



United Nations Environment Programme

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

ENVIRONMENT ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE OF THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA DEVELOPMENT

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INTRODUCTION

1. At the beginning of the new millennium Africa is characterized by two interrelated features: rising poverty levels and deepening environmental degradation. Africa is the poorest region of the world. It has the largest share of people living on less than US \$1 per day. Almost 40% of the people in Africa live below the poverty line. At least one-third of Africa's population is undernourished and that number is also growing. Africa is the only region of the world where poverty is projected to rise during this century if adequate measures are not urgently taken. Of the 45 countries on the UNDP list of Low Human Development Indicators, 35 are in Africa. Indeed two-thirds of the 48 countries included in the list of Least Developed Countries are in Africa.
2. The United Nations Secretary General's Millennium Report provides that "Nowhere is a global commitment to poverty reduction needed more than in Africa south of the Sahara, because no region of the world endures greater human suffering". In his report to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Secretary General notes that half of Africa's population lives in poverty and that the number of poor people is increasing substantially in the region. If adequate measures are not taken urgently.
3. In adopting, in New York in September 2000, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Heads of State representing the international community, committed themselves to "support the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development, thereby bringing Africa into the mainstream of the world economy". More specifically they agreed to "take special measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced Official Development Assistance and increased flows of Foreign Direct Investment, as well as transfers of technology."
4. Related to the rising poverty is the degradation of the environment and increasing loss of the region's natural resources. UNEP's Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) observes that conditions in natural habitats and fragile ecosystems have been deteriorating resulting in diminishing biodiversity. There are high rates of exploitation of such resources as freshwater, forests, and coastal and marine stocks continue to be used at rates beyond their viable rates of replacement. Land degradation, natural as well as human-induced environmental disasters, and invasive alien species continue to be major problems in Africa. Natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, earthquakes and landslides cause considerable human suffering and economic damage in the continent. On the whole, environmental degradation undermines prospects of fighting poverty, economic growth and sustainable development in Africa. Measures aimed at renewing the region's economies and eradicating poverty must thus promote environmental sustainability. Such measures are founded on the recognition that the environment in general and ecosystems in particular are important sources of goods and services for poverty reduction and economic growth. Just as ecological decline deepens poverty, so can poverty exacerbate environmental degradation. The vicious circle between poverty and degradation of the environment needs to be addressed in a comprehensive manner.



5. In his Millennium Report, the Secretary General of the United Nations concluded that “only Africans can break out these vicious cycles”. Africa’s leaders have explicitly recognized the fact that economy recovery and growth as well as poverty reduction cannot be achieved without investments in environmental management. This recognition is in the New Partnership for Africa Development adopted by the African Heads of State. It is a programmatic framework in which the leaders pledge “based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction, that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development, and at the same time to participate actively in the world economy and body politic.” NEPAD recognizes that the range of issues necessary to nurture the region’s environmental base and sustainable use of natural resources is vast and complex, and that a systematic combination of initiatives is necessary in order to develop a coherent environmental programme.
6. NEPAD recommends the development and adoption of an environment initiative - a coherent action plan and strategies - to address the region’s environmental challenges while at the same time combating poverty and promoting socio-economic development. This Environmental Action Plan for the first decade of the 21st century is a response to address such challenges. It is prepared through a consultative and participatory process under the leadership of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN). The plan is about Africa’s common and shared sustainable development problems and concerns. It is a body of collective responsibilities and actions that African countries adopt and will implement to maintain the integrity of the environment and ensure the sustainable use of their natural resources through partnerships with the international community. It provides an appropriate framework for the establishment of a strong partnership for the protection of the environment between Africa and its partners based on the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

SECTION 1: THE ENVIRONMENT IN AFRICA: STATUS AND TRENDS

7. Africa has a wealth of natural resources, including minerals, biological diversity, forests, fisheries, water, land and wildlife. It has the largest tropical rain forests and the second largest freshwater lake in the world. The region’s forests cover 520 million hectares and constitute more than 17% of the world’s forests. They range from the dry tropical forests in the Sahel, Eastern and Southern Africa, humid tropical forests in Western and central Africa, diverse sub-tropical forest and wood formations in Northern Africa and the southern tip of the continent, as well as mangroves in the coastal zones. These forests are however facing increasing deforestation and degradation. Africa has lost 66 million hectares between 1980 and 1995 with 65% of this deforestation during the 1990s.
8. The region has more than 50,000 known plant species, 1,500 species of birds and 1,000 mammals. For example, South Africa has an estimated 20,000 plant species, Kenya has at least 8,000 and Cameroon has more than 15,000. Other African countries such as Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of Congo are known for their rare internationally recognized plant and animal species. Fauna and flora form the foundation of social and economic development of the region and its people. Africa’s agriculture is however founded on a narrow range of plant and animal species. Some of Africa’s plant



species have contributed immensely to the world's pharmaceutical industry. Such plants as *Ancistrocladus korupensis* found in Cameroon, *Pausinystalia yohimbe* (from Nigeria, Cameroon and Rwanda) and *Catharanthus roseus* from Madagascar are being used in pharmaceutical research by industrialized country institutions.

9. The African coastline is vast and traces a variety of habitats - from open ocean, near-shore waters, and sandy and rocky islands to beaches, lagoons, sand dunes, mud and sand flats, rocky cliffs, sea grass beds, coral reefs, and mangroves. Some of the waters surrounding Africa, particularly those from the Straits of Gibraltar to Guinea, are among the richest fishing grounds in the world, and the marine areas from Angola south to the Cape also contain great wealth. Diversity of fish species is high, with more than 4,000 species reported. Some of the most numerous and economically most important fish species are tuna, marlin, and billfish; tuna is a significant source of foreign exchange for a number of countries. Marine and coastal ecosystems contribute significantly to the economies of its countries e.g. in Namibia, the fisheries sector contributes more than 35% of GDP and employs some 12,000 people.
10. Africa contains the world's largest expanse of drylands, covering roughly 2 billion hectares of the continent or 65 per cent of Africa's total land area. One third of this area is hyper-arid deserts, while the remaining two thirds consists of arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas-home to about 400 million Africans, two thirds of the continent's total. Although reliable data is lacking, it is estimated that some 500 million hectares of land in Africa has been affected by soil degradation since 1950, including as much as 65% of agricultural land.
11. Wetlands cover about 1 per cent of Africa's total surface area. The largest include the Zaire swamps, the Sudd in the Upper Nile, the Lake Victoria and Chad basins, the Okavango Delta, and the floodplains and deltas of the Niger and Zambezi rivers. The diversity of flora and fauna of wetlands in Africa is immense and in many places unknown, with endemic and rare plant species and wildlife, including migratory bird species.
12. Although abundant on a regional scale, water is unevenly distributed by nature and unfairly allocated by man. The total amount of water utilized in Africa is about 90-100 billion cubic meters that represents 2-3% of surface and ground water resources in the continent. Agriculture is probably the largest use of water in the region. At least 6% of Africa's cultivated land is under irrigation in contrast to more than 30% in Asia. A few African countries have high annual averages of water per person but many others already or soon will face water stress or scarcity conditions. Recent studies indicate that more than 300 million people in Africa lack access to safe water. In sub-Saharan Africa about 51 per cent of the population have access to safe water and 47 per cent to sanitation. In general, urban residents have better access to safe water and sanitation than rural inhabitants.
13. Africa's contribution to the global pool of greenhouse gas emissions is still relatively low. It is estimated that the region contributes to only 3.8 percent of the world's total carbon dioxide emissions. Despite the region's comparatively low volumes of emissions to the global greenhouse gas emissions, Africa's economic, ecological and socio-political



systems are vulnerable to climate change. Climate change impacts on the countries will be varied, irreversible and long-term. They include: severe climate variability, severe drought, increased erosion and sedimentation of dams leading *inter alia* to changes in patterns of hydro-electric production; sea-level rise endangering coastal zone and small island economies; severe dislocation of the water systems; shifts in agro-climatic zones which would affect biomass production patterns; and general changes in habitats affecting both human and animal population patterns. These impacts could generate irreversible economic and socio-political problems with severe impact on the food security of the continent already affected by a serious food deficit.

SECTION 2: AFRICA'S ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

2.1 Overview of environmental challenges

14. Africa is experiencing an array of serious environmental challenges and problems. Unsustainable exploitation and degradation of forests, soils, wildlife, fresh water, and other natural resources threaten to undermine the region's economic development prospects. For example, the continent is most severely affected by desertification that threatens more than 33 percent of Africa's land area particularly in the Sudano-Sahelian region, Southern Africa and Mediterranean Africa. Recurrent droughts are largely a manifestation of land degradation in the region.
15. The region's economies and political systems are critically dependent on maintaining the environment. Agriculture the two largest sector of the economies directly dependent on environmental goods and services. In addition, Africa's cultural and political structures are closely tied to the natural resource base, linking the erosion of ecological systems to the erosion of social and cultural systems as well.
16. Despite growing recognition of the importance of natural resource conservation and numerous governmental commitments to environmental protection dating back to 1960, Africa's environment continues to deteriorate. Existing sub-regional and regional environmental laws, plans, policies, and institutions have proven inadequate to arrest current trends owing to the lack of adequate financial resources.

2.2 Regional conventions

17. An overwhelming majority of African countries have signed and ratified all the main regional environmental conventions. One of the earliest conservation treaties on Africa was the 1900 London Convention for the Protection of Wild Animals, Birds and Fish in Africa. The aim of the treaty was to prevent the uncontrollable massacre and to ensure the conservation of diverse wild species in Africa which are useful to man.
18. The African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources negotiated under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was adopted in Algiers in 1968. The Algiers Convention aims to "ensure conservation, utilization and development of soil, water, flora and faunal resources in accordance with the scientific principles and with due regard to the best interests of the people. This treaty anticipated by over two



decades many of the sustainable development principles that are embodied in Agenda 21 adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. It sought to link natural resource use to conservation and contains many of the elements reflected in global treaties such as CITES, Ramsar and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

19. The implementation of the Algiers Convention has been limited because of the absence of appropriate financial resources. In 1985, in collaboration with IUCN attempts were made by the OAU to revise the Convention. In collaboration with UNEP and IUCN, the OAU has finalized the revision of the Algiers convention to adjust it to the new developments. The revised text will be submitted for adoption at the July 2002 meeting of the Heads of State of the African Union to be held in Durban in South Africa. In addition more specialized regional agreements were adopted. These included the 1985 Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region adopted as a protocol to the 1985 Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region.
20. The protocol committed parties to “take all appropriate measures to maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems, to preserve genetic diversity, and to ensure the sustainable utilization of harvested natural resources under their jurisdiction.” The protocol provides for meetings of the parties to review the implementation of the protocol, assess the need for further measures and adopt or amend annexes. But these institutional measures were not adequate to meet the goals of the protocol for a variety of reasons. Implementing the goals of the protocol required additional finances, technological knowledge and human capacity as well as national and regional policy coordination efforts.
21. Other regional environmental agreements include the 1985 Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, the Abidjan Convention, the 1973 Convention Establishing a Permanent Inter-State Drought Control Committee for the Sahel, the 1991 Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes Within Africa, and the 1994 Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora.
22. One of the main achievements of these agreements has been the formulation of regional and national actions on environmental issues. But their effectiveness has been hampered by inadequate financial resources and lack of adequate human and institutional capacities.
23. In addition to the environmental agreements or treaties, sub-regional and regional bodies such as the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS), the East Africa Cooperation, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have established environmental programmes or added environmental concerns onto their political and development agendas. The African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) established in



1985 is the main policy forum that provides the region with an opportunity to address its common environmental problems. The revitalized AMCEN arising from the Abuja Declaration adopted in April 2000 is expected to play a leading role in the future.

2.3 International environmental conventions and programmes

24. An overwhelming majority of African states are parties to many of the international environmental conventions. African countries have ratified the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the World Heritage Convention. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. They are now participating in international efforts to implement these conventions. It must be noted that African Countries played a leading role in the negotiation and now in the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. They played also a major role in the negotiation and adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The implementation of the Kyoto protocol offers an opportunity for the Africa continent in particular through its Clean Development Mechanism. However, as the negotiation related to the implementation and further elaboration of these treaties are becoming more and more technical, the participation of the African countries will need to be enhanced in order to ensure that the Africa interests are promoted.

SECTION 3: ENVIRONMENT ACTION PLAN FOR THE FIRST DECADE OF THE 21ST CENTURY

25. A coherent, strategic and long-term programme of action is required to promote Africa's sustainable development. This is explicit in NEPAD's emphasis about measures that will ensure that the continent is able to confront its short-term economic growth challenges without losing sight of the long-run environmental, poverty reduction and social development imperatives. Sustainable development is about the long-term. It can only be achieved through investments in the future. Thus the proposed NEPAD environment programme of action takes a long-term approach. It is about processes, projects and related activities that are aimed at enlarging Africa's economic prospects through sustained environmental management.
26. The proposed action plan is integrated in the sense that it takes full consideration of economic growth, income distribution, poverty reduction, social equity and better governance as part and parcel of Africa's environmental sustainability agenda. The plan's main goal is therefore to ensure the integration of environmental imperatives into all aspects and programmes of NEPAD. Indeed Chapter 8 of NEPAD on the Environment Initiative cannot be implemented in isolation with the overall objectives of NEPAD. It will be implemented in harmony with the other components of NEPAD.
27. The plan is organized in clusters of programmatic and project activities to be implemented over an initial period of ten years. It is founded on the following principles:



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- (a) Emphasis is placed on those activities and processes that will add new and significant value to existing national, sub-regional and regional environmental management activities.
 - (b) The plan of action as whole and its implementation projects will build upon prior progress.
 - (c) Activities are to be implemented in such a way as to ensure that that Africa learns from its previous efforts and achievements while taking into account the experience gained in other regions of the world.
 - (d) Collective action with differentiated capabilities—clear recognition that while the continent has shared goals and obligations, its countries have different levels and ranges of capability—financial, human, scientific and technological—endowments. Genuine regional cooperation will thus be required to mobilize or harness the capabilities to implement the plan of action. In addition, emphasis is on those activities that will ultimately enlarge the region's capacity to engage in environmental management.
 - (e) The action plan, its goals and implementation are not aimed at meeting interests or needs of a country or group of countries but the African continent as a whole.
28. The suggested action plan 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. It will complement AMCEN priority programme for 2000-2004 which consists of the two following clusters:
- (a) Environment Information, Assessment, Early Warning and Environmental Security; Global negotiations; Coastal and marine Environment and the role of AMCEN at major international conferences including the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
 - (b) Trade and environment; Industry, technology and pollution; Freshwater resources and Managing forest resources.
29. 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.
30. The Action Plan is organized in clusters of programmatic areas covering the following priority sectors and cross-cutting issues as identified in Environment Initiative of NEPAD: Combating land degradation, drought and desertification; Wetlands; Invasive species; Marine and coastal resources; Global warming; Cross-border conservation of natural resources climate change and Cross-cutting issues. The action will build upon the related problems of pollution, forests and plant genetic resources, wetlands, invasive alien species, fresh water, coastal and marine resources, capacity building and technology transfer.



3.1 Objectives of the action plan

31. The overall objectives of the action plan are to complement relevant African processes, including the work programme of the revitalized AMCEN, with a view of improving environmental conditions in Africa in order to contribute to the achievement of economic growth and poverty reduction, and build Africa's capacity to implement regional and international environmental agreements and to effectively address the African environmental challenges in the overall context of the implementation of NEPAD.

32. Its specific objectives are to:

- (a) Contribute to the implementation of NEPAD through the effective implementation of its Environment Initiative;
- (b) Promote the sustainable use of Africa natural resources; Strengthen public and political support to sub-regional and regional environmental initiatives.
- (c) Support the implementation by African countries of their commitments under the global and regional environment conventions and other legal instruments;
- (d) Enhance the human and institutional capacities of the African countries to address effectively the environmental challenges facing the continent;
- (e) Promote the integration of environmental considerations into poverty reduction strategies, trade agreements and activities and foreign direct investment.
- (f) Foster regional and sub-regional cooperation for environmental management.
- (g) Build a network of regional centers of excellence in environmental science and management.
- (h) Mobilize and direct African and international scientific and technical communities to solve Africa's pressing environmental problems.
- (i) Improve the institutional framework for regional environmental governance.
- (j) Improve regional and international financial flows to environmental initiatives.
- (k) Provide a framework for the establishment of a solid partnership between the African themselves and with their bilateral and multilateral partners, including the multilateral financial institutions such as the Global Environment Facility and in accordance with the spirit and the letter of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

3.2 Programmatic Areas and Activities

Programme Area 1: Combating land degradation, drought and desertification

33. Land is the critical resource and the basis for survival for most people in Africa. Agriculture contributes about 40% of regional GDP and employs more than 60% of the labour force. Land degradation is a serious problem throughout Africa, threatening economic and physical survival. Key issues include escalating soil erosion, declining fertility, salinization, soil compaction, pollution by agrochemicals and desertification.

34. Desertification affects one sixth of the world's population, 70% of all drylands, amounting to 3.6 billion hectares, and one quarter of the total area of the world. In Africa the impact of desertification is particularly acute. It threatens the lives of millions of persons and



seriously affects more than 39% of the total area of the continent. Since 1950, an estimated 500 million hectares of African land have been affected by soil degradation, including at least 65% of agricultural land. If the degradation of cultivated lands were to continue at the present rate, it is predicated that crop yields could be cut by half within 40 years thus having serious negative impact on the food security of the continent and aggravating the poverty and the number of malnourished persons. Although a net food exporter before 1960, Africa has become more dependent on food imports and food aid over the past three decades. In 1995, food imports accounted for 17% of total food needs in the region. The rate is expected to at least double by 2010. As a result of declining food security, the number of undernourished people in Africa nearly doubled from 100 million in the late 1960s to nearly 200 million in 1995. Projections indicate that the region will be able to feed only 40% of its population by 2025. Yet, the agricultural potential of the continent remains untapped.

35. There are an estimated 632 millions hectares of arable land in Africa, however, only 179 million, although unevenly distributed, are actually cultivated. The land degradation phenomenon in Africa is being compounded by recurrent droughts and extreme weather events associated with climate change. Nearly two-thirds of African land is arid or semi-arid. The continent is the most seriously affected by desertification which is threatening more than one-third of Africa's land area. All the sub-regions of the continent are affected by desertification. In Northern Africa alone, more than 57% of the total land is threatened by desertification. It is based on this reality that the international community, in adopting in 1994 the International Convention to Combat Desertification decided to pay special attention to the African continent through the title of the convention as well as the adoption of a distinct annex on the regional implementation for Africa.
36. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (the UNCCD) addresses the desertification challenges from a sustainable development perspective. One of the major feature of the Convention is the bottom up approach that entails the involvement of local populations and communities in decision-making and the implementation of the Convention. Also of importance is the role assigned to NGO's and Community Based Organization (CBO's) in the organization of local communities for effective participation in combating desertification. The UNCCD also stresses partnership arrangement between the affected people, the government and the donor community in addressing the desertification menace. In implementing the Convention, parties are called upon to forge co-operation with a view to avoiding duplication. The Convention and its Regional Implementation Annex for Africa (RIAA), calls for the preparation and implementation of National Action Programme (NAP), the Sub-Regional Action Programme (SRAP) and the Regional Action Programme (RAP).
37. African countries have played a leading role throughout the negotiation, adoption and now implementation of the Convention to combat desertification. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention and its Annex for Africa, they have committed themselves to:
 - (a) Adopt an integrated approach in addressing the physical, biological and socio-economic challenges associated with combating desertification and drought;



- (b) Establish strategies and priorities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought
- (c) Integrate strategies for poverty eradication into programmes and projects related to desertification control and the mitigation of the effects of drought;
- (d) Strengthen sub-regional, regional and international co-operation, especially in the areas of information collection, analysis and exchange, research and development, and in the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and the development of technology;
- (e) Cooperate within relevant intergovernmental organizations;
- (f) Make appropriate financial allocations from their national budgets towards implementation of the Convention and the RIAA; they have adopted National Action Plans and are embarked in the finalization of Regional and Sub regional Action Plan for the implementation of the convention
- (g) Strengthen reforms towards greater decentralization as well as reinforcement of participation of local communities in halting and reversing desertification process; and
- (h) Mobilize new and additional national financial resources for the implementation of the Convention.

38. Since the adoption of this unique legal instrument, the priority attached to combating desertification in Africa has also been recognized throughout the proceedings of its Conference of the Parties. In this regard, it must be noted that the third Conference of the Parties held in Recife, Brazil, in November 1999, devoted its attention to reviewing the national reports submitted by African countries. The commitments of the African countries to the issue of combating desertification is evidenced by the ratification of the convention by 52 African countries and the submission in less than two years after the entry into force of the convention, of more than 42 national reports. Most of African countries are actively engaged in the preparation, finalization and implementation of National Action Plans. All the African sub-regions are engaged in the finalization of Regional and Sub regional Action Plan for the implementation of the convention.

39. Indeed the implementation of the objectives of the convention to combat desertification remains one of the top environmental priorities of the African continent. Accordingly the overall objective of this programme area of the action plan is to :

- (a) Support the African countries that have not yet done so to prepare and finalize their national action plan in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention;
- (b) Support the African countries that have finalized their action plan to implement them based on the priorities and actions identified;
- (c) Support the finalization and implementation of regional and sub-regional action plans;
- (d) Support the effective implementation of the Annex for Africa;
- (e) Promote sub-regional and regional cooperation;
- (f) Promote South-South cooperation;
- (g) Enhance the human and institutional capacities of national and regional centers of excellence, including when appropriate the establishment of sub-regional and regional information systems on land degradation, drought and desertification.
- (h) Promote the establishment of a regional network of centres of excellence for the implementation of national, sub-regional and regional action programmes. ;



- (i) Support the mobilization of the scientific and technical communities to contribute to research and management of land and combating desertification ;
- (j) Preserve and promote traditional knowledge ;
- (k) Promote public awareness and education;
- (l) Mobilize the private sector in support to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Annex for Africa;
- (m) Promote the participation of the civil society including Non Governmental organizations and local community for the implementation of the Conventions.
- (n) Dissemination of information on best practices in combating land degradation, drought and desertification

40. The implementation of this programme area will be undertaken in collaboration of the Secretariat of the Convention and in particular the Secretariat of the Annex for Africa located in Abidjan. The Global Mechanism of the Convention will be requested to mobilize additional financial support to the implementation of this programme area. In addition, the designation by the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility of land degradation and in particular desertification is expected to enhance the financial support of the Facility to implementation by the African countries of the objectives of the Convention. Specific project activities with performance indicators and timetable will be identifies in the operational modalities of the Action Plan.

Programme Area 2 : Conserving Africa's Wetlands

41. Despite their economic, social and ecological importance, Africa's wetlands are being degraded at alarming rates. The degradation is caused by a variety of factors including land reclamation, pollution, introduction of invasive alien species and overexploitation of fauna and flora. To address the problem of wetlands degradation, a number of African countries have become contracting parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands since the 1970s. The overall objectives of the Conventions are to stem the loss of wetlands, promote their wise use, and promote special protection of listed wetlands.

42. At national levels, a variety of initiatives have been launched to promote the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in Africa. These initiatives include public awareness and education campaigns on the importance of wetlands, establishment of protected wetland areas, rehabilitation of degraded wetlands, and formulation of policies and legislation. These offer the foundation for launching a regional programme on managing wetlands of Africa. The overall objective of the proposed programme area is to support national, sub-regional and regional efforts to implement the Ramsar Convention and related programmes.

43. Proposed activities or actions to be developed under this programme area will aim at assisting African countries to implement their commitments under the Convention on wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. The activities may include the following:

- (a) Promote wetlands and as far as possible their sustainable use into the African planning processes and environmental strategies and action plans in the context of



- the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant legal instruments;
- (b) Promote nature reserves on wetlands;
 - (c) Encourage research and the exchange of data regarding wetlands and their flora and fauna;
 - (d) Enhance the sharing of information and experiences in integrated wetlands management;
 - (e) Strengthening national, sub-regional and regional capacities for information and data management;
 - (f) Support sub-regional and regional scientific assessment of status of wetlands;
 - (g) Support to build a regional network of representative system of protected wetlands;
 - (h) Support to public education and awareness raising on the ecological and socio-economic importance of wetlands;
 - (i) Development and promotion of best practices of wetlands conservation.

Programme Area 3: Preventing and Controlling Invasive Alien Species

44. Impacts of invasive alien species are now a major public policy and political concern in many countries of Africa. In Eastern Africa the invasion of the water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) in Lake Victoria has caused considerable environmental, economic and social impacts, including the following unsuitability of fish spawning and breeding areas, inaccessibility of fish landing areas, irregular supplies, poor quality of catch, massive amounts of organic decomposition of dead weed, and clogged water intakes. In South Africa, it is estimated that 7% of water run-off is lost to invading alien plants and that figure is growing.
45. Invasive alien species also affect Africa's forestry, horticulture, trade, tourism and other sectors of the economies. The control and/or management of impacts of these species are thus important aspects of ensuring Africa's economic recovery and development.
46. There are a number of sub-regional and regional instruments that can be used to regulate and/or control the introduction into and use of alien species in Africa. These are mainly conventions dealing the environment, agriculture and trade. The Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, the Southern Africa Development Community Treaty and the treaty establishing the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) provide measures to regulate and/or control the introduction of alien species, particularly invasive ones. In Article 8 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the partner states of the East African Community (EAC), Partner States agree to "regulate, control and where necessary, prohibit the introduction of alien genetic materials including exotic species of flora and fauna" in Lake Victoria.
47. At the international level there are such efforts as the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) with a secretariat in Africa. The prevention and control of invasive alien species is also addressed by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in its Article 8h. The fifth Conference of Parties to the Convention adopted interim guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species and considered proposals to develop an international instrument. The CBD and the Ramsar Convention have developed a work plan on invasive alien species. The Sixth meeting of the



Conference of the Parties, held in April 2002 in The Hague adopted a number of decisions to address the issue of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species. The proposed programme will support African countries to implement the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties on alien species. It will focus inter alia on the following activities:

- (a) Preparation of national invasive alien strategies and actions plans;
- (b) Incorporate invasive alien species considerations into national biodiversity strategies and action plans called for by article 6a of the Convention;
- (c) Integrate invasive alien species into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, strategies and planned as called for by article 6b of the Convention;
- (d) Promote research and assessments on the impact of alien species on biological diversity as well as the socio-economic implications of invasive alien species particularly the implications for indigenous and local communities;
- (e) Promote the use of traditional knowledge to address alien species, in accordance with Article 8j of the Convention;
- (f) Monitor introduction of alien species into African environments
- (g) Training of Africans on issues associated with alien species, their prevention and control.
- (h) Developing means to enhance the capacity of ecosystems to resist or recover from alien species invasions.

Programme Area 4: Managing Coastal and Marine Resources

48. Africa's coastal ecosystems and marine biodiversity contribute significantly to the economies of many countries, mainly through fishing and tourism. They are major source of livelihood for a many thousands of households. Coastal and marine resources contribute considerably to the revenue of countries of the region. For example, in 1997 total marine fish catch exports from Africa contributed US\$445 million to the countries' economies. The fisheries sector is also a significant employer. 70% of the world's fisheries are considered overexploited. Declines in catch rate along the African coasts are also evident. Moreover, marine and coastal resources are under increasing threat from development-related activities. Up to 38% of the African coastline of 40,000km, including 68% of marine protected areas, is considered to be under high degree of threat. Uncontrolled urbanization of the coastal zone, is a major cause of such as degradation. In some cases, marine pollution from major coastal cities has even reached toxic levels.

49. Africa's coastal ecosystems are also threatened by industrial pollution, mining and oil exploration activities. Although the level of industrial development in the continent is still relatively low compared to other regions in the world, the rate is accelerating along the coastal zones. The Mediterranean basin is now one of the most polluted semi-enclosed seas in the world. Mangroves have high ecological and socio-economic importance. However, mangroves and coral reefs are increasingly under threat from human activities. The Indian Ocean contains about 15% of the world's coral reefs, of which more than one-half is estimated to be at risk from human activities, including those associated with climate change.



50. Current regional efforts to manage the resources are in the form of such conventions as the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources adopted in Algiers in 1968, the 1985 Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, the 1981 Convention for Cooperation in the protection and development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and central African region, known as the Abidjan Convention and the 1991 Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes Within Africa. There are other numerous regional and sub-regional initiatives on coastal and marine resource management.
51. Building on the achievements of the Pan-African Conference on Sustainable Integrated Coastal Management held in Maputo in July 1998, the Cape Town Declaration on an African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa was adopted in December 1998. It was endorsed by the OAU summit held in Algiers in July 1999 and reaffirmed at the OAU Summit held in Lusaka, Zambia in July 2001. The Cap Town Declaration affirm the commitments of the African leaders to strengthen cooperation through the relevant existing global and regional agreements, programmes and institutional mechanisms, in particular through the coordinating framework of the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions.
52. The African Process has mobilized eleven nation teams to conduct assessments of the degradation of coastal and marine environment in the countries. It will promote the development of a common coastal policy that ensures that coastal and marine resources are conserved and sustainably used, and that coastal development is equitable, sustainable and optimizes the use of valuable coastal resources.
53. The overall objective of this programme area is to support the implementation of the objectives of the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions and contribute to implementation of the decisions of the Super Precom of the African Process to be held in Abuja, Nigeria in June 2002 regarding the protection of the coastal and marine environment. in management Africa's coastal and marine resources in an integrated manner and in particular :
 - (a) Coastal erosion control in Sub-Saharan Africa;
 - (b) Development and implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management in Sub Saharan Africa;
 - (c) Impacts of climate change and sea-level rise on the coastal zones of Sub-Saharan Africa;
 - (d) Conservation of biodiversity through the enhancement and establishment of marine protected areas;
 - (e) Promoting the establishment of RAMSAR sites and developing participatory and integrated approaches for river basin management;
 - (f) Enhancing the productivity and stability of mangroves;
 - (g) Improving the protection and stability of coral reefs and associated communities;
 - (h) Development of sustainable coastal tourism development and policies and strategies;
 - (i) Promoting environmental sustainability within the tourism industry through the implementation of an eco-certification and labeling pilot programme for hotels;



- (j) Preparation of national ecotourism strategies and implementation of pilot projects;
- (k) Pilot measures to demonstrate the best practices in mitigating environmental impacts of tourism;
- (l) Assessment and mitigation of the ecological and socio-economic impacts of destructive fishing practices;
- (m) Mariculture development;
- (n) Impact of global climate change in key marine and coastal ecosystems;
- (o) Strengthening management, monitoring, control and surveillance capacity in fisheries management organizations;
- (p) Promotion of alternative livelihood strategies;
- (q) Solid waste Management and Pollution control;
- (r) Development and application of technologies for sewage treatment in cities and towns;
- (s) Control of eutrophication in semi-enclosed areas.

54. In addition the objectives of this programme area will also aim at assisting African countries to implement the relevant provisions of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based and support the activities contained in the Montreal Work Programme for the period 2002-2006, including the strategic action plan on municipal wastewater. The activities under this programme area will aim at :

- (a) Incorporate the objectives of the Global Programme of Action into actions programmes, strategies and plans at local, national and regional levels and into sectoral policies;
- (b) Strengthen the capacities of regional seas organizations;
- (c) Prepare action plan to address priorities of interventions;
- (d) Strengthen the capacities of relevant local and national authorities;
- (e) Support the implementation of the strategic action plan on municipal wastewater.

55. The implementation of the activities under this programme area will be undertaken in close collaboration with the Nairobi and Abidjan Convention and the Global Programme of Action on the Protection of the marine Environment from land based activities.

Programme Area 5: Combating Global Warming and Climate Change in Africa

56. Africa accounts for 14% of the world's population however, nine of ten people have no access to electricity and three fourths of their energy comes from traditional fuels. Consequently, Africa's emissions of the greenhouse gases that cause climate change are still low, estimated to be only 7% of global emissions, and Africa presently emits only 3.5% of the world's total carbon dioxide. In addition, Africa's vast forests reserves serve as a significant sink for carbon dioxide and thus play an important role in alleviating and balancing the emissions of the industrialized countries. Although Africa has not historically contributed to the climate change phenomenon and its forests have played the role of a significant sink for the carbon emitted by industrialized countries, it is predicted that the continent will suffer the most from the adverse effects of global warming. It is ironic to note that those who have contributed least to climate change will be the first to suffer the most.



57. In the Sahel region, per capita consumption of commercial primary energy is less than 3% of that of industrialized countries. However, millions of people could suffer from widespread desertification associated with climate change. What is valid for the Sahel region is valid for the continent as a whole. Climate change resulting in sea-level rise and flooding or erosion of low-lying coastal areas will have serious impacts on the continent and its natural resources as evidenced by the 2000 flooding in Mozambique and the severe drought in Eastern Africa. The recent increase in frequency and severity of natural disasters may be attributed to global warming.
58. Drought is the most tragic affliction in Africa, due to its regularity and its severity. In 1984, over 150 million people in 24 countries were on the brink of starvation due to drought. With global warming resulting from increased concentrations of heat-reflecting gases in the atmosphere and increased radiation from ozone layer depletion, the incidence of drought is expected to increase in the arid and semi-arid regions in Africa. Sea temperature change is predicted to increase the frequency and intensity of cyclones in the Indian Oceans. Most of East, Central and Southern Africa, as well as the Western Indian Ocean islands are also affected by the El-Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) a natural climatic phenomenon which brings above average rainfall to some regions and reduced rainfall to others. This calls for greater preparedness as well as for measures to mitigate the causes and impacts of climate change.
59. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the international legal instrument that promotes “stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” It explicitly recognizes developing countries' low levels of greenhouse gases emission as well as their economic development aspirations.
60. At the third Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC held in Kyoto, Japan in December 1997, parties adopted the Kyoto Protocol. The Protocol establishes legally binding obligations on Annex 1 countries (developed country parties) to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) on average by 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels by years 2008-2012. It also establishes a clean development mechanism (in Article 12) that is meant to assist non-Annex 1 parties (generally, developing countries) in achieving sustainable development and in contributing to the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC.
61. The overwhelming majority of the African countries are contracting parties to the UNFCCC and many have already signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol. The UNFCCC creates obligations on African Contracting Parties. The main obligations relate to communicating to the Conference of Parties information on national inventory of sources and sinks of anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases. In addition, they are expected to:
- Integrate climate change considerations into their social, economic and environmental policies and programmes;
 - Keep levels of their emissions under check by periodically or as required providing national inventories of anthropogenic emissions and removal by sinks;
 - Promote education, training and public awareness;



- (d) Promote the sustainable management of sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases; and
- (e) Promote and/or conduct relevant research and cooperate in exchange of information.

62. African countries have identified adaptation to climate change their key priority. They are thus expected to put in place measures that will reduce their vulnerability to climate change and increase their adaptation capacities. This programme will support African countries to meet their commitments and priorities associated with the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol. It will support countries :

- (a) Conduct assessments to determine the region's vulnerability to climate variability
- (b) Develop and promote appropriate climate change adaptation measures and strategies
- (c) Build the region's capacity for systematic observations.
- (d) Develop and implement Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects.
- (e) Promote public awareness and education;
- (f) Provide appropriate technical training to assist African countries to fulfil their commitments under the convention and its protocol including on issues related to the preparation of national communications reports.

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

63. Africa is endowed with transboundary natural resources. These include freshwater, forests, and biodiversity.

Freshwater

64. While Africa uses only about 4% of its renewable freshwater resources, water is becoming one of the most critical natural resource issues. Africa has abundant freshwater resources in large rivers and basins. The continent has over than 50 significant international river basins, more any other continent. Africa harbors the second largest freshwater lake in the world, Lake Victoria. For 14 African countries their entire territory falls within international rivers basins. The region has more than 160 lakes that are larger than 10 square miles. Most of the lakes are located around the equatorial region and the sub-humid East African Highlands within the Rift Valley. There are 83 River and Lake basins in Africa with the following distribution: Northern Africa 11, Western Africa 29, Central Africa 8, Eastern Africa 20 and Southern Africa 15. With over 50 major international water basins in Africa, two or more countries share watercourses.

65. Agriculture is the largest user of water in Africa accounting for 88% of the total water use. It is estimated that 40 to 60% of the region's irrigation is currently lost through seepage and evaporation. Groundwater resources are also crucial for many countries in Africa. However the rate of exploitation is causing increasing threats. The continent is one of the two regions in the world facing serious water shortages. More than 300 million people in Africa still lack adequate access to safe water. The demand for water is increasing rapidly due to population growth and economic development. As a result, Africa's share of water on a per capita basis is estimated to have declined by as much as 50% since 1950.



66. Currently, 14 countries in Africa are subject to water stress or water scarcity, with those in Northern Africa facing the worst prospects. A further 11 countries will join this category of countries in the next 25 years, bring the number to more than half of the African countries. It has been estimated that by 2025 more than 230 million people (16% of Africa's population), will be living in countries facing water scarcely and more than 460 million (32% of Africa's population), will be living in water-stressed countries. About 50 rivers in Africa are shared by two or more countries. Access to water from shared rivers may be a source of political tension if the situation is not addressed. It must be noted that for the first time, the environmental refugees are now in greater number than those caused by conflicts. In addition the water quality is also decreasing at an alarming rate owing to industrial pollution and lack of adequate water treatment thus causing major and persistent health problems. Issues of water quantity and water quality are indeed the most pressing environmental issues in Africa.
67. In adopting the Declaration of the African Minister responsible for Water Resources at the International Conference on Freshwater held in Bonn, Germany in December 2001, the African Ministers stressed that water is the key natural resource throughout Africa. The ministers decided to focus their efforts on : governance of the water sector; intergovernmental policy dialogue for water security; financing for the development of the water sector; building capacities for the management of the water sector; transfer of technology; meeting the water needs of Africa urbanizing centres; guaranteeing adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services; strengthening the role of women in the management of water resources and the provisions of adequate sanitation services; linking the freshwater environment with the coastal and marine environment.
68. The Abuja Ministerial Declaration on Water : a Key to sustainable development in Africa adopted in April 2002 establishes the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW) which will adopt at its first substantive session to be held in 2003 an African Regional Programme of Action on freshwater. It also decided to:
- Develop a regional implementation support programme to strengthen the on-going water sector reforms in Africa;
 - Seek support for the establishment of a Regional Water Technology collaborating Center for Africa;
 - Develop a regional strategy and plan for technical/advisory services with regard to policy, legal and other instruments for the efficient management of freshwater resources in Africa;
 - Promote actions which will translate into reality the African Water Vision;
 - Designate the existing African Water Task Force to play the role of a “Regional Water Watch” to be entrusted with the responsibility of providing scientific, information, expert advice and early warning on the changes in the water situation in Africa.

Biodiversity, Forests and plant genetic resources

69. Africa has a large and diverse heritage of flora and fauna, including major domesticated agricultural crops. The continent is home to more than 50,000 known plant species, 1,000 Mammal species, and 1,500 bird species. Eastern Africa has the highest numbers of



endemic species of mammals (55%), birds (63%), reptiles (49%) and amphibians (40%). Madagascar is the most endemic-rich country in Africa and one of the six most significant concentrations of plants in the world is the Cape Floral Kingdom. 70% of the wild species in North Africa are known to be of potential value as sources of traditional food, medicine and pharmaceuticals and half of these have more than one potential use.

70. Savannahs, the richest grasslands in the world, are the most extensive ecosystem in Africa. They support many indigenous plants and animals as well as the world's largest concentration of large mammals. African wetlands also have a rich biological diversity, with many endemic and rare plant species as well as wildlife such as migratory birds. Wetlands are found in most African countries. Throughout centuries, African societies have depended on the rich biodiversity of the continent for survival. They have developed strategies to protect and conserve this natural heritage for the benefit of their own and future generations. In some cultures, rich areas of biodiversity, including forests were often designated as sacred or protected areas.
71. The first national parks in Africa were created in the first half of the 20th century, including the Krugger National Park in South Africa in 1928. A symposium on nature conservation was convened in 1938, which resulted in the designation of many of the existing protected areas in the Arab countries of the continent. There are now more than 3,000 or so protected areas in Africa representing 240 million hectares. Under the leadership of the Organization of African Unity, the African Convention on the conservation of nature and natural resources was adopted in Algiers on 15 September 1968.
72. Most of the African countries have ratified the biodiversity-related conventions. However the large and diverse biological heritage of the continent is at risk in all regions of Africa. Some species have already been reported as extinct and many others are under threat of extinction. Recent estimates show that a total of 124 animal species have become extinct from the wild Africa and 924 animal species are critically endangered or vulnerable. Twelve plant species are extinct and 869 are critically endangered. Despite being among the most biologically productive ecosystems in Africa, wetlands are being lost as they are regarded in most of the cases as wastelands and potential areas for agriculture. The introduction of exotic species over the past century has also contributed to biodiversity loss. Armed conflicts have also led to significant ecological damage and biodiversity losses.
73. Environmental pollution is an increasingly major threat to biodiversity in many African countries. Pesticide residues have reduced the populations of several bird species and other organisms. As the region continues to industrialize the adverse impact of pollution on biodiversity is most likely to increase unless cleaner production processes and technologies are promoted. Climate Change is the latest emerging threat to biodiversity in Africa. It has already been identified as an emerging root cause to the loss of habitat to many species and in particular amphibian populations
74. Most of the African countries have submitted their national report to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological diversity and are preparing, finalizing and implementing their biodiversity strategies and action plans called for by article 6(a) of the



Convention. The objective of the Action plan will aim at assisting African countries to implement the objectives of the Convention including the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties with a particular emphasize on the sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits. To this end the ecosystem approach will be promoted. A special attention will be devoted to assisting African countries to implement the Bonn Guidelines on access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their utilization.

75. African countries have played a leading role in the negotiation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Many African countries have signed the Protocol and are now engaged in the process of ratification. The issues related to biosafety the Action plan will aim at supporting the African countries to prepare and implement their national biosafety frameworks and to build their human and institutional capacities in accordance with the decisions of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Cartagena Protocol chaired by an African official.
76. The forests of Africa cover 520 million hectares and constitute more than 17% of the world's forests. Forests play an important economic role in many African countries. They provide 6% of the GDP in the region, the highest in the world. But the share of forest products in trade is only 2%. Africa's forests are threatened by a combination of factors including agricultural expansion, commercial harvesting, increased firewood collection, inadequate land and tree tenure regimes, inappropriate agricultural systems, and accelerating urbanization and industrialization. Droughts and armed conflicts also contribute significantly to forest degradation.
77. During the 80's Africa lost an estimated 47 million hectares of forests. By 1995 another 19 million hectares had been lost, an area the size of Senegal. In most African countries, there has been an increasing demand for wood products, especially firewood and charcoal. As a result, the consumption of forest products nearly doubled during 1970-1994. At least 90% of Africans depend on firewood and other biomass for their energy needs. More recently, new economic reform measures have removed subsidies on energy alternatives, which further increased the demand for firewood and other biomass. Recent projections estimate that the consumption of firewood and charcoal will rise by 5% by 2010.
78. Africa's forests and associated plant genetic resources are unknown, unstudied, undervalued and under-utilized. Possibly less than 50% of the region's forests ecosystems and plants therein have identified and studied. Threats to plant genetic resources are poorly assessed and analyzed. Meeting NEPAD's goals of increased agricultural production, improving human health conditions by utilizing medicinal plants and promoting trade will be based on strong scientific knowledge and information on the region's forests generally and plant genetic resources in particular.
79. The objective of the action plan will support the implementation of the forest and plant genetic resources activities within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. It will also support Africa's continued participation in international negotiations on forests.



3.3 Cross-cutting issues

80. Major cross-cutting issues may include, health and environment; trade and environment and the transfer of technology.

3.3.1 *Health and the environment*

81. Exacerbated by rapid population growth, poverty remains the primary cause for most of sub-Saharan Africa's environmental health problems. With a total population of about 450 million, half of Africa's residents have no access to health services and two-thirds lack safe drinking water, according to a 1991 report by the World Bank. Many sub-Saharan water supplies are undrinkable, contaminated by bacteria, untreated or poorly treated sewage, heavy metals and silt from soil erosion, fertilizers and pesticides, mining tailings, and industrial waste. Most Africans are also gravely affected by indoor and outdoor pollutants, microbes that cause life-threatening, diarrhoea, tropical diseases such as malaria (over 300 million cases worldwide-most in sub-Saharan), HIV/AIDS, inadequate sanitation and sewage treatment, desertification and deforestation, mining, and the overuse of pesticides and insecticides. Many African farmers have greatly increased their use of chemically based pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides. More than 11 million acute pesticide poisonings, including those with only minor effects, occur annually in Africa, making them a major public health problem. Products as arsenic, cadmium, lead, and sulphuric acid contaminate water and soil and affect human health. Environmentally diseases related to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) pose a big problem and are responsible for gross environment and health problems in Africa. Both insecticides like DDT used to combat malaria and pesticides represent a serious threat to human health due to their endocrine disruption effects on immune function, the nervous system, and certain aspects of reproduction in both humans and wildlife. In addition, the use in the mining industry of toxic substances may also compromise the continent's productivity, which in turn makes it more difficult to generate revenue to combat the environmental health problems.

82. The majority of African countries are parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary movement of Hazardous wastes and their disposal and have signed the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The objectives of the activities to be undertaken under this programme area will aim at assisting countries to implement their commitments under chemicals related conventions for which they are contracting parties.

3.3.2 *Trade and Environment*

83. The past two decades have witnessed rapid trade and investment liberalization in many African countries. Countries have instituted new trade and investment policies and laws and created agencies to be responsible for promoting liberalized trade and investment. In many cases, the policy and legal instruments as well as the agencies have not taken into account environmental considerations. Domestic and regional decision-making systems have tended to separate economic, trade and investment issues from environmental factors. Specific environmental standards and rules must be built in national, sub-regional



and regional trade and investment regimes to ensure that liberalized trade and foreign direct investment practices contribute to meeting sustainable development goals.

84. To promote the integration of environmental considerations into sub-regional and regional trade and investment regimes the following activities or actions are proposed:
- (a) Undertake a review of the environmental content and implications of such sub-regional and regional trade and investment treaties and selected programmes.
 - (b) Review the impact(s) of international trade liberalization on such shared ecosystems as freshwater, coastal and marine resources, and forests.
 - (c) Establish an African working group on trade, investment and environment to explore and develop common environmental principles and policies that would be integrated into regional and sub-regional treaties and programmes.
 - (d) Organize regional meetings to promote dialogue between ministries of environment and those responsible for trade with the aim of facilitating national and regional efforts to ensure that trade, investment and environmental policies and practices are mutually supportive.
 - (e) Prepare and adopt an African code of ethics on trade, investment and environmental sustainability.

3.3.2 Transfer of environmentally sound technologies

85. Africa's sustainable development is largely dependent on its ability to develop, acquire and apply environmentally sound technologies. "Environmentally sound technologies are not just individual technologies, but total systems which include know-how, procedures, goods and services, and equipment as well as organizational and managerial procedures."
86. African countries have been active at negotiating for favourable terms of technology transfer. In such conventions as those on biological diversity and climate change, they have always called on the industrialized countries to facilitate the transfer of new technologies through relaxation of intellectual property protection. Issues of technology transfer are also addressed in national and sub-regional action programmes on desertification.
87. To help facilitate the acquisition and/or transfer of environmentally sound technologies to African countries, the following activities will be considered and developed:
- (a) Establishment of a regional clearing-house mechanism that would gather and disseminate information on the nature and range of environmentally sound technologies on the international market.
 - (b) Support to African countries to formulate and implement incentive measures that may include subsidies and tax policies.
 - (c) Establishment a fund for the acquisition of the technologies and support to local research efforts aimed at generating environmentally sound technologies.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN



88. The Environmental Action Plan is a living document that will need to be reviewed by AMCEN in order to adjust it to the changing needs and circumstances. Its implementation will require a long-term approach. It will be implemented in harmony with the other components of NEPAD and building on the achievements and work programme of AMCEN and other relevant African initiatives such as the African Ministerial Conference on Water and the African Process. It will require an appropriate implementation mechanism as well as adequate financial resources.

4.1. Implementation mechanism

89. The implementation of the Environment Action Plan will require renewed efforts from the African leaders in charge of environment issues. To this end, the revitalized AMCEN will act as the main African policy forum for the implementation of the African Environment Action Plan. The Bureau of AMCEN is mandated to play an active role for the implementation of the Action Plan during the inter-sessional period of the Conference. The implementation of the Action Plan will be reviewed at the regular meeting of AMCEN based on a written report of the Bureau. The Action Plan will be implemented in close cooperation with the African Union, the Secretariat of NEPAD, and the Economic Commission for Africa. To this end the President of AMCEN will submit regular reports on the implementation of the action plan to the conference of ministers of the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa.

90. The Bureau of AMCEN will be assisted by a steering committee comprising the members of the steering committee of the UNEP/GEF Medium Sized Project on the Development and Implementation of the environment component of NEPAD namely: Algeria, Egypt, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. The steering committee will meet at the level of experts and when appropriate at the level of ministers. A meeting of the steering committee will be convened at least once a year. The inter-agency task force established under the UNEP/GEF projects will continue assisting the steering committee under the overall coordination of the secretariat of AMCEN.

91. The steering committee through the Bureau of AMCEN will submit to the 10th meeting of AMCEN a detailed document on the operational modalities for the implementation of the Action Plan which will include concrete projects activities, performance indicators and time table as well as monitoring mechanisms. To this end the approach followed by the African Process may serve as a useful model. The steering committee in preparing the operational modalities for the implementation of the Action Plan will take into account the results of the World Summit on Sustainable Development of relevance to Africa.

92. At its first meeting the steering committee will finalize the criteria and guidelines for the preparation for AMCEN approval at its 10th meeting of projects activities building on the following criteria aimed at ensure coherence in the implementation of the action plan.

- a. *Regional, sub regional and multi-country projects or regional outlook-* Projects developed and selected under the action plan should have a sub-regional or regional outlook or involving several African countries.
- b. *Multi-focus:* Projects should aim as far as possible at integrating the three pillars of sustainable development.



- c. *Participatory nature* : Projects should be developed through a participatory approach with strong ownership with all partners including the government, the private sector, the civil society including NGOs and the scientific community;
- d. *Programmatic approach*: Projects should be integrated in a comprehensive, programmatic as far as possible strategic approaches;
- e. *Sustainable Development Perspective*: Projects should be designed taking into account the need to alleviate poverty and promote economic growth;
- f. *Capacity Building* : Projects should integrate capacity development needs as part of their planned activities;
- g. *Maximize utilization of African expertise* : Projects should aim at maximizing the utilization of local experts and institutions;
- h. *High rate of duplication*: Projects should be designed to ensure replication and dissemination of best practices.
- i. *Sustainability of activities* : Projects should have activities that are sustainable beyond the life cycle of the interventions;
- j. *Fundability*: Only projects likely to attract adequate domestic funding and external support shall be considered.
- k. *Promote sharing of experiences and learning*: Projects should aim at promoting sharing of experiences, enhancing regional cooperation and collective learning;
- l. *Performance criteria* : Projects should contain clear objectives, performance indicators and monitoring mechanisms;
- m. *Thematic balance* : Balance between the thematic areas of the Action plan should be sought;
- n. *Geographical balance*: Balance between the five Africa sub-regions should be sought based on the United Nations geographical groupings;
- o. *Equity* : Equity should be integrated in the project.

4.2 Financial Resources

93. The implementation of the Action Plan will require the provisions of adequate financial resources to be mobilized by the African themselves. However based on the commitments agreed upon by the international community and as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus on financing development additional financial resources will be required. To this end a donor meeting with the participation of the bilateral and multilateral financial institution including the Global Environment Facility will be convened for mobilizing the additional financial resources required for the implementation of the Action Plan and in particular its attached annex on capacity building no later than the December 2002.

CONCLUSION

94. The African Environment Action Plan for the implementation of the environment initiative of NEPAD is a concrete response by the African leaders to address the environmental challenges facing the continent with a view of promoting sustainable development in one of the poorest continent of the world. It offers a unique opportunity to build a strong and vibrant partnership between Africa and its partners including the private



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ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

sector. Africa leaders are determined to fulfill their commitments and their responsibilities towards present and future generations in order to protect the local and the global environment of our planet. Africa expects its bilateral and multilateral partners to join forces and support this historical initiative.