of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD. In the past year, UNEP convened thematic workshops that resulted in thematic summaries and project proposals that were incorporated in the NEPAD Environment Initiative Action Plan. The Action Plan was prepared under the auspices of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and with the support of UNEP (which is hosting the AMCEN Secretariat) in close collaboration with the Secretariat of NEPAD and the Commission of the African Union with financial resources provided by the UNEP/GEF. The Action Plan was reviewed and endorsed by a Special Session of AMCEN and was subsequently submitted to the African Union for consideration and adoption. It was adopted by the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in July 2003. In order to mobilize the necessary resources for the implementation of the Action Plan, a decision was adopted by the Second Ordinary Assembly of the African Union Summit calling for a Donor (Partners) Conference.

The Partners' Conference was held in Algiers, Algeria on December 15 and 16, 2003. Its purpose was to engage the development partners in a policy dialogue to consider the implementation of the Action Plan. UNEP co-facilitated the conference and upon the request from the government of Senegal, it also has been providing institutional support for the establishment of

the Interim Secretariat of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD.

Areas of support for NEPAD

UNEP has been supporting and strengthening sub-regional consultation mechanisms as a vehicle for fostering collaboration and coordination for NEPAD at the regional level; developing and implementing joint programmes in support of NEPAD; and supporting the NEPAD Secretariat and to African countries in developing NEPAD projects and programmes, particularly in the sectors of:

- infrastructure (transportation, energy, water and sanitation, ICTs)
- environment
- resource flows.

- *Encouraging the alignment of AMCEN activities with the priorities of NEPAD*

The action plan for the environment initiative will build upon the ongoing activities carried out by the revitalized AMCEN in the context of the implementation of the Abuja Declaration and other relevant African processes. The action plan will also complement the on-going AMCEN activities including the generation and dissemination of environmental information in Africa; Poverty and Environment in Africa, Environmental Assessment in Africa and the strengthening of the collaboration with major bodies in Africa.

- *Strengthening advocacy and public information activities in support of NEPAD*

The action plan of the environment initiative will complement the on-going AMCEN activities including the generation and dissemination of environmental information in Africa.

- *Fostering coherence and working in close collaboration with bilateral donors*

One of the objectives of the Partners' Conference co-facilitated by UNEP held in Algiers, Algeria in December 2003, was to engage the development partners in a policy dialogue to consider the implementation of the Action Plan.

- *Strengthening coordination and programming mechanisms as a means of enhancing UNEP's support for NEPAD*

At the request of the African Governments, UNEP assisted in the development of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD. UNEP gave assistance to the Steering Committee and AMCEN in the convening of the thematic workshops. UNEP has also provided some seed money to support the coordination of the environment initiative, at the request of the President of Senegal in his capacity as the designated lead head of state for the implementation of the environment component of NEPAD. UNEP/DGEF has already developed a capacity building project that is partially funded by GEF.

- *Working closely with the African Union and other regional and sub-regional organizations to ensure the implementation of NEPAD*

Under the leadership of AMCEN and in close cooperation with the Secretariat of NEPAD and the African Union as well as the support of UNEP and the Global

Environment Facility, the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development has been finalised.

In 2003, UNEP started revising the AU-UNEP Cooperation Agreement signed in 1991. The purpose of the revision is to update the agreement to reflect institutional and other changes due to the transition from the OAU to the AU, new developments after WSSD and the adoption of NEPAD as an integral part of the AU. The revision will assist UNEP in devising effective collaboration with the AU Commissions.

- *Continuing to support the efforts of African countries to build human and institutional capacity to implement the Action Plan:*

UNEP will focus in the implementation phase of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative on a number of priorities where it has comparative advantage, including capacity building which is a major component of the Action Plan.

UNEP's financial commitment to NEPAD

UNEP prepared in April 2001 and in close consultation with the Chairman of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), a Medium-Sized Project (MSP) of US\$ 600, 000 financed by the GEF on the development and implementation of the Environmental Initiative of NEPAD. UNEP also provided some seed money to support the coordination of the environment initiative.

Recommendations for strengthening NEPAD implementation

Lack of sufficient financial and human resources has been a big constraint. Spirited fund raising as a follow-up to the Donor (Partners) conference is required.