

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, 22-23 OCTOBER 2004

THE ROLE OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEPAD: THE CASE OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

SADC Secretariat, Gaborone, Botswana, 21 October 2004

1. Introduction

The NEPAD Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue essentially marks the end of the formative years of NEPAD. After this meeting, NEPAD has to enter the phase of consolidating its programme activities and increasing the momentum of their implementation.

Regional Economic Communities are building blocks of the African Union. Through them, an African Economic Community will eventually be created. In addition to this, Regional Economic Communities are implementers of the NEPAD programme. With this responsibility, Regional Economic Communities moved quickly to embrace NEPAD as soon as it was adopted as a continental programme of economic, political and social transformation by the July, 2001 OAU Summit of Lusaka, Zambia.

This paper illustrates the role of Regional Economic Communities in the NEPAD programme by outlining the actions taken by the Southern African development Community.

SADC embraces the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as a credible development framework for African States that consolidates and accelerates their economic growth. Among other things, the Initiative calls for the reversal of the abnormal situation of very high poverty rates, high mortality rates of children under 5 years of age, low life expectancy rates at birth, low literacy rates, limited access to safe water and poor infrastructure. NEPAD advocates for the reduction of the dept burden and the dependency of Africa on aid and marginal concessions, thereby enhancing the potential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and self-sustaining development.

From the conceptualization to the development and advocating of the NEPAD Initiative, SADC played and continues to play a very active role at the levels of the African Union, at the regional level, at programme level as well as at global level marketing the Initiative for support and partnership.

The development and launching of NEPAD in 2001 coincided with the formulation of SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which was guided by the objectives, principles and priorities embodied in that development framework. Therefore, from the outset SADC, has undertaken to coordinate and synchronize the implementation of the RISDP with that of NEPAD.

2. SADC Summit Council Decisions on NEPAD

NEPAD has been included in SADC policy meetings since its inception. A number of decisions on the implementation of NEPAD have been made by Council and endorsed by Summit. In turn, the Secretariat has been implementing the decisions as mandated by the policy organs.

In this context, the following decisions were taken by Council viz-a-viz the implementation of NEPAD in the SADC region:

Extraordinary meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers, Blantyre, Malawi, January 2002: decided that:

- The development of the RISDP and the SADC Restructuring process should reflect NEPAD and SADC and NEPAD programmes should be harmonized;
- The SADC Secretariat should attend the NEPAD Steering Committee meetings;
- A working relationship should be developed between the SADC and NEPAD Secretariats;
- The cost implications of the implementation of NEPAD, including the involvement of the Secretariat, should be noted by Member States, so that they can be considered and factored into future planning and budgeting in appropriate cases;
- The SADC Secretariat should carry out a study on the relationship between NEPAD and the Regional Economic Communities.

Extraordinary Summit, Durban, South Africa, July 2002

The decision for SADC to adhere to the NEPAD initiative was made at the highest policy level of the Organisation, namely the Summit in its Extraordinary Meeting of July 7, 2002 in Durban, South Africa. At this meeting SADC Heads of State and Government noted and endorsed the following concerning the implementation of NEPAD and its implications for SADC:

- Initial Action Plan and directed the SADC Secretariat to submit regional projects to the NEPAD Secretariat for inclusion in the NEPAD Action Plan.
- The institutional framework and the institutions for the implementation of the NEPAD Initial Action Plan.
- The Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance;
- The African Peer Review Mechanism:
- The Declaration on the Implementation of the NEPAD.

Since 2001 NEPAD related SADC activities have always been reported by Secretariat to all ordinary Council Meetings.

3. NEPAD related SADC activities, programmes and projects

In fulfillment of Council decisions, the SADC Secretariat has undertaken a number of NEPAD related activities, the most significant of which is the formulation of the RISDP reflecting the objectives, principles and priorities of NEPAD as directed by SADC Summit.

In addition to the RISDP the Secretariat formulated a number of projects in consultation with Member States and submitted for consideration and funding within the NEPAD framework. At the level of the different programmes through the Directorates.

Recently, SADC organized a High-level NEPAD meeting whose recommendations were approved by the Council of Ministers in Mauritius in August 2004. A Committee of representatives of SADC on the NEPAD Steering Committee and HSGIC namely Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa and plus the current Chair of SADC Mauritius (4+1 Group) assisted by the Secretariats of SADC and NEPAD meets regularly to follow up on agreed activities.

3.1 Energy

The region's power supply is projected to reach crisis levels run out by 2007 if no concrete steps are taken to increase the region's power supply. Consequently, five Southern African Power Pool utilities (from Angola, Botswana, South Africa, Namibia and DRC) decided to team up to find ways and means of harmonizing the vast hydro potential in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola and Namibia.

The next phase which is still under negotiations, involves the approval of an Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (IGMOU) between the five Governments, as the project cannot proceed without their support. Once the IGMOU is approved, an Inter Utility Memorandum of Understanding is to be signed paving the way for the establishment of the WESTERN CORRIDOR POWER (WESTCOR) PROJECT as a company.

3.2 Transport

In the sector of transport, SADC has formulated several projects that are the NEPAD Short Term Action Plan (STAP). Examples of such projects include the following:

- Implementation of a Harmonised Regional Bond Guarantee Scheme aimed at facilitating the implementation of a harmonized Customs bond Guarantee scheme across the COMESA and SADC regions
- Implementation of one-stop border posts aimed at easing cross-border movements within the SADC region, particularly of large goods vehicles which are still hampered by long delays at some of the region's border posts. The project is aimed at implementing measures to reduce vehicle and freight consignment delays at border posts; including the piloting a model bilateral agreement on the operation and management of border post along a common border, in particular, the adoption and implementation of "one-stop" posts at two selected priority borders. The proposed operation scheme would require that all vehicles and persons stop only at facilities in the country they are entering, with all exit and entrance processing being done at that location, by respective authorities of the two countries concerned.
- **Kazungula Bridge** is to replace the current ferry service between Botswana and Zambia. The territories of Botswana and Zambia touch at one single point on the middle of the River Zambezi. The point is the junction of the border lines between the four countries Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The road Gaborone Francistown Kazungula Livingstone Lusaka is part of the Regional Trunk Road Network and the bridge is linked to the ongoing improvement of the roads that make the route

- Nacala Corridor Railway rehabilitation of the 11kms Cuamba Entre Lagos will involve the rehabilitation and upgrading of the line between Nacala and Cuamba and improving the stretch between Cuamba and Malawi border (Entre Lagos) by heavy maintenance, and rehabilitation and acquisition of rolling stock and other facilities in order to provide means for international traffic between Nacala and Malawi and for Mozambique's internal development.
- **Rehabilitation of the Benguela Railway System** is aimed at the rehabilitation and upgrading of the Benguela Railway to provide adequate capacity for future transport needs as part of the Development Plan for the Lobito Port Transport System. The project includes a total of 24 railway sub-projects.

Other projects in the transport sector include:

- Lobito Port Rehabilitation and Provision of Transshipment Facilities
- Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa needs assessment on safety
- Implementation of Yamoussoukro Decision and Restructuring
- Upgrading Airport Security
- Establishment of Upper Airspace Control Centre (UACC)
- Global Navigation Surveillance System (GNSS)
- Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Air Worthiness in SADC

A progress report on STAP projects is in the Appendix.

3.3 Tourism

Following a decision of the Ministers of Tourism during the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) Commission for Africa 39th Session that was held in Luanda, Angola in May 2003, the NEPAD Secretariat initiated a process to develop a Tourism Action Plan, which would provide a more detailed framework for action at the national and sub-regional levels in the Tourism Sector.

The six key strategic focus areas identified by the Ministers of Tourism are:

- i. The creation of an enabling policy end regulatory environment
- ii. Institutional capacity building
- iii. Tourism marketing
- iv. Research and development
- v. Investment in Tourism infrastructure and products
- vi. Human resource development and quality assurance.

In addition to the above, there are crosscutting thematic issues which relate to gender, HIV/AIDS and environment.

The SADC Secretariat and RETOSA worked closely with the NEPAD Secretariat and the other regional Economic Communities to coordinate the development of the Draft Tourism Action Plan.

The Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting at the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia July 2004 endorsed the Tourism Action Plan and called on African Ministries of Tourism to form a Steering Committee of Ministers of Tourism to guide the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, as well as RECs and Member States in the implementation of the Tourism Action Plan;

3.4 Water

SADC member States proposed and submitted a number of projects under the NEPAD Infrastructure component in 2002 and include among others the following:

- Assessment of Surface Water Resource The project is to produce and make accessible
 a SADC-wide Surface Water Resources Assessment, in a manner that builds capacity in
 implementing institutions, promotes confidence in assessment products amongst Member
 States, and which ensures that the assessment supports equity sharing of water within
 international river basins, and operational water resources management
- Consolidation and Expansion of SADC HYCOS The project purpose is to enhance the effectiveness of real-time and near real-time hydrological monitoring across the SADC region in regional and national water resources management, by a consolidation and expansion of Phase I of SADC-HYCOS, including the basins shared by Angola and Namibia and part of the Congo Basin within SADC.
- Ground Management Programme for the SADC Region The long-term objective is to promote the sustainable development of groundwater resources at a regional level, incorporating research, assessment, exploitation and protection, particularly related to drought management.

Other Projects have been included under the NEPAD Environment Programme and three of those are those mentioned above. The fourth one is a project to Control the Infestation and Translocation of Aquatic Weeds in the SADC Region.

3.5 Agriculture

In the SADC region, over the past decade, agriculture production has not improved with poverty, food insecurity and the food import bill increasing while investments into the sector have remained low. In order to address these problems SADC has included in the RISDP strategies that seek to, among other things, "attain sustainable access to safe and adequate food by all people and at all times for a healthy life". The SADC vision is thus aligned to the NEPAD's vision on agriculture, which seeks to maximise the contribution of Africa's largest economic sector to achieving the ambition of a self-reliant and productive Africa that can participate fully in the world economy.

Since April 2003, the SADC Secretariat has been working with NEPAD on agricultural programmes. In consultation with NEPAD, SADC has development, four project Concept Notes, as part of the measures for recovery and long-term regional food security. These programmes are aligned to the NEPAD-CAADP pillars for priority investment as follows:

- Irrigation Development and Water Management The objective of the project is to reduce the dependency on rain-fed agricultural production and improve security. The Iproject is targeted at smallholder farmers, and has six broad components visa institutional support; establishment and management of a regional irrigation information system; irrigation infrastructure development and maintenance; community based management of irrigation financing to provide a line of credit to Member States, and water harvesting and watershed management to protect sources of irrigation water.
- **Promotion Agricultural Trade, and Food Safety** The objective of this project is to harmonise national food standards and regulations in line with those of international food standard bodies such as Codex Alimetarius. The project will focus on improvement of laboratories; promotion of mutual recognition of food control procedures and capacity building on SPS.
- **Establishment of the Regional Strategic Food Reserve Facility** The objective of this project is to prevent and prepare for future emergencies in a manner that will minimize disruptions on longer-term agricultural growth and development.
- **Agricultural Research technology dissemination and Adoption** The objective of this project is to promote cooperation and partnership in agricultural research and training in order to get synergy. It will lead to production of new technologies, facilitate the exchange of information and increase agricultural production.

The Secretariat has also been actively involved in the preparation of the CAADP II of NEPAD, which will incorporate Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry.

3.6 Health & HIV and AIDS

The SADC's vision on Health is to see deeper regional integration, community building and poverty eradication particularly in the fight against HIV & AIDS infection in the region of disease burden.

The Situational and Response Analysis and the Principle guiding the development of the SADC HIV & AIDS Strategic Framework and Plan of Action 2003-2007, have informed the areas of strategic focus. The areas have been aligned to the mandate of the restructured SADC and NEPAD Health Policy strategy to fight HIV & AIDS in Africa.

Concerted efforts have been made in SADC region to implement the approved HIV & AIDS Strategic Programme and Plan of Action 2003-2007 and Maseru Declaration with emphasis on gender dynamics particularly on woman. Linking the impact of HIV & AIDS with Food Security as most of population lives in abject poverty.

The operational plan seeks to strengthen the capacity to undertake the mainstreaming of HIV & AIDS at all levels in SADC, and to create the skills needed for the integration of HIV in all policies and programmes, especially in the RISDP.

3.7 Environment

The need for SADC to be actively involved in the formulation and development of NEPAD specific proposals in environment was concretized when the SADC Ministers of Environment at their meeting in 1st August 2002 in Maseru, Lesotho recommended the establishment of a dedicated task team of experts. The Task Team was mandated to identify SADC environmental priorities within the framework of NEPAD and to prioritize and align environmental and land management programmes with NEPAD and the RISDP.

SADC Member States actively participated in the formulation process of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD. SADC participated in a number of thematic workshops held in the following countries: Algeria on desertification; South Africa on invasive species; Mali on poverty and environment; Cameroon, on forests, Kenya, on wetlands; Senegal, on health and environment; Nigeria, on marine and coastal environment and freshwater resources; and Morocco on climate change. The workshop and the other consultative meetings culminated in a plan of action to implement the Environment Initiative of NEPAD.

The Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD contains a number of project proposals formulated and presented by the SADC Member States. The Plan, which was endorsed by the Special Session of Africa Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) in June 2003 was approved by the Second Ordinary Summit of AU in July in Maputo, Mozambique and contain the following SADC Project proposals, among others:

- Kalahari-Namib Project on Transboundary Desertification Control in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa
- Demonstration Phase Activities of the South Africa Land and Water Management Initiative in the Limpopo River Basin in Southern Africa
- Capacity building for integrated rangeland management in the SADC region
- Assessment of Surface water resources of Southern Africa
- Protection and Strategic Uses of Ground Water Resources in the Transboundary Limpopo Basin and Drought Prone Areas of the SADC Region
- SADC regional project to control infestation and translocation of Acquatic weeds
- Sustainable Conservation of Miombo and Savannah woodlands in the SADC region (Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe).
- Lake Malawi/Niasa/ Nyasa Ecosystem Management Tanzania, Mozambique and Malawi
- Beira Corridor Sustainable Trans-Boundary Natural Resources Management Programme

 Promotion of stakeholder participation in water resources management: Feasibility Study for Creating a fund to support NGO and CBO participation in water resources management

 programme on means to empower woman in water resources

In December 2003 a number of SADC Member States attend a Donors Conference on the NEPAD Action Plan on the Environment hold Algiers, Algeria. The objective of the Conference was to enable African Governments and their partners to launch a process of engagement that will lead to effective implementation of the Action Plan.

SADC with the support of the Global Environment Facility through UNEP will develop a SADC Sub regional Action Plan on the Environmental Initiative of NEPAD which will contain projects in all programme areas.

4 SADC High level meeting on NEPAD

SADC Council of Ministers meeting of August 2003 directed SADC Secretariat to engage the NEPAD Secretariat with a view to convening a meeting involving all Member States in order for SADC to gain in-depth understanding of the NEPAD initiative and map out a strategy on how to the region can derive maximum benefits. That meeting involving Senior Officials and Ministers took place from 7 to 8 and 10 August 2004 respectively. The issues discussed included an overview of NEPAD Initiative, Synergies between NEPAD and RISDP; Democracy, Peace, Security and Governance; Agriculture, Food security and Environment; Education and Health; Science and technology; Infrastructure Development and Tourism; Resource Mobilization and Capacity Building and the way forward.

The meeting stressed the importance of agriculating the value addition of NEPAD, clarifying the role and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in the implementation of the NEPAD programme. It also discussed procedures and modalities, resource mobilization and follow up mechanisms. Recommendations were made on these cross issues and on the various thematic areas that would en hence coordination, implementation and flow of information.

Following this meeting, the representatives of SADC on the NEPAD Steering Committee and HSGIC namely Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa plus Mauritius (4+1 Group) with the assistance of the Secretariats of SADC and NEPAD have elaborated and Implementation Matrix with clear responsibilities, activities and timeframes basing on the recommendations.

5. Conclusions

SADC, as one of the building blocks of AU, embraces AU's NEPAD Programme as a credible and relevant framework. In the past three years SADC has actively been involved in various NEPAD processes as manifested by the presence of a number of SADC project proposals within the various Action Plans. Mechanisms have been put in place to ensure a three way championing of projects by the relevant parties, namely, Member States, the SADC Secretariat and the NEPAD structures in order to market them effectively to potential development partners.

Finally given the high level interaction with the International Community, the NEPAD process adds value by paying an advocacy role on the socio-economic development requirements of the SADC Region and by addressing gaps and blockages in implementation.

APPENDIX: PROGRESS ON THE SHORT TERM ACTION PLAN PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO NEPAD1

	Project Title	Objective	Progress/comments
1	Western Corridor Power WESTCOR) Project	Pooling the vast hydro potential in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola and Namibia	 An initial Memorandum of Understanding was signed on the 24th of April 2002 among five Utilities (Botswana, Angola, South Africa, Namibia and DRC) Approval of an Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (IGMOU) between the five Governments yet to be done An Inter Utility Memorandum of Understanding to be signed paving the way for the establishment of WESTCOR as a company US\$4.0 billion being sought
2	Implementation of a Harmonized Regional Bond Guarantee Scheme	To facilitate the implementation of a harmonized Customs Bond Guarantee scheme across the COMESA and SADC regions	 The Single Administrative Document (SAD) is being piloted in the TransKalahari and the Dar es Salaam corridor SAD requires changes to legislation in some countries, a process that takes time Customs administrators and the private sector are assessing the bond guarantee and other possible facilitative bond security system options
3	Strengthening/Establishing of private sector associations and stakeholder forums	To promote public private sector interactions and nurture the culture of public-private partnerships in infrastructure provision	 Regional associations in all the modes of transport formed and active Some Associations are affected by challenging funding environments Association of Southern African National Road Authorities (ASANRA) has developed a business plan with clear priorities and it is expected that the plan will facilitate the securing of funding for its activities.
4	Implementation of one- stop border posts	To facilitate the cross-border movements within the SADC region, particularly of large goods vehicles	 Establishment of one-stop border posts is progressing slowly Requires some fundamental changes to legislation in all States So far, one Member State, South Africa, has made changes to its laws

¹ The portfolio of SADC projects in the STAP covers projects that clearly satisfy the criteria that were defined for inclusion such as readiness and political support. The main challenge that has been identified is that the roles and responsibilities of the different levels of players are not clearly defined.

	Project Title	Objective	Progress/comments
5	Vehicle Overload Control Management	To reduce the incidence of overloaded trucks on SADC roads and prolong their life and reduce costs of road maintenance	 Several overload control initiatives are being implemented in all Member States Linking customs clearance of cross-border traffic with load limits compliance underway SADC is preparing a targeted programme to apply model guidelines that were developed in the early 1990s
6	Institutional, Policy Advice and Road Safety Studies	To provide for the implementation of road safety programmes in SADC Member States	 A pilot covering safety and other issues along the Beira Corridor being implemented since 2001 Developed manuals on driver training, law enforcement and developed school curriculum on road safety The identification of accident black spots and the proposition to counter measures done The Beira Corridor work is supported by an AfDB grant
7	Kazungula Bridge	To replace the current ferry service between Botswana and Zambia with a bridge	No significant development on the project and funding is till being sought for its implementation
8	Unity Bridge	To carry-out a technical and economic feasibility study, including preliminary design, for the construction of a new road link between Mozambique and Tanzania	 The feasibility study is still to be carried out The project has high level political support from the Governments of Mozambique and Tanzania
9	Needs Assessment for Angola	To facilitate the assessment of needs with regards to the rehabilitation of the country's road infrastructure	 SADC is prioritizing the development of road links and improve south-north interconnectivity The road running from the border between Angola and Namibia at Santa Clara to the town of Lubango in Angola is being considered the possible funding with support from the EU regional Indicative Programme for SADC
10	Support for Concessioning of Railways	To support the concessioning for Tanzania Railways Corporation and Swaziland Railways through capacity building	 The process to concession both TAZARA and TRC is advanced Support is sought for Swaziland Railways
11	Tanzania Railways	Track rehabilitation, upgrading signals and provision of the telecommunications infrastructure for the Dodoma-Mwanza-Tabora-Mwanza section	 Funding secured from the World Bank, May 2004 The private operator will manage the railway operations and is expected to invest in rolling stock and infrastructure

	Project Title	Objective	Progress/comments
12	Nacala Corridor – Railway rehabilitation of the 77kms Cuamba – Entre Lagos	To rehabilitate and upgrade the line between Nacala and Cuamba and to improve the stretch between Cuamba and Malawi border (Entre Lagos)	 Railway stretch from Nacala to Cuamba is now in good condition Support still being sought to rehabilitate the 77km Cuamba to Entre Lagos link
13	Needs Assessment studies for Angola and Democratic Republic of Congo	To provide for studies into the condition of the railway networks in the two countries and the identification of the needs for rehabilitation of the systems	 Angola has developed a comprehensive railway rehabilitation and development programme known as AngoFerro Financing is still sought for the implementation of the programme
14	Rehabilitation of the Benguela Railway System	Rehabilitation and upgrading of the Benguela Railway to provide adequate capacity for future transport needs	Financing being sought
15	Nacala Port - rehabilitation in support of concessioning	Design and construct container facilities, purchase of container handling equipment and technical assistance to the management, general improvement of the port	 The Port was concessioned in 2000 Support is still sought to improve the handling capacity of the port by investing in equipment and other infrastructure.
16	Lobito Port – Rehabilitation and Provision of Transshipment Facilities	Provide general support for the implementation of the Development Plan for the Lobito Port Transport System	 Needs rehabilitation and additional equipment Envisaged increases in traffic arising from the rehabilitation of the Benguela line Funds still being sought
17	Advisory Services for Maritime Affairs	Increasing the Safety of Navigation in SADC waters	There has not been much progress as attention has shifted to port security and the pursuit of compliance with the ISPS code which entered into force on 1 July 2004
18	Development of a regional strategy for ship waste reception facilities	To develop a regional policy on waste reception facilities in ports, including technical and legal aspects	There has not been much progress as attention has shifted to port security and the pursuit of compliance with the ISPS code which entered into force on 1 July 2004
19	Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Niassa needs assessment on safety	Achieve a co-ordinated transportation system for goods and passengers for the three countries bordering the lake	The model bilateral agreement is still to be developed
20	Implementation of Yamoussoukro Decision and Restructuring	Establishment of a Joint Competition Authority by SADC, COMESA and EAC	 Common rules for competition in air transport services Draft regulations for competition have been revised Support is required to facilitate the establishment and operations of the Joint Competition Authority

	Project Title	Objective	Progress/comments
21	Upgrading Airport Security	Upgrade airport security in all Member States	 SADC Civil Aviation Committee formed a sub-committee of civil aviation security experts Sub-Committee is expected to share information and to develop a strategy for harmonized action across SADC Member States
22	Establishments of Upper Airspace Control Centre	Feasibility study for the establishment of UACC for the SADC region	Implementation of the Detailed study into the proposed UACC has been delayed by changes to the ToR as well as the funding agreement
23	Global Navigation Surveillance System (GNSS) - \$0.6m	Implementation of the Satellite Based Augmentation Systems, in particular the region's participation in the EGNOS test bed programme of the European Commission	 Significant progress towards the establishment of common procedures for GNSS-based air navigation services made Namibia, South Africa and Zambia are taking part in the EGNOS test bed programme for AFI states Equipment has already been delivered and is being installed while training is already underway