

**NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT
(NEPAD)**

**REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN
OF THE AU/NEPAD ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE**

FINAL RAFT REPORT

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACDI	Canadian International Development Agency
ACMAD	African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development
ADIE	Association for the Development of Environmental Information
AEO	Africa Environment Outlook
AFD	<i>Agence Francaise de Developpement</i>
AfDB	African Development Bank
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on Environment
AMCOW	African Ministerial Conference on Water
AMU/UMA	Arab Maghreb Union
APNEI	Action Plan for the NEPAD Environment Initiative
AU	Africa Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CARPE	Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment
CEDARE	Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe
CEFDHAC	Conference on the Dense Humid Forest Ecosystem of Central Africa
CENSAD	Community of Sahel-Saharan States
CIFOR	Centre fir International Forestry Research
CILSS	Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
COMIFAC	Central Africa Forest Commission
DDC	<i>Direction du développement et de la coopération</i>
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central Africa States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GHG	Green House Gases
GM	Global Mechanism
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
GGWSSI	Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas

ICRAFT	World Agroforestry Centre
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organisation
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission
LME	Grand Ecosystème Marin
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MAB/BR	Man and the Biosphere/Biosphere Reserves (UNESCO)
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NAPA	National Adaptation Plan of Action
NAP	National Action Plan
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New African Partnership for Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency
NSB	National Strategy for Biodiversity
OAB (ATO)	African Timber Organisation
OCIALAV	Organisation Commune de Lutte Antiacridienne et de Lutte Antiaviare
OEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
OMVG	<i>Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Gambie</i>
OSS	Sahara and Sahel Observatory
PARS-AO	<i>Programme d'Action sous-régional de la lutte contre la sécheresse en Afrique de l'Ouest</i>
PRGIE	Regional Programme for the Management of Environmental Information
RAPAC	Central Africa Regional Network of Protected Areas.
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
REPOFBAC	<i>Réseau des Politiques Forestières dans le Bassin du Congo</i>
PASRAN	<i>Programme d'Action Sous-regional pour l'Afrique du Nord</i>
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SINEPAD	Interim Secretariat of NEPAD

SPCB	Strategic Plan for Capacity Building
SREAP	Sub-regional Environmental Action Plan
TORs	Terms of Reference
UEMOA/WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biodiversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The implementation of the Environmental Action Plan was characterized by notable achievements, and some glaring implementation challenges. Significant progress was made in achieving the priority objectives under each of the EAP's seven thematic areas, and at the three different levels (i.e. continental, regional and national). However the quantitative propensity of projects implemented differed across the thematic areas, and across the different levels. For instance, there were disproportionately more actions implemented under programmes to 'Combat land degradation, drought and desertification', 'Conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources', and 'Combating climate change in Africa'; than they were in the other four thematic programme areas (*viz.* Wetland conservation, Alien invasive species, Transboundary management of natural resources and cross-cutting issues). From this basic and broad quantitative assessment, it would appear that some of the EAP thematic programme areas appear to have been accorded more prominence than others during the period under review.

Be that as it may, there were some challenges faced in the implementation of the EAP. These challenges can be categorized into four clusters, namely: challenges in institutional coordination between amongst coordinating and implementing organizations at continental, regional and national levels; inadequate resources (financial, human and technical) for implementation; unclear role and scope of RECs in implementation; and lack of enabling policy, regulatory and institutional framework.

While these challenges, pertaining mainly to a lack of strategic planning for implementation purposes, affected the effective evaluation of the impact of the EAP during the period under review; the lessons learned present an opportunity for Africa to develop African solutions to safeguard its environment and natural resources. This is more so relevant given the reality of the imminent threats to continent's environment posed by the dynamics of an 'ever changing' world. The experiences of period under review brings with it benefits of knowledge required to review the EAP in terms of its content and implementation mechanisms for future actions.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is an African Union (AU) programme adopted in 2001. Its broad scope is to identify and implement new priorities and approaches that are intended to aide Africa's political and socio-economic transformation for purposes of enhancing the continent's growth, development and participation in the global economy. NEPAD consists of six programmes, namely: agriculture and food security, climate change and natural resources management, regional integration and infrastructure, human development, economic and corporate governance, and cross-cutting issues. While all the six programmes are inter-related and jointly implemented to achieve NEPAD's overall objective; it is the climate change and natural resources management programme that infuses the concept of environmental sustainability in all the other programmes. The environment sub-programme under the climate change and natural resources programme (i.e. the Environment Initiative) emphasizes on introducing measures that will ensure that Africa is able to confront its short term economic growth challenges without undermining long term environmental, poverty eradication and social development imperatives. As such it focuses on projects and interventions that are aimed at enhancing economic development through sustained environmental management.

The implementation of the Environment Initiative is guided by an Action Plan that aims to address the region's environmental challenges to ensure sustainable development and poverty alleviation. The Action Plan, which was prepared through a participatory and consultative process involving over 800 African experts, was adopted in Maputo in July 2003 at the AU's first ordinary assembly. It is organized according to seven thematic programme areas, namely: (a) Combating land degradation, drought and desertification; (b) Conserving Africa's wetlands; (c) Prevention, control and management of invasive alien species; (d) Conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources; (e) Combating climate change in Africa; (f) Transboundary conservation or management of natural resources; and (g) Cross-cutting issues.

The Action Plan is intended to be implemented at the continental, regional, and national levels. Activities at the continental level are led by AU/NEPAD and involve collaboration with other related institutions. Activities at the regional level are undertaken through AUC

recognised Regional Economic Communities (RECs), i.e., the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) for Northern Africa, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) for Central Africa, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for West Africa, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for Eastern Africa, and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) for Southern Africa. At national level, the Action Plan focuses on five pilot countries, one from each SREC, i.e., Libya, Cameroon, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Mozambique; respectively.

This report reviews the implementation of the Action Plan for the period 2003-2012.

1.2 Objectives and Scope of the Review

This report was commissioned by the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), to review of the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan of the NEPAD environment Initiative (EAP). It is essentially a ‘stocktaking’ report that establishes the extent to which the EAP has been implemented by inventorying existing and new processes, programmes and projects that have been implemented to achieve objectives under each of the seven thematic areas at continental, regional, and national levels to date. In addition to providing a historical analysis of programmatic and project activities undertaken over the past ten years, the review also provides futuristic insights on its future content including emerging and persistent issues, and strategies for enhanced implementation including for improved monitoring and evaluation.

The report is structured as follows:

- Section two of the report provides an overview of the status of Africa’s environment. It includes an assessment of the current and imminent threats on conservation efforts, while highlighting the dynamics motivating further degradation.
- Section three outlines the progress made in the implementation of measures and actions under the seven thematic programme areas of the EAP. Details on the specific projects and initiatives undertaken (which demonstrate the achievements and successes) are outlined under Annex 1 of this report. Challenges faced in implementation at regional, sub-regional and national levels
- Section four provides an analysis of the implementation process, mainly focusing on the major issues and challenges faced in implementation.

- Section five outlines the lessons learned and the recommended priority approaches and actions for the review of the EAP and future implementation.
- Section six concludes the report by providing a conclusion that contextualizes the implementation challenges for an enhanced EAP designed for future actions.

1.3 Methodology

The methodology that was adopted in undertaking the study was two-pronged. The first component consisted of a desk review of secondary sources of literature on the subject. This entailed examining data/information on continental, regional and national programme and project activities. The desk review component assessed the status of progress made in achieving the objectives of the EAP during the review period. This involved inventorying all projects and initiatives undertaken at continental, regional and national levels; and assessing their relevance against the priority focus areas under the seven thematic programme areas.

The second component involved collection and collation of first-hand (primary) information on unreported activities and assessing the challenges faced in implementing the EAP. This was done through the use of in-depth interviews and key informant interviews with experts and official personnel at the AMCEN Secretariat, AUC, and the NPCA.

Review Focus Areas and Tools Used

	Review of Project and Initiative Implemented	Assessment of Challenges Faced in Implementing the EAP
Literature Review	×	×
In depth Interviews		×
Key Informant Interviews	×	×

1.3.1 Enablers and Limitations

The review was enabled by the assistance provided by the NPCA in availing outstanding documents and information required. However, due to constraints, not all planned in-depth and key informant interviews were undertaken.

SECTION 2: Overview of the Status of the Environment in Africa

The status of Africa's environment is presently characterized by a mix of gains recorded towards enhancing environmental conservation on one hand, and human practices and natural occurrences that are contributing to further degradation, on the other. The 5th Global Environment Outlook (GEO5) report observed that the major factors that are consistently contributing to environmental challenges on the continent are increased urbanization, globalization and climate change.

Africa's environment and natural resources are increasingly being threatened by escalating pressures from fast-growing populations, expanding agricultural and industrial activities. The GEO5 report notes that unsustainable land use is generally on the increase as a result of, inter alia, global demand for food, livestock feed and biofuels necessitated by a rising population growth, urbanization leading to expansion of agricultural land. It is estimated that between 1999 and 2008, the amount of land area in Africa that was utilized for agricultural purposes rose by 30.7 per cent, while the amount used for pasture rose by 8.5 per cent. Comparatively, while over the last 40 years global increase in agricultural supply of around 78 per cent has been through increases in yield and greater efficiency in the supply chain; in sub-Saharan Africa, 66 per cent of yield increases came from area expansion. As result, an estimated three million hectares of forested land are reported to have been lost each year due to an expansion of agricultural lands to meet food needs and meeting international demand for biofuels.

The continent boasts has a large and diverse heritage of flora and fauna, including major domesticated agricultural crops such as sorghum and millet. It is home to more than 50 000 known plant species, 1 000 mammal species, and 1 500 bird species. Africa's forests, which are mainly concentrated in the tropical zones of Western, Central, Eastern and Southern Africa, cover 520 million hectares and constitute more than 17 per cent of the world's forests. These, together with the continent's grasslands support many indigenous plants and animals as well as the world's largest concentration of large mammals. That notwithstanding, the GEO5 report notes that the increased rate of deforestation is posing a major threat to the habitat of many species, with the continent being second only to Latin America and the Caribbean in deforestation rates. Furthermore, monitoring of biodiversity is reported to be weak. While other regions have met the goal to reverse deforestation, over the last ten years,

this has not been the case for Africa. This has resulted in the continent's biological heritage being at risk with some species have already been reported as extinct. For example, the GEO 5 report notes that 50 per cent of medicinal plants surveyed in 2009 (which are used by 80 per cent of the population) face extinction. Having said this, there are examples where governments are taking action to restore ecosystems through multi-sectoral ecosystem restoration, implemented with the support of local communities who benefit through access to food, fuel and wood.

Africa's coastal ecosystems and marine biodiversity contribute significantly to the economies of many coastal countries mainly through fishing and tourism, but these resources are under heavy stress and threats that lead to continuous degradation. The GEO 5 report noted that coastal urban growth is contributing to residential effluent, industrial discharges, storm-water run-off, agricultural and mining leaching, contaminated groundwater seepage, and industrial and vehicle exhaust fumes that enter the marine environment. For example, coastal cities such as Accra in Ghana are being adversely affected by industrial pollutants. Oil spillage and discharge from marine transport also present major management and regulatory challenges, especially for oil-producing countries such as Libya. Furthermore, offshore exploration, especially for oil, is also contributing to pollution from dumping at sea, accidental and intentional oil spills, engine leaks and noise.

Freshwater is one of the most critical natural resource issues in most of Africa. Despite this significance the continent is using only about 4 per cent of its renewable freshwater resources. The GEO5 report noted Africa's cities are characterized by extremes of prosperous centres and poor, informal settlements that are cannot obtain access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

A cross-cutting issue that is affecting the major components of the continent's environment is climate change. The GEO5 report noted that climate change is accelerating urbanization and placing further stress on natural resources such as freshwater and land through extreme weather events. It was noted that, by exerting extreme pressure on ecological systems, climate change is likely to increase the stress of vulnerable populations in urban and rural areas. This is evidenced by the number of drought disasters that rose by 38 per cent between the 1980s and the 2000s, resulting in famine and the crisis in most parts of the continent. The GEO5 report estimated that by 2020, some 75–250 million Africans will be living in water-

stressed areas, bringing the potential of more water resource conflicts. Furthermore, climate change is bringing with it risk of flooding on the continent, that has more than doubled since 1980, with the coastal regions being at greatest risk from projected sea-level rises. More intense rainfall events, driven by climate change, are contributing to more run-off and floods, threatening food security and settlements.

The status of Africa's environment, described above, highlights several environmental challenges that presently exist on the continent. The NEPAD Environment Action Plan, which is the subject of this review, was designed as a policy framework to facilitate the implementation of targeted actions aimed at addressing some of these challenges. The Action Plan has provided some level of guidance towards achieving its objectives, as illustrated in section 3 below. However, due to institutional and implementation challenges, more targeted implementation by governments and RECs is required to effectively address these problems, as illustrated in section 4.

SECTION 3. Progress Review of the EAP

3.1 Combating Land Degradation, Drought and Desertification

The thematic area on ‘combating land degradation, drought and desertification’ of the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) is inextricably linked to the objectives and focus areas of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). This is clearly outlined under paragraph 63 of the EAP, which states that the objectives of this thematic area are to: ‘enhance support for the implementation of the objective of the Convention to combat desertification in Africa’. As such, any assessment of progress/achievements made under the EAP cannot be done in isolation of progress made towards achieving objectives of the UNCCD, especially those contained in the UNCCD’s 10-year strategy.

Within the context of AU/NEPAD and the EAP, issues related to land degradation are organized into five Sub-regional Action Programmes (SRAPs) and a Regional Action Programme (RAP). These consist of six thematic programme networks (TPNs) that concern integrated water management, agro-forestry and soil conservation, rangelands, ecological monitoring and early warning systems, new and renewable energy sources and technologies, and sustainable agricultural farming systems. The purpose of the regional and sub-regional action programmes is to provide a framework for coordinated action among countries and other key stakeholders, which complement and support national level implementation. In order to create synergies with the UNCCD’s 10-year strategy several countries are preparing for the alignment of the national action programmes to the 10-year strategy. At the sub-regional level, some sub-regional entities have also begun aligning their action programmes, particularly the North, Central and Western African programmes.

Following the adoption of the Strategy, regional cooperation has received increasing attention within UNCCD decision-making. An important demonstration of this is decision 3/COP 9, which calls for strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of regional coordination mechanisms, with the view to facilitate cooperation among affected parties within the regions, enhance synergies among relevant institutions and organizations, and respond to existing and emerging challenges, capacities and specific issues

3.1.1 Priority Focus Areas

The Action Plan envisaged the implementation of the thematic area on ‘combating land degradation, drought and desertification’ to focus on specific priority interventions. These interventions; which were to be implemented in cooperation with the secretariat of the UNCCD, sub-regional organizations and host institutions of the four Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs); are outlined in the table below.

Table 1: Focus Areas for Reporting Period

<i>Sustainable land use (agroforestry and soil conservation)</i>	<i>Integrated management of water resources</i>	<i>Development of new and renewable energy sources</i>	<i>Development of sustainable agriculture</i>	<i>Rational use of rangelands</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of capacity-building activities, including pilot projects on agroforestry and soil conservation in order to strengthen and support the work of community based organizations; -Promotion of concessional investment flows to improve local incomes; - Facilitation of the adaption of technology and practices; - Support to decentralization in respect of strengthening rural community systems; - Creation of an environment that enables policies to guarantee security of tenure for land use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of the availability of water resources and strengthening of a water resources information system; - Capacity-building, institutional strengthening and technical and scientific cooperation; -Support to institutional, legislative, regulatory and economic reforms; - Support to cooperation on integrated water resources management in international river, lake and hydrological basins, including the establishment of trans boundary pilot areas; - Promotion of the development of sustainable water and sanitation infrastructures in the dry lands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strengthening cooperation and exchange of information between commercial energy providers and research institutions working on renewable energy; and - Promoting capacity-building for local communities to use alternative and renewable energy sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting closer interaction between researchers and farmers; - Promoting the participation of women in decision-making processes concerning agriculture; - Promoting adaptable and sound technologies to support sustainable agricultural farming systems; - Promoting early warning systems; - Promoting relevant incentive measures, including access to affordable funding and credit; - Promoting access to markets for agricultural products from affected countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting research and development for sustainable use of rangelands, including fodder production, animal husbandry and sand dune fixation; - Promoting the application of ecological monitoring programmes to dry land areas; - Supporting extension services and adult education in pastoral areas; - Supporting the collection and distribution of traditional knowledge from pastoral communities; - Promoting decentralization and participation of farmers and pastoralists in decision-making concerning rangelands; - Facilitating livestock movement to markets and reducing barriers in favour of livestock trade.

The EAP also identified specific projects to be implemented in line with the objectives of the priority focus areas listed above. These priority projects, which are listed in table 2 below, were identified in the 5 RECs.

Table 2: Priority Projects

AMU	ECCASS	IGAD	ECOWAS	SADC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green belt: Conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the Maghreb countries; - Management of the watersheds of Wadi Mellegue and M soun-Inaoune; - Rehabilitation and development of oases ecosystems; - Implementation of a long-term ecological monitoring network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generation of information for awareness raising on bushfires in the ECCAS region; - Water harvesting in arid and semi-arid zones (Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic); -Sub-regional programme for training of primary school teachers in combating desertification in the ECCAS region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental education and training in the IGAD sub-region; - Capacity-building in integrated water resources management in the IGAD sub-region; - Household energy for poverty alleviation and the economic empowerment of women in the IGAD sub-region; - Building capacity for community-based natural resources management in the IGAD sub-region; - Rehabilitation and management of degraded rangelands in the IGAD sub-region; - Promotion of sustainable crop production in the drylands of the IGAD sub-region -IGAD human resources and gender equity development for semi-arid agricultural research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management of shared natural resources, diversification of livelihoods and strengthening of transboundary integration and combating of desertification: Pilot transboundary project for l'Azaouak (Mali and Niger); - Harmonization of phytosanitary legislation and regulations; - Integrated management of the Fouta Djallon highlands; - Integrated management of the Lake Chad Basin; - Integrated management of the Senegal River Basin; - Integrated management of the Gambia River Basin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Kalahari-Namib Project on Transboundary Desertification Control in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa; - Demonstration phase activities of the 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 groundwater resources in the transboundary Limpopo Basin and drought prone areas of the SADC region; - The SADC Regional Project to Control Infestation and Translocation of Aquatic Weeds.

3.1.2 Progress Review

Combating land degradation, drought and desertification still remains a relevant issue in Africa. This is more so given the apparent threats to sustainable land use that are being driven by increased global demand for renewable energy and climate change. The broad objectives of the EAP, designed to address these challenges, have been extremely relevant and timeous.

During the implementation period, this thematic area was accorded significant political support, particularly at the Africa Union level. For instance, in January 2007; the AU by a decision contained in Assembly/AUDec.137 (VIII) of January 2007, approved a proposal for the implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara. The initiative is an environmentally important trans-African project whose main objective is to check the advance of the Sahara Desert towards the south. In effect it aims to provide an integrated approach to natural resources management across the Sahara; as a mechanism to address desertification.

Similarly, at the regional level; significant efforts were made by the 5 RECs, to implement projects addressing land degradation, drought and desertification. In the AMU region for example; progress was noted in the implementation of a long-term Ecological Monitoring and Observatory Network that was established through the initiation of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS). The network covers 12 affected countries in the sub-region, and gathers environmental data for use of decision makers. It has facilitated observatories in 11 countries in the sub-region to operate and gather high quality information on the evolution of natural resources and the effectiveness of management systems. Other important initiatives that were also implemented include the green belt initiatives that focus on the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the Maghreb region.

Green-belt Project

Through collaboration with regional experts from research and governmental institutions and NGOs, the WWF Mediterranean Program Office identified a number of important forest areas that constitute well-preserved forests with high biodiversity values and in urgent need of protection. A significant project that emanated from this initiative is the 5 year "Green Belts against Desertification," project that focuses on eco-region conservation at a landscape level. The project is active in the "Kroumerie-Mogod Green Belt" in Tunisia (which includes El Feija National Park and all the Tunisian Important Forest Areas related to this eco-region) and the "Middle Atlas Green Belt" in Morocco which includes Tazekka National Park and a number of other important sites.

In the ECASS region, significant progress was also recorded, although emphasis was placed on projects other than those prioritized by the EAP. For instance, information gathered during the review did not reveal much activity in the implementation of projects aimed at 'generating information for awareness raising on bushfires'; 'water harvesting in arid and semi-arid zones'; or 'training of primary school teachers in combating desertification'. Rather, emphasis was on the development of a regional Strategy for Combating

Desertification in the form of a Convergence Plan for the policies of member States. A component of the Plan includes ‘Ecosystem planning and reforestation’, which is concerned with desertification control activities and includes the planning of sub-regional forest projects to combat desertification in environmentally vulnerable areas. This approach is also reflected at country level, where Cameroon – the pilot country for the region under the EAP – focused on the development of a National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, and established a National Reforestation Programme.

Cameroon

A National Action Plan to Combat Desertification was formulated under the Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEP). In addition, the country also developed a National Reforestation Programme. Cameroon has also identified a Focal Point who is in charge of the implementation of the EAP.

In the ECOWAS region; notable progress was made towards the implementation of the Integrated Management of the Fouta Djallon Highlands, and the Harmonization of Phytosanitary Legislation and Regulations projects. The review did not reveal much activity in the other prioritized projects. The Integrated Management of the Fouta Djallon Highlands project is facilitating the management of water resources, and ecosystems of the Fouta Djallon Highlands (FDH) and early warning systems. The development objective of this ten-year Project is to ensure the sustainable management of the natural resources of the Fouta Djallon Highlands over the medium to long-term (2025) in order to improve rural livelihoods of the population directly or indirectly dependent on the FDH. The environmental objective of the Project is to mitigate the causes and negative impacts of land degradation on the structural and functional integrity of the ecosystems of the Highlands through the establishment of a regional legal and institutional framework and institutional capacity. Some of the main activities undertaken include: establishment of a permanent coordination and monitoring machinery by that creates a regional cooperation framework for the coordinated.

With regards to the Harmonization of Phytosanitary Legislation and Regulations project; the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)’s Strategy on Harmonization of a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Regulations led to the adoption in 2007 of an SPS Regulation relating to food safety and the protection of animal and plant life and health. Two additional regulations were adopted in 2009. ECOWAS, on the other hand is preparing its own Regulation. The ECOWAS Regulation (C/REG...06/09 on the Harmonization of the Structural Framework and Operational Rules Pertaining to the Health Safety of Plant,

Animals and Foods in the ECOWAS Region) is still work-in-progress, but is very similar to the WAEMU SPS Regulation. The development of the ECOWAS Regulation corresponds to efforts to harmonize regulations between the two regions and was expected to enter into force in 2010.

Having said this, the region also saw other emerging initiatives being implemented, although it was not clear whether this was being done under the EAP. These include initiatives commenced by CILSS/Regional Centre for Training and Application in Agro-meteorology and Operational Hydrology (AGRHYMET) in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Centre for the Application of Computer Science in Agriculture (CeSIA); such as the project on the “Introduction of continuous desertification monitoring networks in West Africa”, that aims to strengthen local, national and sub-regional capacities in the areas of prevention, drought control, desertification, food insecurity and the degradation of natural resources.

Ghana

Ghana, as the pilot country in the ECOWAS region, recorded significant achievements under this thematic area in line with the EAP. Some of the achievements include:

- Land and Agriculture - Conserved, rehabilitated and extended sacred grove of trees, grasses and other natural resources; Established mango plantations that are communally owned and managed; Communities are now practicing integrated natural resources management; Constructed bunds in rice fields to conserve water and increase productivity; and Established and managed seed nurseries
- Forestry - Controlled bushfires in many communities
- Biodiversity - Designated reserve areas, some of which are particularly valued for their medicinal plants

Ghana is also one of the pilot countries under the Strategic Investment Program (SIP) for Sustainable Land Management for Sub-Saharan Africa. The programme aims to support the country to design and manage programs of activities that advance sustainable land management (SLM) mainstreaming, improve governance for SLM, and strengthen coalition development. The programme allows individual countries, including Ghana, to focus their strategies on a clear set of priority issues for the global environment, build and capture synergies, and apply a common set of tracking tools to monitor progress.

Other notable achievements include the development of the Gender Equity Strategy and Action Plan (GESAP) by the Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana (EPA). The GESAP aims to address gender issues during the implementation of the Ghana Environmental Management Project (GEMP). The GEMP initiative aims to restore degraded lands, and help combat desertification, drought and other natural disasters in the nation’s Savannah zone. It is being funded by the Canadian Government

In the IGAD region, significant progress was also made towards achieving the objectives of the EAP. From an institutional perspective IGAD established cooperative mechanisms with its development partners in order to implement its projects and programmes, such as the IGAD Partners' Forum or the Regional Support Strategy. These mechanisms facilitate a better management and coordination of development efforts within IGAD, thereby avoiding the wastage and overlapping of resources and leading to improved results. However like the other regions, information obtained in the review revealed that the projects that were prioritized did not receive equal attention. The notable projects that were implemented included the AfDB-funded pilot project on water harvesting in the drylands of the IGAD sub-region that was launched in 2002. The project aims to develop a feasible, viable and sustainable community-based water-harvesting program in the conflict-prone, arid and semi-arid areas of the IGAD region. Other projects include: the 'IGAD Pro-poor livestock policy initiative', a capacity building programme that aims to build institutional capacity within the IGAD Secretariat, IGAD member states, regional organisations and other stakeholders to formulate and implement livestock sector and related policies that sustainably reduce poverty and food insecurity; the 'IGAD Inland Water Resources Management Programme'; and the 'IGAD human resources and gender equity development for semi-arid agricultural research' project that established a bureau for the promotion of gender equality within the IGAD secretariat that is expected to enhance the mainstreaming of gender equity in agriculture and agricultural research.

Other emerging initiatives were also implemented during the reporting period, although it was not clear from the information gathered, whether these were done in response to the EAP. These included the project on 'Information collection, analysis and exchange' that focused on improving the exchange of information between stakeholders in the IGAD region, such as the Regional Integrated Information System (RIIS), the IGAD-HYCOS network and the Market Information System (MIS). The collection, analysis and exchange of information was facilitated by projects on remote sensing, the Preparation for the Use of Meteosat second-generation data in Africa (PUMA) and the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD).

Ethiopia

Ethiopia is the EAP pilot country in the IGAD region. The country reported significant progress in implementing its NAP in the context of the EAP. Highlights of the some of the achievements are outlined below.

Agriculture and Rural Development Policy – (i) Ethiopia’s Agricultural and Rural Development Policy embodies principles that are relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. These include improving farming skills; improving the supply, replication and dissemination of technologies; ensuring access to land and tenure security; resolving problems of drought prone regions; and improving agricultural marketing systems, promoting rural finance, developing the rural energy sector and rural telecommunications. (ii) Furthermore, the country’s Food Security Strategy recognizes that soil, water and vegetation, are the main asset base of both the farming community and the country’s economy as a whole, and without which, the achievement of food security is unlikely (Ethiopia Country Report, 2006). (iii) Another highlight is the country’s agricultural research policy that gives special attention to agricultural research and development and market-oriented economy. The country has therefore strengthened the lead research institutions and has established joint research activities with International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Area (ICARDA), International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), and International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), among others.

Water sector policy - Ethiopia’s Water Sector Strategy is aimed at creating secure basis for sustainable development and management of the country’s water resources (Ethiopia Country Report, 2006).

Forestry sector - Rehabilitated degraded patches of remnant forest areas through enrichment planting and enclosure; Instituted area enclosure and afforestation programmes; and Introduced and disseminated fuel saving stoves and renewable energy.

Biodiversity sector – (i) Promoted eco-tourism based investments; and (ii) Utilized indigenous knowledge systems for land and natural resource management such as *in-situ* conservation of crop varieties, indigenous terrace building and application of an agro-forestry system. This resulted in a reduction in the rate of genetic erosion and restoration of the local seeds or landraces in regions where they were wiped out by severe drought, control of land degradation in the hilly and mountainous areas of Konso, and improved biodiversity conservation, productivity and living standards of communities.

Water sector - Introduced moisture conservation and utilization, which includes water harvesting and small-scale irrigation

Drought management - Ethiopia also embraced emerging innovative market schemes for managing risks associated with drought through the Index-based weather insurance scheme. This is expected to demonstrate the viability of insuring extreme risks, such as drought, and enhance access to finance by farmers.

Agricultural research – Ethiopia’s (Source: Federal Environmental Protection Agency of Ethiopia, 2006. Ethiopia’s input to the Africa review report on drought and desertification)

The SADC region, like the other regions, recorded some progress in the implementation of some but not all the prioritized projects. The projects that were implemented included the project on ‘Sustainable land management in the Limpopo basin’, which was implemented by UN-HABITAT with the support of the GEF and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Others included the Kalahari-Namib Project on Transboundary Desertification Control in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa; which focused on enhancing and sustaining the livelihoods of inhabitants of the Molopo-Nossob Catchment Area through empowering these communities to effectively combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. The SADC Groundwater and Drought Management Programme is another initiative that was implemented since 2007. It contains 6 sub-projects focusing on Capacity-building in the context of a Regional Groundwater Management Programme; Establishment of a Regional Groundwater Information System; Establishment of a Regional Groundwater Monitoring

Network; Compilation of a Regional Hydro- geological Map and Atlas for the SADC Region, Establishment of a Regional Groundwater Research Institute; and Groundwater Assessment of the Limpopo River Basin. The projects aim to promote the importance and benefits of proper Groundwater and Drought Management in the region through providing relevant tools, knowledge and information to targeted stakeholders and to strengthen the capacity of SADC Member States in the Management of Transboundary Groundwater Resources in drought-prone areas to meet human development needs whilst protecting Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs).

In addition to the prioritized projects; SADC also oversaw the implementation of other important initiatives. These included ‘Strategic Partnership for Mobilizing Civil Society to Combat Land Degradation and Poverty in Southern Africa’ initiative that links inter-governmental processes in the sub-region with activities of NGOs and CBOs focusing on the implementation of the UNCCD; the Drought and Food Security programme that gives heightened attention drought and food security as a result of frequent droughts with devastating impacts on Agriculture and food security; These programmes are supported by sub-regional policy framework such as the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and food security in the SADC region - to ensure food security and reverse chronic food shortage; and the SADC Hydrological Cycle Observing System (SADC-HYCOS), that aims to contribute to regional socio-economic development through the provision of management tools necessary for sustainable and cost effective water resources development, management and environmental protection.

Mozambique

Mozambique is the EAP pilot country in the SADC region. The country reported significant progress in implementing activities that contribute towards realizing the objectives of the EAP under this thematic area. Highlights of the some of the achievements are outlined below.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) – Mozambique has incorporated aspects of natural disaster

risk management as part of its national poverty reduction strategies. These have been reflected in the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

Agro-forestry Venture for Clean Cooking – Mozambique is implementing an integrated business model for providing clean cooking fuels. The initiative aims to increase the use of ethanol to replace charcoal as a cooking fuel in urban households. It assists smallholder farmers to implement an agro-forestry system to increase food production and produce feedstock for ethanol production, which is then sold to urban markets.

Green Economy – Mozambique will be embarking on creating a green economy. Its green economy roadmap was launched during the Rio+20 Summit.

3.2 Conserving Africa's Wetlands

On the 10th -11th of February 2003, a NEPAD thematic workshop on wetlands was held in Nairobi, Kenya, to develop a Strategy for conserving Africa's wetlands, within the context of developing the EAP. The strategy was influenced by outcomes of a consultative meeting held on the side-lines of COP8 of RAMSAR. The main objective of the strategy is to 'promote and attain a healthy and productive environment in which African countries and their people have wetlands and watersheds that can support fundamental human needs such as clean water, appropriate sanitation, food security and economic development'.

3.2.1 Priority Focus Areas

The EAP outlines initial priority actions, identified from the Strategy, to be implemented within the first 10 years. These actions are outlined in the table below.

Table: Initial Priority Areas

<i>Initial Priority Action</i>	<i>Target</i>
Development of Plans and Policies to Promote Wise Use of Wetlands	At the end of three years, review of legislation and practices which impact on wetlands carried out in at least 30% of countries in each sub region; at least 30% of countries in each sub region developing National Wetland Plans/Policies; and sharing of experiences and lessons learned.
Establishment of Sub-regional Wetland Networks	At the end of three years, all sub regions in Africa would have established Technical Wetlands Networks with clear terms of reference and all existing river or lake basin organisations would have factored wetlands into their decision-making process
Wetland Inventory/Appraisal, Monitoring and Assessment	At the end of three years 30% of countries in the region without a wetland inventory will have embarked on a process to develop either a national wetland inventory or a rapid national wetland appraisal and all sub regions will have a network of representative wetland sites created that are being permanently studied to create a body of long-term data and research on issues such as water flows, seasonal variation, and others and the subsequent relations to human use, valuation, productivity and biodiversity
Demonstration of Integrated Approaches to Wetland Management	At the end of three years; at least 5 demonstration projects, one per each sub region, developed and funded to increase awareness of wetland values and functions. Projects may include links to the Global Water Partnership, IWMI and other regional initiatives including other sectoral programmes of NEPAD. Fifteen priority wetland projects within priority river basins or coastal zones focusing on conservation and/or restoration
Demonstration of Approaches for Wetland Restoration and Rehabilitation	At the end of five years; projects developed, funding secured and implementation begun for six or more priority wetland sites focusing on restoration and rehabilitation, at least one in each sub region
Communication, Education and Public Awareness	At the end of five years; projects developed, funding secured and

	implementation begun for at least one awareness raising campaign in each sub region or shared, international river basin and at least one awareness raising programme developed to show the impact of climate change on wetlands and some of the adaptive measures that can be undertaken at the national and local level.
Capacity Development	At the end of three years; at least one training centre and training programme on wetland management and research, such as the Centre for African Wetlands and the East African Wetland Management Training Course in operation in each sub region and at least 20 per cent of universities in the region integrating wetland management and wise use of wetlands issues into their teaching curricula.

Furthermore, specific projects were proposed to be implemented to respond to the above-mentioned actions. These include: (a) Capacity building for wetlands assessment, planning, management and monitoring in Africa; (b) Strengthening the information base and the opportunities for sharing experiences for the management of wetlands in Africa; (c) Restoration and rehabilitation of African wetlands; (d) Integrated management of Wetlands Ecosystems in Major Lake/River Basins in Africa; (e) Sustainable management of wetlands to enhance communities' livelihoods; (f) Management, restoration and rehabilitation of coastal wetlands; (g) Assessment and monitoring of Africa's freshwater ecosystems; (i) Improving Africa's freshwater ecosystems governance and management; and (j) Valuing Africa's freshwater ecosystems in economic development and poverty alleviation

3.2.2 Progress Review

The thematic area on 'conserving Africa's wetlands' still remains relevant to the continent. The GEO5 report's observation that Africa's environment is increasingly being threatened by escalating pressures from fast-growing populations, expanding agricultural and industrial activities; makes efforts to protect and conserve sensitive ecosystems such as wetlands, even more pertinent.

At the continent level, these efforts, as envisaged by the EAP, received some attention during the reporting period. For instance, AMCEN's Work Programme for the Biennium 2007-2008, provided for the facilitation of the revision of the "Draft Sub-regional Environmental Action Plans (SREAP) for the implementation of the NEPAD Environment Initiative", and took resolution on the implementation of, amongst other things; the laying the foundation for, and support measures aimed at the preparation of national wetlands policies for Central and

Southern Africa; and the enhancement of capacities of countries to develop their National Wetland Policies and prepare action/implementation plans. While this continental level intervention was significant in guiding action for implementation on those specific aspects; it generally fell short of what was anticipated by the EAP. For example, it was not comprehensive in addressing all the initial priority actions under the EAP. This gap was however filled by the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Ramsar has been leading the implementation of this thematic area through its secretariat. Although such implementation was done within the context of the Ramsar secretariat's mandate, significant actions that correspond to some of the EAP's initial actions were carried out. For instance, work was undertaken in relation to Wise use of wetlands; Wetlands of national importance in Africa; Threats to Ramsar wetland sites and sites listed on the Montoux Record; and Updating of Ramsar information sheets. Since June 2004, the principle of wise use of wetlands has been applied in different ways throughout the Africa region. The Ramsar secretariat was also involved in the preparation and the review of national wetlands policies of some countries.

In addition to the interventions of Ramsar, other continent-wide initiatives were also implemented through the support of GEF. For instance, the WIO-LaB project focused on the implementation of demonstration projects intended to promote innovative actions that will help reverse the degradation of the coastal and marine environment, focusing on *inter alia*, the management of municipal wastewater, using constructed wetlands and integrated algal ponding systems; restoration of degraded mangrove forest areas through community-led replanting programmes and the provision of alternative livelihood systems.

Significant progress was also observed at the regional level. The review noted two significant projects implemented in the AMU region for instance. These are: the 'Strengthening Water-bird And Wetland Conservation Capacities in North Africa' (Wetcap) programme; and the AMU and IUCN Cooperation on Biodiversity Conservation programme. The former focused on strengthening the capacities for water bird and wetland conservation of all important stakeholders in the region, while building knowledge and providing better access to information on the critical network of sites required by migratory water birds. It also supported local water bird and wetland conservation projects, and established training programmes on wetland management and enhancing capacities in the sub-region. This

responds to the EAP's envisaged initial priority action on capacity building on wetlands conservation. The latter programme is based on a recently signed cooperation agreement between AMU and IUCN to support joint efforts for biodiversity conservation in North Africa. The cooperation will focus on three priority areas, namely: the valuation of oasis ecosystems, the conservation of marine biodiversity, and adaptation to climate change in the AMU countries. It is however not clear whether this initiative is being implemented as a response to the EAP.

Libya

Some of the achievements recorded by Libya, as a pilot EAP country, include:

- Identifying wetlands of international importance
- Developing a wetlands inventory for purposes of designation. Libya has since designated two new Ramsar sites i.e. the *farwa* lagoon and *Ain Al ghazala*
- Updating information on fauna and flora in *Ain Shagigah* and *Ain alzargha*
- Publishing an atlas of water birds in Libya

Although there are indications that the ECCAS region implemented some projects relevant to the conservation of wetlands, the review could not identify the specific initiatives. Having said this, other relevant projects were observed. These included the 'Central Africa Regional Program for Environment (CARPE-2) funded by USAID. The project is located in the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba Landscape and complements other regional activities implemented by the World Fish Centre in the Congo River Basin (including work in Lake Tele Lake Tumba and Salonga-Lukenie-Sankuru) in collaboration with WWF), and work with the World Conservation Society in the Republic of Congo, as well as its work on co-management of forest river fisheries in Cameroon. It focuses on the conservation of the Congo River Basin rainforest and threatened flora and fauna therein including those found in wetlands. Due to the importance of fishing to local community livelihoods, the World fish Centre has been subcontracted by the African Wildlife Fund (AWF) to help develop a better understanding of how fisheries function within the conservation and development context of the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba Landscape. While this initiative is important, it is not clear whether it was implemented in response to the EAP.

Cameroon

The Government of Cameroon has designated two new sites as Wetlands of International Importance, bringing its total number of Ramsar sites to seven. One site is called *Partie Camerounaise du fleuve Ntem*, while the other site is *Zone Humide d'Ebogo*. According to Ramsar, the latter site is also an important ecotourism site in the area, and a management

plan is in preparation.

The ECOWAS region also recorded some progress in implementing projects under this thematic area of the EAP. However, like the ECASS region, while there are indications of significant activities having been undertaken, such information is not readily available in the public domain. A notable project, however, is the ‘Saloum-Niumi Complex’ project that fosters transboundary cooperation and community participation in the management of the Saloum-Niumi in Senegal and The Gambia. The project focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the wetlands of the Sine Saloum Delta and Niumi within the framework of transboundary cooperation. It emphasizes on strengthening transboundary cooperation and participation of local communities in the management of wetlands and water birds in the Saloum-Niumi Complex.

Ghana

The following notable achievements have been reported by Ghana, an EAP pilot country:

- Integrated environmental management of wetlands through the support of measures aimed at the development of national wetland policies and preparing action/implementation plans.

The National wetlands policy has now been transformed into an action plan that emphasizes on poverty reduction.

Although wetlands are an important feature in most IGAD countries; the review could not establish specific wetlands conservation projects implemented in response to the EAP in the region. While this may not necessarily point to the lack of such initiatives, but perhaps reveals more the lack of their documentation; such lack of information is in itself a shortcoming of reporting mechanisms on EAP progress implementation.

Having said this, there is evidence that ‘conservation of wetlands’ as an integral component of the broader ecosystem is given attention in the IGAD region. For instance, under the new IGAD strategy, IGAD aims to focus promoting partnership among its Member States on amongst other things, establishing mechanisms to address conflicts such as fresh water, (IGAD, 2003). Some of the programmes and projects developed, and partially or totally implemented, include – reforestation projects to control erosion in some member states, development of a Water programme, especially the elaboration of a project proposal on management of selected shared water resources, development of a Fisheries Programme, development of an Environment Information System as a basis for a continued environmental

assessment and monitoring and follow-up and development of regional and international Conventions (IGAD, 2006).

Ethiopia

Ethiopia has developed by laws of wetland protection and sustainable use of biodiversity that are being enforced through district Councils and Environmental Conservation officers.

In the SADC region, like the other regions, there are indications that several project activities relating to the conservation of wetlands have been implemented. However, information on these initiatives is scant. That notwithstanding, a significant project that appears to be in line with the EAP’s priority actions is the IUCN’s Water and Nature Initiative (WANI) that facilitated the development of Plans and Policies to Promote Wise Use of Wetlands and training in the sub-region. It also facilitated the preparation of the Upper Zambezi Wetlands programme. Another notable project is the SADC Regional Wetlands Project, which focuses on wetlands conservation aimed at promoting awareness of the role, value and appropriate uses of wetlands amongst policy-makers, resource planners, resource managers, extension workers and users, in particular where they are shared between countries through the formulation of management plans that congregate efforts and cooperation from the riparian countries in implementing of such plans.

3.3 Prevention, Control, and Management of Invasive Alien Species

The NEPAD thematic workshop on invasive alien species that was held in Pretoria, South Africa on 23-24 January 2003 identified initial actions required under the EAP. The workshop recognized 14 project proposals for implementation. These were identified as key initiatives to catalyse a comprehensive effort ‘to minimise the impact of invasive alien species on the African continent’s people, economies and ecological systems’. The specific projects are outlined in the table below.

Assessment and Mitigation of the Impacts of Selected Plant Invaders (Prosopis juliflora, Acacia spp.) in Agriculture, Forestry and Rangelands in IGAD	Assessment and mitigation of the impacts of water hyacinth Eichornia crassipes and other invasive alien aquatic plants (Pan-African)	African Risk Assessment Programme	Mariculture Monitoring Programme
Sustainable management of key invasive woody species	Control of the invasive Indian House Crow on the	Pilot programme to prevent invasive alien species	African Ballast Water Programme

in Southern Africa	Eastern Africa coast and its hinterland	entering through airports	
Assessment and Mitigation of the Impacts of Selected Woody Alien Plant Invaders (Prosopis juliflora, Acacia spp.) in Agriculture, Forestry and Rangelands in Africa	Mitigation of Impacts of IAS Caused by Trade and Development Aid	Hull Fouling/Caulerpa Prevention Programme	Raising Awareness and Providing Information to Enable the Effective Management of IAS in Africa
Assessment of the Existing Institutional and Human Capacity to Enable the Effective Management of IAS in Africa	African Islands Biological Control Programme		

3.3.1 Progress Review

Actions aimed at the prevention, control and management of invasive alien species are important interventions necessary to protect the continent’s environment. However, the status report of Africa’s environment does not identify invasive alien species as a major threat to the continent’s biological diversity. Rather, other threats such as: increased rate of deforestation; coastal urban growth and associated residential, industrial, agricultural and mining discharges and waste; are reported to be posing the greatest threat to terrestrial and coastal ecosystems and habitats. As such, invasive alien species may no longer be as relevant for Africa, as they were when the EAP was developed.

Having said this, significant progress was recorded in implementing actions under this thematic area during the review period. At the continental level, there appears to have been political decisions made at the AU level focusing on the prevention, control and management of invasive alien species. However, there were specific continent-wide project that were implemented, although it is particularly clear whether these were done in response to the EAP. These include the: ‘Removing Barriers to Invasive Plant Management in Africa’ project that was funded by GEF through UNEP and was technically supported by IUCN and CABI-Africa focusing on capacity building and information creation for the prevention and management of invasive plants in Africa; and ‘Forest Invasive Species Network for Africa’ (FISNA) that focused on coordinating the collation and dissemination of information relating to forest invasive species in sub-Saharan Africa for sustainable forest management and conservation of biodiversity.

At the regional level, not much activity was reported to have been implemented under this thematic area. For instance, the review could not find information on AMU projects, save for a few national activities in Egypt. There was also no information on projects implemented in Libya (i.e. the pilot country for the region under the EAP). The same situation applies in the case of the ECCAS region. There was no recorded information on projects or projects implemented either through the REC or by Cameroon, the EAP pilot country.

However some actions were implemented in the ECOWAS region, albeit at the country level. For example, the ‘Restoration of degraded forest reserves’ project was implemented in Ghana. It focused on addressing the *Chromolaena odorata* in the protection and restoration of native tree species including *triplochiton sclerexylon* and *Celtis spp* and *terminalia spp*.

This thematic area was also not well implemented in IGAD region. At the REC level, IGAD developed the IGAD Environment and Natural Resources Strategy (IENRS), which contains actions on AIS in the IGAD region. The review could not obtain information on specific regional projects. However, Ethiopia established the National Invasive Plants Management Programme, within the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR). The programme was created to eradicate invasive plant invasive species in the country.

Comparatively, the SADC region implemented more activities under this thematic area. At the regional level, SADC developed the ‘SADC Regional Biodiversity Strategy’, which proposes, amongst other things, the development of national and regional policy and legislative frameworks for dealing with GMOs; building national and regional capacities to handle GMO related issues including, human health; identifying and mapping out the geographical spread of problematic IAS in the region; exploring possibilities of turning the IAS problem into an economic opportunity; and evaluating the synergistic effects of land degradation and climate change on the spread of IAS. SADC also implemented the ‘Southern Africa Biodiversity Support Programme’, which aimed at promoting conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in Southern Africa, through inter alia, controlling invasive alien species. At the country level, Mozambique developed the ‘Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Mozambique; and the ‘Sustainable Development through Conservation of Biodiversity 2003-2010’. The 2010 goals included: identification invasive species with the greatest impact on biodiversity; establishment of measures and strategies for the eradication of the main invasive species; reduction of the

introduction of new species; adoption of tariff and non-tariff barriers that inhibit/limit the importing of invasive species and GMOs.

3.4 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine, Coastal and Fresh Water Resources

Marine, coastal and freshwater resources are very important components of Africa's environment. As such, the EAP identified this thematic area as one that should be broadly implemented, particularly through the incorporation of environmental concerns into the development agenda of African countries. The overall implementation objective of this thematic area is to support the implementation of the objectives of the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions; to contribute to the implementation of the decisions of the Super PreCom of the African Process regarding the management of Africa's coastal and marine resources in an integrated manner which were reaffirmed by the Partnership Conference held in Johannesburg on 2 September 2002 at the margins of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; and to support the elaboration and implementation of the African Regional Programme of Action on freshwater which was adopted at the first session of the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW) held in Cairo, Egypt in February 2003.

The EAP envisaged targeted actions that will: (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 organisations; (c) prepare action plans 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; (f) promote demonstration projects on the implementation of the guidelines on Integrated Coastal Area River Basin Management (ICARM); (g) support the preparation and implementation of the African Regional Programme of Action on freshwater; and (h) align freshwater environment with the coastal and marine environment.

3.4.1 Priority Focus Areas

The priority focus areas for implementation are outlined below:

- (a) Coastal, Marine and Freshwater Pollution
- (b) Physical Changes in the Coastal, Marine and Freshwater Environment

- (c) Coastal, Marine and Freshwater Biodiversity
- (d) Integrated Management Approaches to River/Lake Basins and Coastal Zone
- (e) Environmental-Sustainable Economic Development in Coastal Area and
- (f) Augmenting Water resources (Surface and Underground) and Climate Change.

3.4.2 Progress Review

The conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources still remains an extremely relevant intervention area for Africa. This is particularly so due to continuous degradation from *inter alia*; residential effluent, industrial discharges, storm-water run-off, agricultural and mining leaching, contaminated groundwater seepage, and industrial and vehicle exhaust fumes that enter the marine environment. Oil spillage and discharge from marine transport was also reported as creating major management and regulatory challenges, especially for oil-producing countries on the continent. Freshwater resources, on the other hand, are under pressure from climate change that is accelerating urbanization. The GEO5 report estimated that by 2020, some 75–250 million Africans will be living in water-stressed areas, bringing the potential of more water resource conflicts.

High level political and programmatic commitment on this area was demonstrated at the continental level. Significant leverage was made on the implementation of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention) and the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Nairobi Convention). The two Conventions provided a mechanism for regional cooperation, coordination and collaborative actions, which in turn enabled the contracting parties to harness resources and expertise from a wide range of stakeholders and interest groups towards solving interlinked problems of the coastal and marine environment.

In addition to political support, several continent-wide projects were implemented through UNEP. These included the project on land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-LAB) funded by GEF. Several national and regional reports were completed, leading to the preparation of national pollution status reports, and also proposals for the implementation of national water and sediment quality monitoring. Other projects include the

South West Indian Ocean fisheries project implemented by the World Bank; and the Agulhas and Somalia Current large marine ecosystem project implemented by UNDP.

At the regional level, significant programmes were reported to have been implemented under this thematic area. For instance, in the AMU region implemented the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System (NWSAS) and other projects aimed focusing on coastal area protection and protection from pollution.

Libya

Libya designed the Great Man-made River Project" (GMRP) to transport 2,300 million m³ of fossil water from the county's South, where a huge amount of fossil groundwater has been stored since the late Quaternary, to the North where the water is urgently required to use. The GMRP consists of five phases while the total volume of water to be transferred and redistributed within the country amounts to about 2km³/year for a minimum period of 50 years. Part of the water transported will be used to supply major cities on the coast as the urban water demand is growing rapidly and will need to be met (Aquastat, 2005).

In the Central Africa region, ECCAS adopted the a regional water policy, which will be implemented through the following 5 strategic principles: creation of an enabling environment for good water governance at national, basin and regional levels; operationalization of the principles of integrated water resources management; stakeholder participation and gender mainstreaming; implementation of programmes for water resources development, in areas such as water supply, sanitation, water for agriculture and livestock, hydro-electricity, fisheries, navigation and tourism; capacity building through training, education and research. Furthermore, through funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the region saw the implementation of the International Commission of Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS) initiative. While these activities clearly respond to the thematic area of fresh water resource conservation as envisaged by the EAP, it is not entirely clear whether they were implemented to consciously address the EAP.

The ECOWAS region also saw the implementation of extensive programmes under this thematic area during the reporting period. One such programme is the *Regional Program for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in West Africa (PRCM)* aimed at preserving coastal and marine areas in seven West African countries: Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Cape Verde. Like the ECCAS activities, it is not clear whether this programme was implemented to consciously address the

EAP. Other initiatives that were implemented in the region include those implemented by CLISS such as the Niger Basin Authority, and the Volta Basin Authority.

With regards to the IGAD region, some projects aimed at promoting freshwater conservation were reported to have been implemented. However, there is no evidence to demonstrate whether these were undertaken in response to the EAP. The major projects include the Nile River Basin, Lake Victoria basin, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), and the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) projects.

The SADC region also saw the implementation of several projects and initiatives under this thematic area. However, there was a general bias towards promoting freshwater conservation, perhaps due to the significance of fresh water in the region. From an institutional perspective, SADC established a Water Sector Unit whose function is to coordinate water-related activities in Member States. From a policy perspective, SADC developed the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems, a regional legal instrument aimed to regulate the management of shared courses in the region. Member States are at varying levels of ratification. Furthermore, several river basin commissions have been established on the strength of this instrument. These include the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM); the Joint Water Commission for the Ruvuma River Basin between Tanzania and Mozambique; and the Convention on the Sustainable Management of Lake Tanganyika that subsequently led to the creation of the Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA). While these projects and initiatives are in line with what was envisaged under this thematic area of the EAP, it is not entirely clear whether they were implemented to specifically respond to the EAP.

Mozambique

Mozambique developed strategic plans for municipal wastewater and a water and sanitation information network. This was facilitated through funding from DfID.

3.5 Combating Climate Change in Africa

Most countries in Africa have signed and ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and it's the Kyoto Protocol. At the global level, the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol establish objectives and obligations that contracting parties have to adhere to. An example of such objectives and obligations for African countries is the need 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; promote the sustainable management of sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases; and promote and/or conduct relevant research and co-operate in exchange of information.

The EAP's thematic programme area on 'Combating Climate Change in Africa' is intended to build on these existing global frameworks, but emphasizing on climate change aspects that are relevant for the region. As such, Africa's Climate Change Strategy revolves around the issue of vulnerability assessment and the development of adaptation strategies, realized through: identification of ecosystems, regions and people most vulnerable to climate change; development of adaptation strategies for the identified regions and sectors; and implementation of demonstration and pilot projects that show the way forward. Furthermore, capacity building support will need to be simultaneously provided to enable important institutions to function effectively.

3.5.1 Priority Focus Areas

The planned activities under this thematic area are in addition to on-going climate change projects of relevance to Africa's Strategy on Climate Change. The EAP suggested the following additional actions/projects: Integrated Assessment of Vulnerability to Climate Variability and Change and Response Strategies; Learning about climate change from local action to national dialogues in Africa; Climate risk management; Adaptive resource management; Carbon management for sustainable livelihood; Supporting public outreach and education programs on climate change; Strengthening shared river basin management and develop sub-regional water resource strategies; Building capacity for early warning; Environmental intervention to climate variability, malaria and poverty in the East African Highland; Impact of global Climate change on Key Marine and Coastal Ecosystems in sub-Saharan Africa; and Assessment of the Vulnerability of sub-Saharan Coastal Zones to the Different Impacts of Climate Change (including sea level rise). Furthermore, the EAP recognizes the insignificant contribution of Africa to the global greenhouse gas emissions and low energy consumption. In this light it proposes the provision of electricity in Africa without increasing the emissions. This is to be done through promoting renewable energy initiatives

and strategies; establishing sustainable links and working module between climate change experts and energy initiative capacity development for sustainable development and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM); and evaluating synergistic effects of adaptation with mitigation activities through pilot projects.

3.5.2 Progress Review

Climate change assumed a prominent position on the continent's environment and development agenda during the reporting period. This is so because, because together with increased urbanization and globalization; climate change has been viewed as one of the major factors that are consistently contributing to environmental challenges in Africa. The GEO5 report, for instance, noted that climate change is placing stress on natural resources such as freshwater and land through extreme weather events; which will consequently increase the stress of vulnerable populations in urban and rural areas. These facts demonstrate the relevance and immediacy of the need to devised responsive mechanisms to combat climate change on the continent now, than ever before.

At the continental level, this relevance and immediacy was recognized by AMCEN, which during its 12th session came out with a decision to focus its work programme on climate change. This decision was necessitated by two developments/needs, namely; Africa's preparations for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012; and the need to develop a Comprehensive framework of African Climate Change Programmes. Furthermore, following the transformation of the NEPAD secretariat into the NEPAD NPCA, its key programmatic activities and actions include institutional efforts in implementing Africa's regional and continental programmes/projects connected to climate change, natural resources management and sustainable development, and capacity development. The AU and NEPAD also prepared the 'African Action Plan 2010 – 2015: Advancing Regional and Continental Integration in Africa', that contains strategic objectives for combating the negative effects of climate change, promoting sustainable development and contributing to wealth creation in the Africa region. These political and policy decisions were also supported continental projects implemented by UNEP (e.g. strengthening the ability of countries to integrate climate change responses into national development processes with focus on activities in adaptation); UNECA (e.g. the Climate and Development programme (ClimDev)); and FAO, WFP, and

EU in collaboration of with RECs (e.g. the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET)); amongst others.

At the REC level; the emerging significance of climate change was also recognized. For instance, COMESA, EAC and SADC have recently signed a Tripartite Agreement for the Implementation of the Programme on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Eastern and Southern Africa. The same level of recognition has also been reflected by the other RECs. For instance, in the AMU region; several initiatives were implemented such as the Integrated Watershed Management in North Africa in Light of Climatic Changes project; and the Adapting to the Impacts of Climate Change in the Agricultural Sector project. Other projects such as those focusing on national communications, the choice of adaptation options, evaluation of the vulnerability of coastal zones to climate change, and the implementation of projects aimed to reinforce capacities for combating climate change; were also implemented in the region.

In Central Africa; ECCAS established a sub-regional centre for DRR in the Republic of the Congo and is presently developing a sub-regional strategy. Other significant initiatives in the region include the establishment of the Regional Observatory Body on Forests. While there were other initiatives implemented by ECCAS, COMIFAC, NGOs and other organisations, with support from international/bilateral organisations the study could not obtain specific information on them.

Cameroon
A significant achievement at the national level was the implementation of the REDD programme in Cameroon.

In West Africa, ECOWAS developed a DRR Policy that established regional mechanisms for DRR. In addition, several projects were implemented, and these include: the Interdisciplinary and Participatory Research on the West African Ecosystems, Climate, and Societies programme (RIPIECSA) project; and the *CLIMAG West Africa* project that created a network for the harmonisation of climate forecasts to mitigate the impacts of global changes in the Sudano-Sahelian area of West Africa.

Ghana
Several projects on climate change were implemented in Ghana, the EAP pilot country for the ECOWAS region. These

include:

- Netherlands Climate Change Assistance Programme (NCCAP) - The emphasis of this programme is on studies in the area of adaptation, with a specific focus on examining the linkages between poverty and climate change and the consequences of climate change on the livelihood systems of poor communities. The ultimate objective is to formulate climate change policies that are consistent with the Ghana poverty reduction strategy, thus facilitating the mainstreaming of these policies into district as well national development plans.
- Climate Change Adaptation Framework - The Government of Ghana is putting in place a national climate change adaptation framework, aimed at: strengthening the national resilience to disasters, and establishing proactive and effective risk reduction measures. However, national efforts have mainly concentrated on disaster and emergency response.
- Hyogo Framework of Action – Ghana has reported progress under the United Nations Hyogo Framework of Action. Some of the achievements include: Launching of National Platform and Regional Platforms to assist coordination of DRR at sector level; Review of National Policy on DRR; Development of tools and training for mainstreaming DRR into national and district development plans; Building guidelines for floods prone areas; Country wide hazard mapping; Review of the National Contingency Plan; Strengthened national capacity to coordinate emergency response; Development of District Disaster Management Plans; Public awareness and advocacy campaigns; and Assessment of current knowledge of DRR into school curricula.
- UNDP and UNHABITAT - UNDP in collaboration with UNHABITAT and “Housing the Masses” (NGO), developed a model for Sustainable Low-Income Housing for Water and Fire Related Disaster Prone Areas.

In the East Africa region, IGAD developed a regional strategy for disaster reduction (DRR). Other supporting projects were also implemented, including: the Global Water Partnership project focusing on getting solutions for specific water related challenges in the particular in collaboration with the Eritrea Water Partnership, Ethiopia Water Partnership, Kenya Water Partnership, Sudan Water Partnership, Uganda Water Partnership and Burundi Water Partnership; the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network (HOARECN) initiative that aims to improve environmental governance and management in the Horn of Africa Region by focusing on several critical environmental management areas as well as enhancing the development of environmental support sectors to relieve pressure on natural resources by stimulating new value chains for sustainable products and services and promoting renewable/sustainable energy; and the Weather Information for All (WIFA) project that focuses on evaluating the impact of new weather and climate services for fishers and farmers in the Lake Victoria region of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Other specific projects include initiatives by the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) aimed at predicting climate change induced vulnerability of agricultural systems to major insect pests and conducting participatory development and testing of strategies to reduce climate vulnerability of poor farm households

in East Africa through innovations in potato and sweet potato technologies and enabling policies.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia, as the EAP pilot country for East Africa, implemented several initiatives aimed at combating climate change.

These include:

- Climate Change Research Group – The Climate Change Research Group was established within the Environmental Science Department of Addis Ababa University. Its role is to monitor long term patterns of extreme climatic events.
- Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Policies - A consortium of Wageningen UR partners, in which the Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) takes part, is contributing towards the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into the sustainable development agenda of Ethiopia. It focuses on the capacities and knowledge that are required need to better integrate climate change adaptation responses into policy processes of agriculture, rural development and natural resources management.
- Other Initiatives on Climate Change Adaptation – Ethiopia has implemented several projects aimed at addressing the impacts on climate change. These projects are in the agriculture, water and human health sector; and focus on soil and water conservation, fertility improvement, flood control, income generation, institutional strengthening and capacity building, improving animal genotype and health. Some of the projects contained community-oriented components and or activities that offer success stories. For example Adama Woreda participatory rural land rehabilitation and forty-two community-based organizations working on sustainable agriculture in Tigray National Regional State.

SADC, on the other hand, also implemented some initiatives aimed at combating climate change in the region. A key initiative was the establishment of the *SADC Drought Monitoring Centre (DMC)* that carries out climate monitoring and prediction for early warning and mitigation of adverse impacts of extreme climatic events on agricultural production, food security, water resources, energy, and health among other socio-economic sectors. SADC also established the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF); the SADC Task Force for Monitoring Weather Conditions; the SADC Regional Early Warning System; the SADC Regional Remote Sensing Unit; and the SADC Regional Drought Fund. Other specific projects that were implemented in the region under this thematic area include: the SADC Groundwater and Drought Management; and the Programme for Basic Energy and Conservation (ProBEC).

Mozambique

Mozambique is the EAP pilot for the Southern Africa region. Several projects aimed at combating climate change were implemented in the country during the reporting period. These include:

- Integrated and Comprehensive Approach to Climate Change Adaptation – Mozambique is one of the 21 pilot

countries under the ‘integrated and comprehensive approach to climate change adaptation in Africa’ initiative. The programme aims at improving the capacity of Mozambique to adapt to climate change and create a solid basis for long term investments to increase capacity of recovery from climate change.

- Environment Mainstreaming and Adaptation to Climate Change – This programme aims to reduce the risks of climate change to poverty reduction efforts in areas of Mozambique at risk from climate change (i.e. arid and semi-arid areas, river basins and coastal areas) through the mainstreaming of environment in central and local level plans and programmes, and improving the adaptive capacity of the communities and other stakeholders through enhancing their coping mechanisms and diversifying their livelihoods options. This programme involves participation of central and local government as well as several UN Agencies within the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and of the One UN Initiative. Among these agencies, both resident and non-resident, are: FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UN-HABITAT, UNIDO and WFP. The programme is also implemented in collaboration with local civil society organisations (CSO) and communities
- Community-Based Carbon Project - Community based carbon project in Mozambique This project focuses on formulating a programmatic forestry sink project in Zambézia Province of Mozambique which will benefit poor smallholder farmers and be managed locally in line with the national decentralization policy. It draws lessons from the experience of the payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, including the voluntary carbon market, to design a payment scheme, which will keep to a minimum the costs involved in contracting, monitoring carbon, transferring payments to individual farmers and enforcing contracts.
- Community- Based Bush Fire Management – A project on Community-based fire management is being implemented in Central Mozambique. It is funded by AMBERO-IP and *Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ). The project focuses on training in fire prevention and management at the community level, helping district governments develop and implement policies and processes for monitoring and responding to fire threats and occurrences, and encouraging policy coherence at the national level around fire management.

3.6 Trans-Boundary Conservation and Management of Natural Resources

The EAP views ‘Transboundary Conservation and Management of Natural Resources’ as a complementary approach to existing national initiatives on: fresh water; biodiversity, biosafety and plant genetic resources; and forests. As such it emphasizes on a coordinated approach in transboundary policy and action in conformity with existing agreements among the countries concerned. This is because transboundary collaboration in the sustainable use, conservation and management of natural resources can provide both economic and conservation benefits greater than would be achieved by countries working alone.

3.6.1 Priority Focus Areas

The priority activities under this thematic area were expected to build on existing continental, regional and national sectoral programmes but with an emphasis on transboundary natural

resources. Progress on some of these has been outlined in the context of the review of other thematic programmes above.

3.6.2 Progress Review

Transboundary conservation and management of natural resources is significant thematic area in Africa given the shared nature of most of the continent's resources. Fresh water is one critical resource that straddles across geo-political boundaries; emphasizing the need for its reasonable and sustainable use to through mechanisms that promote cooperation and coordination to avoid conflict. Africa has more than fifty significant international river basins, which is more than those of any other continent. Biodiversity and forests are also important resources that cut across borders and therefore requiring a coordinated approach for their sustainable conservation and use. While this thematic area is not an emerging area of importance in responding to present day environmental challenges on the continent today; it still remains relevant because of the configuration of natural resources in Africa.

The inherent significance that this thematic area has in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in Africa has not been matched with corresponding political enthusiasm at the continental level. The study could not identify any specific Africa-wide political and policy decisions on this thematic area during this reporting period. However, there are some projects that were implemented and aimed at enhancing coordination amongst African countries in the management of shared natural resources. An example is the Transboundary Institutional Mechanisms (TIM) project that aims to facilitate continental and regional institutional arrangements to address common interests in shared natural resources and transboundary ecosystems with a focus on selected seas, river basins and lakes as well as shared terrestrial ecosystems in Africa. The project has supported eight policy dialogues among governments, including existing regional and sub-regional forums such as SADC, ECAAS, COMIFAC and East African Community.

At the regional level, this thematic area received varying attention amongst the RECs and the countries. In some regions, few projects were reported, while in others, relatively more were reported to have been implemented. In the AMU region, the major project that was implemented is the Intercontinental Mediterranean Biosphere Reserve (IMBR) project that creates a transboundary reserve between Morocco and Spain. The Biosphere Reserve aims to

contribute to the conservation of natural resources and the promotion of a sustainable model of development that emphasizes on institutional cooperation and shared management between the Spanish, Andalusian and Moroccan administrations. Other regional initiatives that were implemented include programmes on reforestation and forest reconstitution to protect and increase forest zones, including plantings in view of stabilising sand dunes.

In the Central Africa region, a Convergence Plan of the Central Africa Forest Commission (COMIFAC) was developed and approved. The plan recognizes that forests are one of the most important shared natural resources of the region whose sustainable management can contribute effectively to regional integration. Other initiatives that were implemented include the Bouba N'djida and Seno Oura transboundary complex project between Cameroon and Chad focusing on the cooperative establishment and management of the Bouba N'djida and Seno Oura transboundary complex; the Conference on the Dense Humid Forest Ecosystem of Central Africa (CEFDHAC); the Association for the Development of Environmental Information (ADIE); the Central Africa Regional Network of Protected Areas (RAPAC); and the Mayombe Forest Transfrontier Conservation Initiative, focusing on shared forests between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Angola, the Republic of Congo and Gabon. This initiative has resulted in the creation of a draft strategic plan for the conservation of forests.

In West Africa, the only transboundary initiative that was reported to have been implemented during the period under review is the Mano River Union. This is a regional institution (comprising, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Sierra Leone) aiming to develop a transboundary forest management initiative.

In East Africa, the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) passed the East African Community Transboundary Ecosystems Bill 2010 on 31 January 2012. The Bill aims to ensure sustainable use and management of shared natural resources in East African wetlands, forests and protected wildlife.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia is the EAP pilot country for the East Africa region. There are several initiatives aimed at promoting transboundary conservation and management of natural resources that were implemented. One of them is study on the White-eared kob migration between Ethiopia and South Sudan that was commissioned to help ensure that the transboundary migration of

almost 1 million kobs is maintained. The project is implemented by the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) in collaboration with the Gambella Trans Frontier Conservation Task Force. It uses satellite-collars and ground surveys to identify the ecological corridors of the species. It also provides training for law enforcement personnel, awareness raising and facilitation of transboundary cooperation.

In Southern Africa, several Transboundary Natural Resource Management (TBNRM) initiatives were implemented during the period under review. These initiatives focus on the creation of institutional mechanisms that foster cooperation across boundaries that facilitate the management of land-based or aquatic (marine, lake or river)-based natural resources for the benefit of all parties concerned. An example is the Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Zambia (ZIMOZA) initiative. Other related initiatives that were implemented include Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs). Their dominant objective is natural resource conservation by linking protected areas across international boundaries. An example is the Great Limpopo Trans-frontier Park (GLTP) between Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

3.7 Cross Cutting Issues

The EAP identified the major crosscutting issues as: (a) health and environment; (b) poverty and environment; (c) the transfer of technology; (d) gender and (e) traditional/indigenous knowledge. These cross-cutting issues are important factors that need to be taken into account in the implementation of initiatives and projects under the other thematic areas highlighted above. As such, they are supportive in nature; recognized as significant determinants for addressing the continent's environmental challenges.

3.7.1 Priority Focus Areas

The priority areas for implementation during the period under review are outlined in Annex 2 of this report.

3.7.2 Progress Review

The cross-cutting issues identified by the EAP remain relevant in addressing the environmental challenges facing the continent. However their significance was acknowledged more at the continental level, than at the regional and national levels during the period under review. Political support was given by the AUC, AMCEN and AMCOW, for instance, in the development of the: Africa Health Strategy (2007-2015); the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2005-2015); the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction; the

Enhanced Framework of Implementation of Sustainable Housing And Urban Development In Africa initiative; and African 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP); and the African Ministerial Initiative on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

Other continent-wide initiatives were also implemented by international organizations such as UN agencies, and Multilateral Development Banks. Some of these initiatives include: the Poverty-Environment Initiative that supports country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into national development planning; the Poverty and Environment Partnership that seeks to tackle key poverty and environment issues within the framework of international efforts to achieve the MDG; the African Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM); the African Stockpiles Programme (ASP) that aims to eliminate existing stockpiles of obsolete pesticides, and implement preventive measures aimed at changing the behaviour of stakeholders responsible for managing stocks of pesticides; the WHO Africa Environment and Health Strategy that aims to create, by 2020, an enabling environment that promotes health and contributes to sustainable development in the region; Initiatives on technology transfer implemented under the auspices of multilateral environmental agreements such as the UNFCCC, UNCCD and the CBD; Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans (NIPs) in African Least Developed Countries (LCDs) in Africa; and the African 10 Year Framework Programme (10-YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).

The review however did not observe the same level of activity at the regional level. For instance, there was no available information of projects and initiatives focusing on the cross-cutting issues in North Africa. However, in Central Africa, the Congo Basin Population, Health and Environment initiative was implemented during the reporting period. This initiative is supporting community initiatives that demonstrate linkages between human health, biodiversity and the health in the Congo Basin.

In West Africa, a significant initiative that was implemented was the WARDA and IITA project focusing on facilitating regional networks that serve to assist and partner with national and NGOs in technology dissemination programs e.g., ROCARIZ's Technology Transfer Task Force, INGER-Africa, which disseminates rice germplasm throughout Africa.

In East Africa, an important project that was implemented was the Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) East Africa Network. The project seeks to serve as a communication mechanism for sharing lessons learned and best practices in integrated program design and implementation; and to enhance communication among different stakeholders (researchers, development planners, and program managers) working to achieve PHE objectives in East Africa.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia is the EAP pilot country for East Africa. One of the major projects implemented under this thematic area was the Wichi Integrated Wetland-Watershed Management project. This project aims to implement integrated wetland and watershed resource management practices with the involvement of the local communities to improve the economic and environmental values/services of the resources and thereby to contribute towards food security, livelihoods of the community and to maintain the benefits of the environment for the coming generation.

In Southern Africa, SADC developed the *Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP)* which mainstreams ‘Environment and Sustainable Development’, while embracing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). SADC is also presently developing a Protocol on Environment and Sustainable Development. In addition to these there are several other initiatives being spearheaded by CSOs in the region focusing on population, health and environment; and poverty and environment.

SECTION 4: Implementation of the EAP: Issues and Challenges

The progress review, outlined in the section above, reveals that significant progress was made in implementing projects and initiatives associated with the EAP during the period under review. Indeed, this was demonstrated under each of the EAP's seven thematic areas, and at the three different levels (i.e. continental, regional and national). However the quantitative propensity of projects implemented differed across the thematic areas, and across the different levels. For instance, there were disproportionately more actions implemented under programmes to 'Combat land degradation, drought and desertification', 'Conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources', and 'Combating climate change in Africa'; than they were in the other four thematic programme areas (*viz.* Wetland conservation, Alien invasive species, Transboundary management of natural resources and cross-cutting issues). From this basic and broad quantitative assessment, it would appear that, either there was a general bias towards these three thematic programme areas by implementing agencies; or these areas naturally emerged as inevitable responses to address immediate environmental challenges facing the continent during the reporting period. While the review could not ascertain the qualitative aspects of the actions undertaken, this revelation nonetheless demonstrates that some of the EAP thematic programme areas appear to have been accorded more prominence than others during the period under review.

The above observation naturally raises questions pertaining to the continued relevance of some of the EAP thematic programme areas. In other words, there is need for an in-depth assessment of whether the seven thematic programme areas contained in the EAP are still relevant to address present day environmental challenges facing the continent. This is particularly so, given the advent of 'emerging and persistent' issues such as the green economy, natural resources governance, renewable (sustainable) energy, extractive mining, and pollution and waste management. Latest research and literature on the subject, such as the Global Environment Outlook 5 (Africa Chapter), Africa Consensus Statement on Rio+20 etc., point to the fact that Africa's environment is threatened by some of these 'emerging and persistent' issues. There may, therefore, be merit in taking these aspects into account in reviewing the EAP for future programme implementation.

Having said this, the implementation of the EAP had its challenges. Notwithstanding the implementation achievements and successes observed under the seven thematic programme areas highlighted in the previous section, it was inevitable to note a rather lacklustre appreciation and recognition of the EAP in programmatic activities of implementing agencies at continental, regional (RECs), and national levels. For instance, it was difficult to ascertain (during the course of this review) whether a particular action/project was implemented in conscious response to the EAP or whether it was implemented in response to other Policies and Plans that coincidentally have the same focus areas as the EAP. In addition to making it difficult to assess the full extent of the implementation of the EAP, this also revealed one of the most fundamental challenges faced in the implementation of the EAP, namely; the inadequate institutionalization of the EAP in programmatic activities (including Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms) of coordinating and implementing agencies. The sub-sections that follow outline these and other challenges faced in the implementation of the EAP during the period under review.

4.1 Institutional Coordination Challenges in Implementation

The EAP is generally complex in nature and thus its implementation has been rather complicated and not readily understood. Although some efforts were made to implement the priority actions outlined in the EAP as noted above, such implementation was not always well coordinated at continental, regional and national level. There also appears to be lack of adequate synergies and institutional coordination between the EAP coordinating agencies, on one hand, and bilateral and multilateral partner organizations, on the other. This is exacerbated by an apparent lack of clarity of roles amongst key actors involved in its implementation. For instance, the role and responsibility of NEPAD, the AUC, and AMCEN is not clearly outlined in the EAP, nor is the specific role of RECs, national implementing agencies, and civil society organizations (CSOs). As a result, the EAP exists as an important planning tool but without concomitant institutional supporting mechanisms that ought to facilitate its implementation.

4.2 Challenges of Inadequate Resources for Implementation

Effective implementation of the EAP primarily requires adequate resources in terms of financial, human and technical resources. With regards to financial resources, there is generally a dearth of funding for the implementation of EAP actions. Such general lack of

funding is aggravated by the lack of collaborative linkages between the EAP coordinating agencies and bilateral and multilateral partners that provide ‘traditional sources’ of developmental financing, as highlighted above. Because, the EAP inherently builds on other global and regional processes such as the UNCCD, UNFCCC, CBD, Ramsar Convention, AMCOW etc., it is important that such linkages be concretized. In addition to challenges in mobilizing resources from ‘traditional sources’, there are also challenges in mobilizing resources from national budgets. For instance, national programmes for combating land degradation and desertification in Togo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are almost exclusively largely donor dependent. Apart from Cameroon (among the pilot countries) which has indicated “own-national-budget” sources of funding for the implementation of environment-related activities, i.e. the NFESD, the FESP and the budgetary allocations for Ministries and Para-Public Agencies; the other implementing institutions seem to be relying more on ‘traditional sources’ i.e. donor funding. This poses a threat to sustainable implementation of EAP actions. Efforts have also been made by RECs to devise strategies for identifying alternative (non-traditional) sources of funding. For example, ECCAS developed the Community Integration Contribution (CIC) for that purpose. However, these efforts are still heavily dependent on external sources of funds, which are in turn, determined by various externalities in donor countries such as the current austerity measures in the European Union.

With regards to human and technical resources, these constitute an important pre-requisite for successful implementation of the EAP. However there appears to be a lack of pro-active identification of human and technical capacity needs in the context of implementing the EAP, in most countries. Available information, for example, indicate that some of the pilot countries have not undertaken a ‘capacity needs assessment’ that will be the basis for establishing their capacity building programmes. This does not mean that capacity building initiatives have not been undertaken. The review identified several capacity building actions that were implemented, but these have not been well coordinated to harness capacity building opportunities. While some achievements have been made, these are at risk of being undermined by these missed opportunities. As a result, the lack of human and technical resources remains a major gap in the implementation of the EAP.

4.3 Role and Scope of RECs in Implementation

The EAP identified five Regional Economic Communities (RECs) i.e. AMU, ECCAS, IGAD, ECOWAS and SADC, to lead and coordinate the implementation of the EAP in their regions. While the review noted strong political will by the RECs in this regard, there appear to be gaps in institutional coordinating mechanisms for the implementation of the EAP. For instance, the review could not ascertain the Regional Focal Points responsible for the implementation of the EAP in some of the RECs. There also appeared to be no functional liaison and working mechanisms between some RECs and their Member States on the implementation of the EAP. This situation leads to ineffective monitoring and evaluation of the EAP actions. This challenge perhaps reflects a deeper problem of lack of institutional capacity. For example, most of the RECs have inadequate information on planned actions under the EAP. This reveals inadequate capacity including lack of standardized and effective systems to collect, manage and disseminate information regarding EAP implementation. Adequate information is necessary for monitoring as well as identifying, prioritising and reinforcing EAP activities. Without information, it is difficult to justify further investments in EAP programme and project implementation.

In addition, the scope of the RECs identified to lead and coordinate EAP implementation, may have limiting factor on the overall implementation of the EAP. While it is recognized that the five RECs represent the five regions of Africa, there are also other RECs in these regions that may be adequately placed to participate in the coordination of EAP activities. For instance, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC) are not identified as lead RECs, yet they have the capacity to add value to the implementation of the EAP in all or some of the thematic programme areas.

4.4 Lack of Enabling Policies, Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks

Although most countries in Africa have broad policies and legal frameworks governing the conservation of the environment, there appear to be inertia in updating existing frameworks to meet emerging environmental challenges. For instance, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and land degradation and desertification; have not been fully mainstreamed in some national regulatory frameworks. The review noted that the reason for such inertia is generally premised on the fact that these issues are not considered a political priority by most Africa governments. This has consequences for implementation because national budgets are

usually crafted to address priorities contained in existing national policies and laws. This gap has generally contributed towards limited progress in mobilizing national funding and multi-stakeholder participation and investments for the implementation of EAP actions.

Associated with the challenge of mainstreaming the EAP in national policies and budgets; is fragmented nature of institutions responsible for implementing EAP actions in most African countries. The review observed that some institutions' mandate are inadequately defined, thereby leading to duplication of effort and overlap in responsibilities. In some of the cases there are no coordination mechanisms to resolve such duplication/overlaps. For example, in Cameroon, the Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEP) is responsible for the implementation of overall Government policy on issues pertaining to the environment, but the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) has within its mandate the management of national parks, wildlife reserves, sanctuaries and all protected areas. On the other hand, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA), the Ministry of Tourism (MINTOUR), the Ministry of Scientific and Technical Research (MINREST), Institute for Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD), the Ministry in charge of Water Resources, Energy and Mines; lead on other components of environmental conservation. This fragmented institutional arrangement is common in most countries; and is militating against the effective implementation of the EAP.

SECTION 5: Lessons Learned and Recommended Priority Approaches and Actions

5.1 Lessons Learned

The following are some of the lessons learned, drawn from the analysis undertaken during this review.

- a) Institutionalization or ‘domestication’ of the EAP in programmatic and monitoring and evaluation activities and mechanisms of EAP coordinating and implementing organizations/institutions is important for enhancing functionality.
- (b) The EAP should be a living document that is flexible enough to respond to emerging and persistent issues affecting the continent’s environment, thereby maintaining its relevance.
- (c) Establishing institutional linkages between EAP coordinating and implementing organizations/institutions at the continental, regional and national levels is a fundamental pre-requisites for the effective implementation of the EAP.
- (d) Clarifying the specific roles of key actors in the implementation of the EAP; such as NEPAD, the AUC, AMCEN, RECs, CSOs and bilateral and multilateral partners at continental, regional and national levels; avoids duplication of efforts and facilitates efficiency in the implementation of the EAP.
- (e) While the lack of collaborative linkages between the EAP coordinating organizations/institutions and bilateral and multilateral partners affects access to ‘traditional sources’ of developmental financing; emphasis should be placed on devising mechanisms to access funds from ‘non-traditional’ development sources of funds such as national budgets; in order to enhance sustainability of the EAP.
- (f) Structured and targeted approaches to capacity building are essential to facilitate the enhancement of human and technical capacity required to implement the EAP.
- (g) The involvement of other RECs in Africa (in addition to the five identified in the EAP) in the coordination and implementation of the EAP can facilitate enhanced implementation.
- (h) Mainstreaming of issues contained in the EAP into policies and legal frameworks is essential to justify accessing funds from national budgets.

5.2 Recommended Priority Approaches and Actions

The following are recommended priority approaches and actions needed to assist in the review and implementation of the EAP for future actions. They are divided into two

components namely; recommendations on the ‘Content of the EAP’ and recommendations on the ‘Implementation of the EAP’.

5.2.1 Recommendations on the Content of the EAP

a) There is need for the thematic programme areas in the EAP to be adjusted to include issues that are relevant to current environmental challenges facing the continent, including ‘emerging and persistent’ issues

- This review noted that while EAP contains seven thematic programme areas, not all of them are of immediate relevance to the pressing and imminent threats posed to Africa’s environment. Baseline environmental information contained in the literature such as the Global Environment Outlook 5 (Africa Chapter), Africa Consensus Statement on Rio+20 etc., allude to the fact that imminent threats to Africa’s environment can be addressed focusing on ‘emerging and persistent’ issues such as the green economy, natural resources governance, renewable (sustainable) energy, extractive mining, pollution and waste management, and climate change. Indeed, this realization was recognized by EAP coordinating agencies such as AMCEN (through a decision made during its 12th Session to focus on climate change; and a decision), and a decision on green economy in the context of Africa issued at its Fourth Special Session); and the AU Heads of State and Government decision to ‘ensure that Africa’s interests on the Green Economy issues within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and institutional frameworks for sustainable development are defined and taken into account’; amongst others.

b) There is need for the EAP to include and specify clear and specific roles and functions of the key actors involved in its coordination and implementation at the continental, regional and national levels

- The EAP currently does not specify the roles and functions of the various key actors involved in its implementation. Some of the roles and functions that can be included can be: Advocacy, Partnership, Resource mobilization, Capacity building, Coordination, Communication, M&E and Ensuring political leadership and ownership. These roles can be apportioned to the key actors at the continental, regional, national and even community levels.

(c) There is need for the EAP to include guidelines on M&E for actions undertaken in pursuance of its objectives

- The EAP currently does not provide insight on how actions envisaged to be implemented in pursuance of its objectives should be monitored and evaluated. Guidelines on M&E indicators that make reference to Africa Environment Outlook can be included as a standard baseline.

d) The content of the EAP can be adjusted to recognize the involvement of other RECs in Africa (in addition to the five identified in the EAP) in the coordination and implementation of the EAP can facilitate enhanced implementation

e) The content of the EAP can be simplified and made more concise to avoid ‘complexity’ and allow for easy understanding

5.2.2 Recommendations on the Implementation of the EAP

a) There is need for the EAP to be institutionalized and ‘anchored’ in programmatic and monitoring and evaluation activities and mechanisms of EAP coordinating and implementing organizations/institutions

- The review noted that while the EAP may be known to individual personnel in coordinating and implementing organizations, it is not adequately institutionalized in the programmatic activities of those institutions. It is therefore pertinent that it be ‘domesticated’ within their activities, to enable implementation actions to be adequately captured through institutional M&E mechanisms.

b) There is need for the establishment of institutional linkages between EAP coordinating and implementing organizations/institutions at the continental, regional and national levels

- The review observed that the implementation of EAP actions is being undertaken by the various coordinating and implementation organizations at the three levels (i.e. continental, regional, and national) independent of each other. There are no institutional linkages connecting their various actions. The establishment of institutional linkages will enable enhanced efficiency in implementation efforts.

c) There is need for coordinating and implementing organizations to place emphasis on devising mechanisms to mobilize resources from ‘non-traditional’ sources of funds such as national budgets, private sector etc; in addition to the ‘traditional sources’

- CADDP can provide lessons and opportunities for resource mobilization. For instance, NEPAD has prepared a road map to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) agenda and an action oriented process to allow: RECs and member countries to prepare investment projects based on the CAADP Pillars; and development partners to plan for long-term financial assistance. To date, about 80 project investment proposals have been prepared targeting Pillar 1 of CAADP by the member countries which in aggregate total US\$4.6 billion. The structure for devising mechanisms for accessing resources (defined as financial, human and technical resources) can be developed around the model outlined in the table below.

Domestic	External	Partners
Member States Private sector NGOs Local and municipal authorities	GEF, WB, AfDB, Bilateral & Multilateral, IFAD, Foundations, Green Climate Fund (GCF)	UNEP, UNECA, UNDP, FAO, UNIDO, EU, MEAs

d) There is need for national governments and RECs to mainstream issues contained in the EAP into policies and legal frameworks in order to justify accessing funds from national budgets and leverage external funding

- This is particularly important to facilitate the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) of the UN system to be aligned with EAP priorities to provide support for the implementation of the EAP

SECTION 6: Conclusion

Africa's environment continues to be threatened by the dynamics of an 'ever changing' world. Climate change, fast-growing populations, and expanding agricultural and industrial activities; are amongst the major factors placing pressure on the continent's finite resources. This naturally requires the continent to devise appropriate and relevant measures to address and combat such threats.

The EAP provides a suitable opportunity for Africa to develop African solutions to safeguard its environment and natural resources. However, in order for it to effectively perform that function, its content and implementation mechanisms should be strategically formulated and executed. The success or otherwise of the EAP to perform this role during the period under review is veiled in obscurity. This is not so much as a result of inaction on the part of the coordinating and implementing organizations, but perhaps more as a consequence of unclear strategic planning for implementation. The review noted several achievements and success stories in the implementation of the EAP. However, because of the challenges of strategic planning for implementation; such successes cannot be effectively measured in terms of their impact.

Be that as it may, these experiences provide an opportunity for the EAP to be 'fine-tuned' in terms of its content and implementation mechanisms for future actions. With the benefit of knowledge gained from lessons learned in the period under review, the EAP can be re-structured to respond to imminent threats posed on the Africa's environment. Furthermore, the implementation mechanisms can be re-designed to facilitate an efficient system where actions are undertaken, monitored, evaluated and the ensuing impact measured.

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ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: See Tables Containing Achievements and Successes

ANNEX 2: TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CONSULTANT TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN OF THE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE OF NEPAD

1. Background

The Action Plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD (Action Plan) was prepared under the auspices of AMCEN and in close cooperation with the NEPAD Secretariat and African Union; Supported by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF). .

The overall objective of the Action Plan is to complement the relevant African processes, including the work programme of the revitalized AMCEN, with a view to improving environmental conditions in Africa in order to contribute to the achievement of economic growth and poverty eradication. It is also to build Africa's capacity to implement regional and international environmental agreements and to effectively address African environmental challenges within the overall context of the implementation of NEPAD.

The specific objectives of the Action Plan are to:

- Contribute to the implementation of NEPAD through the effective implementation of its Environment Initiative;
- Promote the sustainable use of Africa's natural resources and strengthen public and political support to Sub-regional and regional environmental initiatives;
- Support the implementation by African countries of their commitments under the global and regional environmental conventions and other legal instruments to which they are party;
- Enhance the human and institutional capacities of African countries to effectively address the environmental challenges facing the Region;
- Promote the integration of environmental issues into poverty reduction strategies;
- Foster regional and Sub-regional cooperation to address environmental challenges;
- Build a network of regional centres of excellence in environmental science and management;
- Mobilize and direct African international scientific and technical communities to solve Africa's pressing environmental problems;
- Enhance the effective participation of major African groups and their important contribution to informing intergovernmental decision-making;
- Improve the institutional framework for regional environmental governance;
- Mobilize international resources for the implementation of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD;
- Provide a framework for the establishment of a solid partnership between African countries themselves and with their bilateral and multilateral partners, including multilateral financial institutions such as GEF, in accordance with the spirit and the letter of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

2. The Action Plan has the following Programme Areas and Activities:

- Programme area 1: Combating land degradation, drought and desertification
- Programme area 2: Conserving Africa's wetlands
- Programme area 3: Prevention, control and management of invasive alien species
- Programme area 4: Conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and fresh water resources
- Programme area 5: Combating climate change in Africa
- Programme area 6: Trans-boundary conservation and management of natural resources:
- Fresh water.
 - Biodiversity, bio-safety and plant genetic resources.
 - Forests.
- Cross-cutting issues:
- Health and environment
 - Transfer of environmentally sound technologies
 - Assessment of and early warning on natural disasters
 - The environment directory of NEPAD

In accordance with the decision of the African Union Summit, endorsing the Action Plan, AMCEN held a Partners (donors) Conference on the Action Plan in Algiers and Dakar in December 2003 and March 2005 respectively. It is worth noting that a specific capacity building programme for the implementation of the Action Plan, developed by UNEP, was submitted to the Partners Conference in Algiers. The project was to build the capacity of African countries to implement the Action Plan and meet their commitments under the global and regional environmental conventions. Specific activities included, *inter alia*:

Preparation of sub-regional Environmental Action Plans;
 Strengthening the capacity of African countries to implement global and regional environmental agreements (including UNFCCC) of relevance to the NEPAD Environment Initiative; and
 Supporting African Centres of Excellence

3. Implementation of the Action Plan

The implementation of the Action Plan has been done under three arrangements: work undertaken by AMCEN and collaborators through its work programme; work carried out by NEPAD Secretariat (now NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency – NPCA) and partners; work done by the African Union Commission and collaborators. A summary of many of these activities and their outcomes have been presented to the 10th -12th sessions of AMCEN and the Special Sessions of the Conference by the AMCEN secretariat.

4. Purpose of the assignment

The purpose of the consultancy assignment is to review the status of the implementation of the Action Plan. The consultants will carry out a review of the implementation of the Action Plan, by carrying out a stocktaking exercise to establish the extent to which the Action plan has been implemented; i.e. Taking an inventory of the existing and new processes, programmes and projects implemented in the region to date. This background information document will be an important input in the development of a partnership framework for the implementation of the Action Plan in the Africa Region. This will be done through a consultative process; the process will also be used to identify future priorities. The consultant

will provide technical inputs into the development of a comprehensive partnership framework for the implementation of activities from the Action Plan. This assignment will be carried out under the general supervision of the NPCA in close collaboration with the AU. UNEP /AMCEN Secretariat will provide technical guidance where necessary.

5. Indicative Activities

Collect, collate and review existing and new information on the extent to which the Action plan has been implemented, as well as policy and implementation initiatives and programmes on the agreed key thematic areas.

Complement desk review through direct contact with relevant organizations and institutions that were leading the processes/ the formulation and or implementation of the various initiatives, programmes and projects where necessary; (Priority to the RECS).

The activities, projects and programmes should be identified by implementing partner, with a time frame as to when and how long and the location in terms of countries, sub region etc, Activities should be aggregated in accordance with the thematic areas outlined in the Action Plan and recommendations made on the thematic priorities based on the analysis in the context of the Action Plan.

The Partners roles and assigned responsibilities clearly outlined with recommendations if any, and develop a conceptual partnership framework for the implementation of the Action Plan.

Develop an enhanced conceptual outline to serve as the basis for identifying and filling in the gaps, and identifying future priorities for a comprehensive partnership framework for the implementation and future operationalisation of the Action Plan ;

Identify gaps in the coverage of the existing and new activities, initiatives, programmes and projects and provide a list of indicative recommendations for filling such gaps.

Prepare an outline for the key stake holder meeting to validate the report and provide and recommend the background documents.

6. Outputs

6.1 Information on exiting work done, activities, initiatives, programmes and projects collected and reviewed and presented in an agreed format for use; aggregated per thematic area, partner, Sub region, country and period and status of implementation.

6.2 Information collected, collated and validated as far as possible.

6.3 Gap analysis on the implementation of the Action Plan conducted and indicative list of recommendations for filling such gaps made;

6.4 An analysis of partners and partnerships, at regional, sub - regional and national level, their roles and responsibilities;

6.5 Report prepared on the comprehensive review of work undertaken to serve as background/ working document for reference and for consultative purposes;

6.6 A concept note for the partnership stakeholder meeting and for the follow-up work.

7. Expectations

The framework of programmes will be an important tool for the region, in its engagement with donors.

Coherence and harmonization in the implementation of the activities and initiatives of the Action plan enhanced.

African Experts, AMCEN and Sub-regional institutions will have the requisite information for making informed decision on proposal(s) that will be submitted to them for consideration. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) guided in developing projects and in the implementation of their Sub-regional Action Plans.

National Authorities responsible for Environment and Sustainable development will be provided with information to drive their own agenda from a broader perspective. The potential for duplication of projects and programmes in the African Region will be reduced.

8. Documentation

- Internal ROA and DGEF Reports.
- AMCEN Progress Reports 10th and 11th Session.
- AMCEN Special Session 2nd and 3rd.
- AMCEN 2nd Extraordinary Sessions.
- Nairobi and Abidjan Convention reports.
- Ramsar Convention reports.
- UNEP / DEWA Outlooks.
- Information from the MEA Secretariats.
- Environmental Education and Training Reports.
- Reference to the work done in the Pilot Countries, Libya, Cameroun, Ghana, Ethiopia and Mozambique.
- Other reports available in UNEP – ROA, NPCA , AU and the RECS.
- Etc.,

9. Risks and Assumptions

That data holders will relinquish data and information.

That stakeholders and partners sensitivities with regard to confidentiality of project proposals and report documents will affect data availability.

Terms and conditions

NPCA will enter into an agreement with two selected consultants, one Francophone and one Anglophone. The assignment will cover a period of eight human resource weeks. The Consultants will provide background documentation as outlined above in accordance with an agreed report content and structure. The consultant will work under the direct supervision of NPCA, UNEP will provide the technical backstopping when required.

10. Qualifications

Advanced University degree(s). The consultant should have a comprehensive knowledge of Environment and Sustainable Development issues as well as an in-depth understanding of environmental issues and processes in Africa. Knowledge of the United Nations Conventions and Protocols, is a pre-requisite. Knowledge and previous involvement in similar assignments will be an added advantage.

ANNEXE 3: PERSONS EFFECTIVELY CONTACTED

Names	Position/Organisation	Contacts
YAOUNDE		
Mr. Moussa Seibou	Director and Focal Point for NEPAD, MINEP	Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature (MINEP), Room 806. Tel. +237- 77657558
DOUALA		
Dr. Gordon Ajonina	Executive Secretary, Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society.	Mouanko, Sanaga Maritime Division, Cameroon. Tel. +237-77873108. email: <gnajonina@hotmail.com>
BAMAKO		
Mme Maiga Fatoumata SOKONA	WHO Resident Representative in Mali	B.P. 99 – GPN: 32019, Bamako, Mali. Tel. +223-20 22 37 14. email: <maigaf@ml.afro.who.int>
ADDIS ABABA		
Ms Isatou Gaye	Chief, Environment and Sustainable Development Section, SSD/ECA	P.O. Box 3005, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Tel. + 251-11-5443089. email: <igaye@uneca.org>

ANNEX 4: NEPAD-RELATED DECISIONS adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its Tenth Session.

Decision 1: Implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 29 and 30 June 2004, at the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Decide:

To invite the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in collaboration with relevant regional institutions:

(i) To identify the appropriate funding mechanisms for the implementation of the projects included in the action plan;

(ii) To develop appropriate communication mechanisms between countries and the regional economic communities;

(a) To invite development partners to assist in providing resources for developing the capacities of the regional economic commissions, to enable them to discharge their responsibilities;

- (b) To call upon the Global Environment Facility and other development partners to provide financial support for the implementation of the capacity-building programme in its entirety;
- (c) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to provide technical support to the regional economic communities in the development of the subregional action plans of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (d) To invite countries to make financial contributions to the implementation of the projects of the action plan in conformity with the spirit of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (e) To call upon the African Union and the regional economic communities to strengthen the environment section of their relevant technical units;
- (f) To establish effective communication between the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the relevant organs of the African Union and the regional economic communities for that purpose:
 - (i) To hold the next meeting of the Bureau of the Conference at the headquarters of the African Union;
 - (ii) To request the president of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to work with the Chair of the Commission of the African Union in pursuit of that goal.

Decision 2: Role of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 29 and 30 June 2004, at the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Noting with appreciation the adoption of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development by the African Union at its summit meeting in Maputo in July 2003,

Reaffirming that the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development is a coherent, strategic and long-term programme of action aimed at promoting Africa's sustainable development,

Further reaffirming our commitment to the effective implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recognizing that the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development will contribute to building Africa's capacity to implement regional and international environmental agreements and effectively to address African environmental challenges,

Acknowledging the support provided by African countries, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Environment Facility, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and secretariats and development partners of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Welcoming the offers made by African countries and development partners during the Partners' Conference on the Implementation of the Action

Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, held in Algiers, on 15 and 16 December 2003,

Decide:

- (a) To provide overall guidance on the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (b) To follow-up with the subregional economic communities on the implementation of the action plan;
- (c) To cooperate with the relevant international and regional organizations and bodies on strategic issues related to the implementation of the action plan;
- (d) To mobilize high level political support for the successful implementation of the action plan;
- (e) To request the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, with the support of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to secure sustainable financing to support the Conference's collaboration with the subregional economic communities in undertaking its activities in the context of the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,
- (f) To follow up on the fulfilment of pledges by donors and international organizations;
- (g) Periodically to review progress achieved in the implementation of the action plan and make recommendations.

Decision 4: Status and use of the general trust fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 29 and 30 June 2004, at the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the Conference's decision 5 on financial resources adopted at its eighth session, in Abuja, Nigeria, on 6 April, 2000,

Further recalling its decision 4 on resource mobilization, taken at its special session in Nairobi, Kenya, on 16 October 2001,

Noting its decision 8 on resource mobilization and the status of the general trust fund, of 7 July 2002, adopted at its ninth session, in Kampala, Uganda, on 5 July 2002,

Noting further with concern the continuing low response by member States of the Conference to contribute to the trust fund,

Recognizing that Africa is taking measures to address its environmental challenges through major initiatives such as the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Aware that the implementation of its environmental initiatives, in particular the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, will require additional human and financial resources,

Further aware that African Governments are experiencing competing demands on their limited resources to meet the basic needs of their populations,

Aware also of the immense pressure faced by African Governments in meeting their obligations to a number of trust funds established under certain multilateral environmental agreements,

Expressing our appreciation to those Governments that have contributed to the Conference's general trust fund and, in that regard, also expressing our appreciation to the development partners for their support.

Appreciating the financial and technical support that the United Nations Environment Programme provides to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recognizing the need for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to finance its own activities;

Decide:

(a) That Governments should make every effort to pay their outstanding contributions to the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

(b) That the secretariat, in consultation with member States, should develop criteria for contributions by member States;

(c) That the secretariat, also in consultation with the Bureau, should make proposals for sponsorship of some activities of the Conference, including meetings of the Bureau and the regular sessions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

(d) That the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment should take necessary measures to strengthen the secretariat in Nairobi;

(e) That the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, should complete the action-oriented work-plan for the use of the Conference's general trust fund;

(f) That the Conference should extend its appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme and urge the Executive Director to continue to provide support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

(g) That the interest generated by the general trust fund could be used and that detailed proposals on the use of the interest earned on the general trust fund will be prepared by the secretariat and submitted to the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for approval prior to implementation;

(h) That the general trust fund should continue to be managed by the United Nations Environment Programme for as long as the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment remains with that organization;

(i) That, given the global nature of environmental benefits and challenges, development partners, the private sector and international organizations should be encouraged to contribute to the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

(j) That the secretariat should continue to report on the status and use of the general trust fund at meetings of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

ANNEX 5: AMCEN DECISIONS 11th Session: Decisions 1, 2, 4 & 10

Description	Expected Action
<p>Decision 1: Implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical support to RECs in the finalization of subregional action plans • Maintain and develop further issue-based modules for coherent implementation of environmental agreements • Provide financial support to African countries to develop and maintain issue- based modules • Mobilize support for successful expansion of PADELIA and its necessary integration into the regular programme of UNEP on environmental law • Lend high-level political support to implementation of the action plan, strengthen its environment section and those of relevant technical units of RECs and develop appropriate communication mechanisms between countries and the RECs • Assist in providing required resources for developing capacities of RECs • GEF and other development partners to provide financial support for implementation of projects and programmes of the action plan at country and subregional levels • UNESCO to strengthen its technical support to African countries to implement the action plan, particularly management of transboundary ecosystems • Countries to implement projects of the action plan in conformity with spirit of NEPAD • Effective communication between AMCEN and relevant organs of AU and RECs
<p>Decision 2: Institutional linkages and harmonization of activities in the context of the implementation of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure sustainable financing to sustain AMCEN's collaboration with RECs in undertaking activities of AMCEN in the context of implementation of the Action Plan • Pursue goal of AMCEN to become a separate and distinct specialized technical committee of AU • Ensure integration of AMCEN into AU does not jeopardize activities of AMCEN but rather strengthens and expands its work • Advocate further linkages between AMCEN and other relevant organs of AU • Provide overall guidance on implementation of the action plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up with RECs on implementation of the action plan • Cooperate with relevant international and regional organizations and bodies and civil society on strategic issues related to implementation of the action plan • Cooperate and establish linkages with other relevant institutions such as AMCOW on strategic issues related to implementation of the action plan • Mobilize political support for implementation of the action plan • Review periodically progress made in implementation of the Action Plan and make recommendations • Harmonization of existing and new environmental initiatives, within the framework of implementation of the action plan
<p>Decision 4: Status and use of the General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make proposals for sponsorship of regular and extraordinary sessions of AMCEN • Prepare proposals on use of interest earned on the general trust fund and submit to Bureau of AMCEN for approval prior to implementation • Manage general trust fund • Continue to report on status and use of General Trust Fund at meetings of AMCEN • Pay outstanding contributions to the General Trust Fund of AMCEN
<p>Decision 10: Resource mobilization for implementation of environmental projects and programmes at country, subregional and regional levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP and other relevant institutions to provide technical support to African countries to develop capacity in sustainable financing for environmental projects and programmes • Renew commitment to make resources available for implementation of priorities in the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD • Establish dialogue platforms between ministers of environment and ministers of economy or finance to ensure integration and mainstreaming of environmental issues into national sustainable development programmes • Support at significant levels efforts and goals expressed by African countries and NEPAD • Support TerrAfrica initiative and its Strategic Investment Programme for Sustainable Land Management • GEF to review Resource Allocation Framework in line with concerns that have emerged

ANNEX 5: DECISIONS adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its Twelfth Session

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Decision 1: Implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Decide:

- (a) To request the Commission of the African Union:
 - (i) To provide high-level political support to the successful implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
 - (ii) To strengthen its environment section and those of the relevant technical units of the regional economic communities to enable them to carry out their responsibilities of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

- (b) To urge development partners to assist in providing required resources for the implementation of subregional environmental action plans by the regional economic communities;

- (c) To call on development partners to provide financial support for the implementation of the projects and programmes of the action plan at the subregional and national levels;
- (d) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to provide technical support to the regional economic communities in the implementation of the subregional action plans for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (e) To urge countries to implement the projects of the action plan in conformity with the spirit of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (f) To request the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to enhance its facilitation of United Nations agency consultations, coordination and cooperation in respect of the thematic cluster concerned with the environment, population and urbanization, together with sub-clusters concerned with water, energy, biotechnology, biosafety and post-conflict environmental reconstruction and other relevant sub-clusters;
- (g) To request development partners to provide support to the United Nations Environment Programme for the reactivation of the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa;
- (h) To request the United Nations Environment Programme to benefit from the experiences within African countries in the field of environmental law institutions;
- (i) To maintain effective communication between the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the relevant organs of the African Union, including the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the regional economic commissions;
- (j) To enhance the ratification and implementation of the revised Algiers Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and other relevant conventions for the effective management of natural resources.

Decision 4: Status and use of the general trust fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

We, African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 10 to 12 June 2008, at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the Conference's decisions on financial resources adopted at its special session in Nairobi on 16 October 2001 and at the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions,

Taking cognizance of the fact that enhanced secretariat functions and the implementation of its programmes, in particular the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, will require additional human and financial resources,

Expressing appreciation to those Governments that have contributed to the Conference's general trust fund and, in the same regard, also expressing appreciation to the development partners for their support,

Expressing appreciation for the financial and technical support that the United Nations Environment Programme provides to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recognizing the need for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to finance its core activities,

Decide:

- (a) To urge Governments to make every effort to pay their outstanding contributions to the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
- (b) To urge those Governments that have not contributed to the general trust fund of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to endeavour to contribute to the fund to enable the Conference to scale up its activities;
- (c) To request the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to work with Governments that have not fulfilled their commitments to pay their contributions to the trust funds (arrears of four years and above) on an arrangement to fulfil such commitments;
- (d) To use the interest generated by the general trust fund and to request the secretariat to make proposals on its use for approval by the Bureau prior to implementation;
- (e) To agree that the general trust fund continues to be managed by the United Nations Environment Programme as long as the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment remains with that organization;
- (f) To request the secretariat to continue reporting on the status and use of the general trust fund at meetings of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
- (g) To extend its appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme and to urge its Executive Director to continue to provide support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.