



**ENVIRONMENT
AND DEVELOPMENT
DECISION
MAKING
IN AFRICA
2006-2008**

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AC	Animals Committee (CITES)
AEO	African Environment Outlook
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFREC	African Energy Commission
AHJWG	<i>Ad Hoc</i> Joint Working Group
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
AMCOST	African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBFP	Congo Basin Forest Partnership
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
ClimDev-Africa	Climate Information for Development Needs: An Action Plan for Africa – Report and Implementation Strategy
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
COP	Conference of Parties
CRIC	Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (UNCCD)
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CST	Committee for Science and Technology (UNCCD)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community for West Africa
EGM	Expert Group Meeting
ES COP	Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Parties
ESM	Environmentally sound management
EU	European Union
FEMA	Forum of Energy Ministers of Africa

GC/GMEF	Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (UNEP)
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
HSGIC	Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (AU/NEPAD)
ICCM	International Committee on Chemicals Management
IFCS	International Forum for Chemical Safety
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IMoSEB	International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity
ITTC	International Tropical Timber Council
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IYYD	International Year on Desertification
JPOI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NAASP	New Asia Africa Strategic Partnership
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NLBI	Non-Legally Binding Instrument
NDFs	Non-detriment findings (CITES)
OSS	Sahel and Sahara Observatory
PAP	Pan African Parliament
PC	Plants Committee (CITES)
QSP	Quick Start Programme
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
REPAR	Network of Parliamentarians for the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems
RST	Review of significant trade (CITES)
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIP	Strategic Investment Programme
STC	Specialized Technical Committee
TICAD	Tokyo International Conference for African Development

WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
UEMOA	Arab Maghreb Union
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	UN Forum on Forests
UNIDO	UN Industrial Development Organization

AN INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF AMCEN AND ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DECISION MAKING IN AFRICA

Intergovernmental cooperation on environment and development among African governments has evolved since the Organization of African Unity (OAU) first adopted the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, in Algiers in September 1968. In 1985 African Governments established the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), as a policy forum to enable ministers in charge of environment issues to better formulate, harmonize and coordinate their activities and programmes. AMCEN remains the primary ministerial level forum for environment and development issues in Africa and has helped launch various environmental initiatives at the regional level, and these have greatly influenced environmental policy in Africa. Seven years after the adoption of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in 2001, African countries are increasingly placing emphasis on creating new institutions and strengthening the existing ones to facilitate the implementation of NEPAD programmes and projects. In 2002, African governments established the African Ministers' Council on Water. In 2003 the Summit of the African Union adopted the "Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD," with the objective of complementing relevant African processes, with a view to improving environmental conditions in Africa in order to contribute to the achievement of economic growth and poverty eradication. It also seeks to build Africa's capacity to implement regional and international environmental agreements and to effectively address African environmental challenges in the overall context of implementing NEPAD. In 2005 the African Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) was established as the consultative mechanism on the promotion of sustainable development of human settlements in Africa, under the auspices of the African Union. Also in 2005, African energy Ministers created the Forum of Energy Ministers in Africa. Africa's regional and sub-regional institutions, such as the Economic Commission for Africa, and the African Development Bank are also involved in sustainable development cooperation and joint programming throughout the continent.

The international community continues to accord the special needs of Africa a high degree of attention as evident and further reinforced by several international declarations, resolutions and decisions, including the Decision of SS.V/2 of 22nd May 1998 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programmes on "Support to Africa." In adopting the UN

Millennium Declaration in New York in September 2000, Heads of State specifically agreed to take special measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa. The World Summit on Sustainable Development reaffirmed the need to increase international support for Africa's efforts to achieve sustainable development, and devoted a specific chapter of actions dedicated towards this goal. Among the WSSD's many goals included the need to create an enabling environment at the regional, subregional, national and local levels in order to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development, as well as support for the implementation of the vision of NEPAD and other established regional and subregional efforts, including through financing, technical cooperation and institutional cooperation and human and institutional capacity-building at the regional, subregional and national levels. In 2002, the UN General Assembly (A/RES/57/300) agreed that NEPAD provides the basis for the UN systems support for Africa. Since then a number of important initiatives by Africa's development partners have been launched, including those of the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Group of Eight Action Plan, the European Union, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, the report of the Commission for Africa, and the Africa Partnership Forum.

The twelfth Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) convenes from 7–12 June 2008 in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the theme 'Enhancing the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).' This Institutional History report places AMCEN-12 in the broader context of decision making for environment and development in Africa over the period 2006–2008. It provides a historical overview of AMCEN, including its many milestone decisions and programmes, as well as an overview of NEPAD. The report also provides an overview of key meetings, decisions and declarations on environment and development as they relate to the key AMCEN priorities of: Africa's development needs; biodiversity and wildlife management; climate change; chemicals management; and desertification, food security and land.

AN OVERVIEW OF AMCEN-12 AND RELATED EVENTS

The twelfth Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) convenes from 7-12 June 2008 in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the theme “Enhancing the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).”

EXPERT GROUP MEETING

The AMCEN-12 Expert Group Meeting (EGM) takes place from 7–9 June 2008, and will discuss a range of issues and prepare a draft decision for adoption by Ministers. The EGM will discuss: capacity-building; land degradation and desertification; climate change; biological diversity and related issues; chemicals and the environment; poverty and environment; environmental assessment; sustainable consumption and production; regional and multilateral environmental agreements; health and environmental issues; and the Great Green Wall for the Sahara initiative.

MINISTERIAL SESSION

The AMCEN-12 Ministerial Session takes place from 10–12 June 2008 and will provide a forum for environment ministers to address the emerging environmental challenges in Africa, particularly those related to climate change and adaptation and international environmental governance. Ministers will address the: status of implementation of the AMCEN-11 decisions; implementation of the environment initiative of NEPAD; Subregional Environmental Action Plans; AMCEN work programme for the period 2009–2010; AMCEN General Trust Fund; African Environment Facility; revised AMCEN Constitution; and integration of AMCEN into the African Union (AU) as a Specialized Technical Committee (STC). A Ministerial policy dialogue will discuss: climate change and the UNFCCC’s Bali Road Map; financing adaptation and environmental programmes and projects; and international environmental governance and UN reforms.

EXTRAORDINARY COP OF THE ABIDJAN CONVENTION

The eighth session of the Contracting Parties of the Abidjan Convention for the Cooperation in the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment in the West and Central Africa Region (Abidjan Convention) which took place on 7 November 2008 in Johannesburg, South Africa, agreed to hold a Special Session back-to-back with AMCEN-12 to consider and decide on recommendations

for revitalizing the Abidjan Convention. The Extraordinary COP takes place from 9–10 June 2008.

LAUNCH OF AFRICA: ATLAS OF OUR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

During the Ministerial session, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) will launch the publication *Africa: Atlas of Our Changing Environment*. The atlas is a complementary publication to the Africa Environment Outlook report, a flagship publication of AMCEN. It is the first fully comprehensive publication which depicts environmental change in all African countries in a single consolidated report. Through a combination of satellite images, graphs, maps and photographs, the atlas provides visual scientific evidence of changes taking place on the African landscape. It illustrates the huge environmental challenges facing Africans and the need for urgent action.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF AMCEN

AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was established in Cairo, Egypt in 1985 following the adoption of the Cairo Programme for African Cooperation. For over 20 years, AMCEN has facilitated the broadening of the political and public policy debate regarding Africa's environmental priorities and concerns. As the permanent forum of Africa's environment ministers, AMCEN aims to strengthen cooperation between African governments on economic, technical and scientific activities in order to halt the degradation of Africa's environment.

AMCEN's mandate is to: provide information and advocacy for environmental protection in Africa; ensure that the basic human needs are met adequately and in a sustainable manner; ensure that socio-economic development is realized at all levels; and ensure that agricultural activities and practices meet food security of the region. In addition, AMCEN's also serves as a forum to:

- provide continent-wide leadership by promoting awareness and consensus on global and regional environmental issues, especially those relating to international conventions on biodiversity, desertification and climate change;
- develop common positions to guide African representatives in negotiations for legally binding international environmental agreements;
- promote African participation in international dialogue on global issues of crucial importance to Africa;
- review and monitor environmental programmes at the regional, sub-regional and national levels;
- promote the ratification by African countries of multilateral environmental agreements relevant to the region; and
- build African capacity in the field of environmental management.

AMCEN consists of a bi-annual Ministerial Conference, Bureau, the AMCEN Trust Fund, the Regional STCs, and a network of national focal points. UNEP's Regional Office for Africa serves as the AMCEN Secretariat. AMCEN is currently holding discussions with the African Union Commission (AUC) on issues related to the harmonization and linkages between the Ministerial Conference and the AUC. The Bureau of AMCEN has also initiated steps to harmonize the roles of the AMCEN Secretariat, the NEPAD Secretariat and the African Union. It is expected that AMCEN would ultimately become a STC of the AUC in line with the AU Summit's *Sirte Declaration* of February 2004.

AMCEN MILESTONES 2000-2008

ABUJA DECLARATION ON AMCEN 2000

The eighth session of AMCEN took place in Abuja, Nigeria, from 3–6 April 2000, and resulted in the Abuja Declaration on AMCEN 2000 containing a political commitment for a renaissance of AMCEN. Among the policy and institutional reforms, Ministers agreed to establish an Intercessional meeting comprising of five Bureau Members and five additional Ministers representing each subregion. They also agreed to establish an Inter-Agency Technical Committee, consisting of the Organization of Africa Unity, UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), African Development Bank (AfDB), UNEP, and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) as well as any relevant subregional and regional organizations. Ministers also adopted five decisions regarding: programme priorities; global negotiations on the environment; building strategic partnerships; new and emerging environmental matters, and financial resources. Ministers further decided that UNEP should prepare an Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) report to provide a scientific assessment of the African environment and related policies and management programmes. During the 22nd session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF), held in February 2003 in Nairobi, the AMCEN decision on the AEO process was endorsed under decision GC 22/9.

KAMPALA DECLARATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

The ninth session of AMCEN took place in Kampala, Uganda from 1–5 July 2002, and resulted in the adoption of the Kampala Declaration on the Environment for Development and eight decisions. In the Declaration, Ministers, *inter alia*, endorsed: the Action Plan for the Environmental Initiative of NEPAD, including its annex on capacity building; and the African Common Position on the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Adopted decisions included those related to the: role of AMCEN after the WSSD; framework of an Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD; AEO report and the Environmental Information Network; AMCEN Constitution; revised 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention); Rabat Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Unwanted Stocks of Hazardous Wastes; Nairobi Declaration for Sustainable Development of African Mountain Regions; and resource mobilization and the state of the General Trust Fund for AMCEN. Ministers also officially launched the first AEO report.

AMCEN SPECIAL SESSION-2

The second special session of AMCEN took place in Maputo, Mozambique from 9–10 June 2003, and resulted in a ministerial declaration endorsing the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD (NEPAD Environment Action Plan). The meeting also provided guidance to the AMCEN President regarding the modalities for submitting the Plan to the AU Summit. Ministers reaffirmed that the African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in sub-Saharan Africa was an integral part of the action plan and its recommendations, and that projects should be entrusted to African institutions under the overall coordination of the Nairobi and Abidjan Convention secretariats.

ALGIERS DECLARATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE OF NEPAD

The first Partners' Conference on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD took place in Algiers, Algeria from 15–16 December 2003. The Conference adopted the Algiers Declaration for a Global Partnership on the Environment Initiative of NEPAD in which Africa's development partners expressed their appreciation for the efforts made by African Governments in the formulation of their priorities in the Action Plan and their commitment to its implementation, and recommitted themselves to entering into structured dialogue aimed at identifying their respective roles and responsibilities in support of the implementation phase. Eighty-one selected projects, grouped into the following clusters, were presented to the Conference: land degradation and desertification and climate change, natural resources, watershed management; conserving Africa's wetlands; prevention, control and integrated management of invasive species; and capacity-building. The Conference also finalized and adopted the Strategic Plan to Build Africa's Capacity to Implement Global and Regional Environmental Conventions.

SIRTE DECLARATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The tenth session of AMCEN took place in Sirte, Libya from 29–30 June 2004, and resulted in the Sirte Declaration on the Environment and Development and the adoption of eight decisions. In the Declaration, Ministers *inter alia* agreed to develop subregional action plans as part of capacity building for the implementation of the NEPAD Environment Action Plan; committed to promote thematic centres of excellence in support of capacity building, data collection and analyses, and identification of information gaps and needs in Africa; and welcomed the adoption of the revised Algiers Convention by the AU. Ministers also called on the AMCEN President to forge cooperative links with the relevant structures of the AU, its secretariat and its appropriate com-

missions, as well as with the NEPAD Secretariat with a view to harmonizing institutional arrangements. Ministers further committed to prioritizing and drawing synergies from the issues of chemical management, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) process, environmental impact assessment, the phasing out of leaded gasoline, sustainable human settlements, post-conflict environmental assessment, health and environment and disaster risk management highlighted during AMCEN-10. Decisions were also adopted regarding: implementation of the NEPAD Environment Action Plan; AMCEN's role in the implementation of the Action Plan; the AMCEN Constitution; development of SAICM and other chemical and hazardous waste management issues; the phase-out of leaded gasoline in sub-Saharan Africa; a draft Africa strategy for disaster risk reduction; and Africa's submission to the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

DAKAR DECLARATION FOR ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE OF NEPAD

The second Partners' Conference on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD was held in Dakar from 15–16 March 2005. The Conference concluded with the adoption of the Dakar Declaration for Enhanced Partnership in the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD in which Ministers, *inter alia*, reaffirmed that international support for the implementation of the Action Plan was essential. Ministers also agreed to strengthen cooperation with development partners and all regional and subregional bodies in the pursuit of the successful implementation of the NEPAD Environment Action Plan and keep its implementation under review. Ministers further adopted proposals for the creation of an African Environment Facility at the AfDB, the utilization of the existing financial mechanisms within Subregional Economic Communities and other subregional organizations, and the utilization of inter-state mechanisms for the implementation of joint programmes where appropriate.

BRAZZAVILLE DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

The eleventh session of AMCEN took place from 22–26 May 2006 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. The session resulted in the adoption of the Brazzaville Declaration on Environment for Development, which seeks to further AMCEN's goal of halting environmental degradation and promoting sustainable development in Africa.

The session also adopted 11 decisions regarding: implementation of the NEPAD Environment Action Plan; institutional linkages and harmonization of

activities in the context of the implementation of the NEPAD environment initiative; the AMCEN Constitution; status and use of the AMCEN general trust fund; implementation of SAICM and other chemical and hazardous waste management issues; the AEO and the Africa environment information network; integration of environmental dimensions into disaster risk reduction programmes in the context of the Africa regional strategy for disaster risk reduction; implementation of UNEP's Bali Strategic Plan for Capacity Building and Technology Support (Bali Strategic Plan); the Green Wall for the Sahara initiative; resource mobilization for the implementation of environmental projects and programmes at national, subregional and regional levels; and the African Environment Facility. A resolution on the work of the Bureau was also adopted. During the meeting the second AEO report 'Our Environment, Our Wealth' was launched.

The eighth AU Summit, including the tenth Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council held in January 2007, adopted a decision on the Implementation of the AMCEN-11 Work Programme for 2007-08 (EX.CL/Dec.322 (X)). In the decision, the Executive Council endorses the decisions and the Brazzaville Declaration on the Environment; expressed support for the proposal to establish an African Environment Facility at the AfDB and calls on the AfDB to facilitate the establishment of the Facility; and requested the Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat and the UNEP, as well as other development partners, to support AMCEN in the implementation of its programme of work for 2007-8.

DECLARATION OF THE AMCEN SPECIAL SESSION ON THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY'S (GEF) STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROGRAMME FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (SIP)

The AMCEN Special Session on the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Strategic Investment Programme for Sustainable Land Management in sub-Saharan Africa (SIP) was held from 24-25 April 2007, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The session resulted in the adoption of a declaration in which Ministers committed to advance the sustainable land management (SLM) agenda at local, national and regional levels. Ministers also agreed to request the GEF Council to approve the SIP for SLM in sub-Saharan Africa, called on donors and development partners to join sub-Saharan Africa in scaling up SLM, and urged donors and development partners to align and harmonize their activities to build and share knowledge and develop investment to support African countries, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), NEPAD and the AU in their efforts to scale up SLM in sub-Saharan Africa. Ministers also called for a concerted approach to deal simultaneously with the UN

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) national adaptation programmes of action and the action programmes of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), to be funded through the GEF. Ministers further called upon the GEF to simplify its procedures in order to facilitate speedy implementation of the SIP

The session also adopted a Joint Partner Declaration of Collaboration in support of the Implementation of the SIP, which establishes core principles and actions in support of the SIP.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NEPAD

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was launched by the Organization of African Unity Summit held in July 2001, in Lusaka, Zambia. NEPAD was enthusiastically received and unanimously adopted, in the form of Declaration 1 (XXXVII), as Africa's principal agenda for development, providing a holistic, comprehensive integrated strategic framework for the socio-economic development of the continent, within the institutional framework of the AU. At its meeting in Durban, South Africa in July 2002, the first AU Summit endorsed the NEPAD Initial Action Plan, covering the areas of priority action to be taken, drawn mainly from the programmes of the RECs. At its Second Summit, in Maputo, in July 2003, the AU Heads of State and Government adopted a declaration by which NEPAD is to be integrated into AU structures and processes.

Since its adoption, NEPAD has increasingly gained recognition from the international community and Africa's development partners. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the WSSD recognized that NEPAD provides the framework for sustainable development in Africa. In November 2002, the UN General Assembly passed a declaration (A/RES/57/2) and a resolution on NEPAD (A/RES/57/7), affirming the UN system's support for the implementation of NEPAD and recommending that the international community use NEPAD as its framework to support development in Africa.

The primary objective of NEPAD is to eradicate poverty in Africa and to place African countries both individually and collectively on a path of sustainable growth and development to thus halt the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process. NEPAD is structured into three components. The first component provides the preconditions for sustainable development, which are the: Peace, Security, Democracy and Political Governance Initiatives; the Economic and Corporate Governance Initiative; and the Subregional and Regional Approaches to Development. The second component provides the sectoral priorities, which include: Bridging the Infrastructure Gap; the Human Resource Development Initiative; the Agriculture Initiative; the Environment Initiative; the Cultural Initiative and Science and Technology Platforms. The third component concerns the mobilization of resources, under the Capital Flows Initiative and the Market Access Initiative.

The highest authority of the NEPAD implementation process is the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government. The AU Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) reports annually to the Summit. The HSGIC meets every four months (or at least three times a year) and is tasked with setting policies, priorities and programmes of action. It also

identifies strategic issues that need to be researched, planned and managed at the continental level; develops mechanisms for reviewing progress; and reviews progress in the implementation of past decisions and takes appropriate steps to address problems and delays. A Steering Committee, comprised of the Personal Representatives of the HSGIC, oversees projects and programme development, while the NEPAD Secretariat coordinates the implementation of projects and programmes approved by the HSGIC. The Steering Committee is tasked with the development of the Terms of Reference for identified programmes and projects, as well as overseeing the Secretariat.

The NEPAD Secretariat, based in South Africa, is responsible for coordinating the preparation of NEPAD's programmes and projects, mobilizing technical and financial support, and facilitating and supporting implementation of NEPAD programmes. The Secretariat liaises with development partners and multilateral institutions, mobilizes private sector participation, outsources technical work, represents the programme at development fora, and monitors and reports on progress. The Secretariat is divided into three work streams: project and programme policy coordination; administration and secretarial services; and communications and marketing of NEPAD inside and outside Africa. The AUC and NEPAD are tasked with stimulating, coordinating and monitoring the implementation of Africa's agricultural agenda. The NEPAD Secretariat is the technical arm in this process, while AUC provides political guidance and legitimacy.

NEPAD ENVIRONMENT ACTION PLAN

The NEPAD framework document called for the development and adoption of an environment initiative—a coherent action plan and strategy—to address the region's environmental challenges, while at the same time combating poverty and promoting social and economic development. The Environment Initiative identified priority actions in the following areas: combating land degradation, drought and desertification; wetlands; invasive species; marine and coastal resources; cross-border conservation of natural resources; climate change; and cross-cutting issues.

AMCEN guided the development and subsequent adoption of the Action Plan by the AU Assembly at its second Ordinary Session, held in Maputo, Mozambique in July 2003. In the decision on the NEPAD Action Plan (Assembly/AU/Dec.10 (II)), the Assembly expressed concern about the rapid degradation of the African environment as a result of adverse global changes, and endorsed the NEPAD Action Plan. The Assembly also invited AMCEN, the NEPAD Secretariat in collaboration with the GEF, development banks including the AfDB, and UNEP to play a leading role in mobilizing additional financial resources for the implementation of the Action Plan and associated projects.

The Action Plan takes fully into account the relevant recommendations on NEPAD contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) as well as recommendations agreed upon during the discussion on the environment component of NEPAD held during the twenty-third session of the UNEP GC/GMEF held from 21–25 February 2005, in Nairobi, Kenya. The overall objective of the Action Plan is to complement relevant African processes, including the work programme of the revitalized AMCEN, with a view to improving environmental conditions in Africa. It also aims to build Africa's capacity to implement regional and international environmental agreements and to effectively address African environmental challenges in the overall context of the implementation of NEPAD. The Action Plan is organized into clusters of programmatic and project activities to be implemented over an initial period of ten years covering the following priority sectors and cross-cutting issues as identified in Environment Initiative of NEPAD

STRATEGIC PLAN TO BUILD AFRICA'S CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS

One of the priority goals of the NEPAD Environment Initiative is to build Africa's capacity to implement environmental conventions and related international legal instruments. As part of the Action Plan, AMCEN adopted the Strategic Plan to Build Africa's Capacity to Implement Global and Regional Environmental Conventions. Since July 2004, UNEP in partnership with the NEPAD Secretariat and AMCEN and with resources provided by the GEF has been assisting African countries to prepare five Subregional Environmental Action Plans of the NEPAD Environment Initiative. The capacity building initiative was submitted to the first Partnership Conference on the Environment Initiative of NEPAD held in Algiers, Algeria on 15–16 December 2003, and included the following components: the development of a partnership approach for the implementation of the Action Plan; preparation of subregional NEPAD environmental action plans; strengthening the capacity of the African countries to implement global and regional environmental agreements of relevance to the Action Plan; development and implementation of a comprehensive training strategy for the implementation of the Action Plan; and identifying and strengthening African centers of excellence and specialist networks.

SUBREGIONAL ACTION PLANS

Ministerial-level consultative meetings on the action plans for Eastern, Central, Southern, Northern and Western Africa were held in 2007. The main objectives of the ministerial level meetings were to review the finalized subregional action plans with a view to their endorsement by the ministers of environment in the respective subregions.

DECISION MAKING SINCE AMCEN-11

This part of the report summarizes the main intercessional meetings and decisions since AMCEN-11, particularly in relation to the AMCEN-12 Ministerial themes and priorities, namely: AMCEN, NEPAD and Africa; Biodiversity and Wildlife Management; Climate Change, Disaster Reduction and Energy; Chemicals Management; and Desertification, Food Security and Land.

AMCEN, NEPAD AND AFRICA

This section summarizes the main development related to AMCEN's work, NEPAD and environment and development in Africa since AMCEN-11.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE AMCEN BUREAU

The extraordinary meeting of the AMCEN Bureau was held in Cape Town, South Africa on 29 September 2006. The meeting focused on a number of issues including: follow-up to AMCEN-11; matters of relevance to Africa arising from the third GEF Assembly; South Africa and Egypt's support to other African countries to develop their designated national authorities for the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM); sustainable hydropower development in Africa; and preparations for the UNFCCC's Conference of the Parties (COP) to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2006.

BEIJING SUMMIT AND THIRD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE FORUM ON CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION

The Beijing Summit and the Third Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation were held from 3–5 November 2006, in Beijing, China, and concluded with the adoption of the Declaration of the Beijing Summit and the Beijing Action Plan 2007–2009.

Under the Beijing Action Plan, China and Africa resolved to promote dialogue and exchanges in environmental protection and agreed to cooperate in human resources development. The Plan contains China's commitment to increase year after year the number of environmental protection administrators and experts from Africa to receive training in China. China and Africa agreed to work with the UNEP for multilateral cooperation in environmental protection, and to step up cooperation in capacity building, prevention and control of water pollution and desertification, maintenance of biodiversity, and industry and demonstration projects focusing on environmental protection.

BANDUNG ROADMAP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN SUPPORT OF THE NAASP

The UNEP-New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) Workshop on Environmental Law and Policy was held in Jakarta and Bandung, Indonesia, from 12–16 December 2006. The workshop concluded with the adoption of the Bandung Roadmap for Advancement of Environmental Law in Support of the NAASP, containing a course of action in environmental law and policy within the overall framework of the Bali Strategic Plan. In the roadmap, governments agreed to:

- enhance cooperation among Asian and African countries in exchanging experience and expertise, including by convening on a regular basis a partnership forum for Asian and African countries on environmental law and policy;
- support capacity-building for Asian and African countries in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements;
- provide training for enhancing skills of Asian and African countries to negotiate international conventions;
- establish an informal network on environmental law and policy among officials, experts and other stakeholders in Asian and African countries to exchange relevant information and share good practices and lessons, especially by utilizing information technologies (e.g., internet-based communication tools), facilitated by UNEP;
- support developing guidelines on mainstreaming environment issues in law and policy; and
- support efforts for harmonization of policies, laws and standards in Asian and African countries with respect to trade and environment linkage.

EIGHTH AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT

The eighth AU Summit took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22–30 January 2007 where the tenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council adopted a decision on the Implementation of the AMCEN-11 Work Programme for 2007–08 (EX.CL/Dec.322 (X)). In the decision, the Executive Council:

- notes with satisfaction the progress made in strengthening the working relations between the Commission and AMCEN towards the adaptation of the mandates, structure and activities of AMCEN, with a view to integrating them into the activities of the Commission and its STCs in accordance with the requirements of the 2004 Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water;

- endorses the decisions and the Brazzaville Declaration on the Environment adopted at the eleventh Ordinary Session of AMCEN;
- expresses support for the proposal to establish an African Environment Facility at the AfDB and calls on the AfDB to facilitate the establishment of the Facility;
- urges all member states and development partners to contribute to the Fund after its establishment; and
- requests the AUC, the NEPAD Secretariat and UNEP, as well as other development partners, to support AMCEN in the implementation of its Programme of Work for 2007–08.

UNEP GC/GMEF-24

The 24th session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-24/GMEF) took place from 5–9 February 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Governing Council adopted Decision 24/8 on Support to Africa in Environmental Management and Protection. In the decision, the Governing Council/GMEF emphasized that UNEP must take a leading role in enhancing support for the continent’s environmental and natural resource management efforts and should spearhead international cooperation in collaboration with relevant UN and other institutions in effectively tackling the complex task of ensuring environmental sustainability, in particular through NEPAD and the Bali Strategic Plan. The Governing Council called upon African governments to take primary action and responsibility for the sustainable development of their respective countries and invited governments to support the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa project. The Governing Council further requested the UNEP Executive Director to continue to:

- support the implementation of the NEPAD Environment Action Plan;
- establish working relationships with the proposed STCs of the AU, particularly the technical committee responsible for the environment, in order to facilitate the integration of environmental issues into the work of the institutional dispensation of the AU and the NEPAD;
- work closely with partners, especially the subregional economic communities in Africa, the AfDB and other UN organizations, to support African countries in implementing the UN Declaration on NEPAD; and
- strengthen the UNEP Regional Office for Africa in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan.

The Governing Council further invited the UNEP Executive Director to work closely with the AUC, AMCEN, the African Ministers' Council on Water, the Forum for African Ministers on Energy, the African Energy Commission, RECs and the NEPAD Secretariat in their efforts to implement policy-oriented assessments on the environment.

EASTERN AFRICA SUBREGIONAL MEETING

The Ministerial-level Consultative meeting for Eastern Africa took place from 28–30 March 2007, in Nairobi, Kenya. Ministers adopted a resolution on the Eastern Africa Subregional Environmental Action Plan and agreed to submit the Plan to AMCEN-12 for adoption. Ministers called on the Eastern African RECs to take measures to initiate the implementation of the Plan; called upon the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to take measures to initiate coordination, in collaboration with the East African Community, to implement the Plan; and urged Eastern African countries to take measures to initiate implementation.

IGAD Ministers also adopted a resolution on the environment and natural resources in which they resolved to, *inter alia*: develop common approaches in national environmental policies; create a regional information network in the field of environmental protection and management of natural resources; enhance synergies among and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements; and establish a Ministerial Sectoral Committee of IGAD Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources to direct the IGAD Secretariat on issues of environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources; and create a regional eminent expert committee composed of independent experts in environmental issues to advise the Secretariat and make recommendations to the envisaged IGAD Committee of Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources.

CENTRAL AFRICA SUBREGIONAL MEETING

The Ministerial-level consultative meeting on the Central Africa Subregional Environmental Action Plan took place from 7–8 April 2007 in Brazzaville, Congo. Ministers adopted a Ministerial Resolution on the Central Africa Subregional Environmental Action Plan in which they decided to endorse the Subregional Environmental Action Plan and submit the Plan to AMCEN-12 for adoption. Ministers requested the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to make arrangements for the implementation of the Action Plan of the NEPAD Initiative for Central Africa, and invited ECCAS to make arrangements to coordinate the implementation of the Subregional Environmental Action Plan for Central African States jointly with other subregional organizations and Central African States. Ministers further adopted a

resolution on the general policy of the economic states of Central Africa on matters related to the environment and management of natural resources. In the resolution, Ministers decided to endorse the general policies of the ECCAS relating to the environment and natural resources and requested that ECCAS: establish a network of national focal points for the Subregional Environmental Action Plan for Central African States; make arrangements for its implementation; and organize an annual meeting of Ministers responsible for the environment in this subregion.

SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

The Seventh Ordinary Session of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) took place from 7–18 May 2007 in Midrand, South Africa. The PAP adopted the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Rural, Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment. In its report, the Committee called on PAP to recommend to African states to strengthen legislation to generally protect the environment and to reduce pollution. The Committee also called for the sending of a mission to the UNEP Regional Office for Africa with a view to studying the practical details for cooperation and signing a partnership agreement.

AMCOW-6

The sixth Ordinary AMCOW Session (AMCOW-6) took place from 30–31 May 2007, in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. The meeting focused on strengthening regional and international cooperation and solidarity to address the African water and sanitation crisis and to make progress on achieving the water and sanitation related targets under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Ministers adopted a meeting report summarizing their discussions, and the Brazzaville Declaration containing ministerial decisions on future work. Key issues addressed in these decisions include governance, institutional and operational matters, financial issues and means of implementation, and partnerships and other initiatives.

NORTHERN AFRICA SUBREGIONAL MEETING

The Ministerial-level Consultative meeting for Northern Africa took place from 4–5 June 2007 in Tripoli, Libya. Ministers adopted a resolution on the North Africa Subregional Environmental Action Plan in which they endorsed it and requested that it be submitted to AMCEN-12 for adoption. Ministers urged the Arab Maghreb Union (UEMOA) in collaboration with the Sahel and Sahara Observatory (OSS) and other institutions to take measures to initiate the implementation of the Plan in North Africa. They also asked UEMOA to initiate a coordination mechanism with OSS and other subregional institutions to

implement the Plan and requested North African countries to take measures to initiate the implementation of the Plan.

WESTERN AFRICA SUBREGIONAL MEETING

The Ministerial-level Consultative meeting for Western Africa took place from 25–27 June 2007 in Accra, Ghana. Ministers adopted a Ministerial Resolution on the West Africa Subregional Environmental Action Plan in which they endorsed the Plan and requested that it be submitted to AMCEN-12 for adoption.

Ministers urged the Economic Community for West Africa (ECOWAS), in collaboration with UEMOA, the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and other institutions to take measures to initiate the implementation of the Plan. They further urged ECOWAS: to coordinate with other subregional organizations to ensure synergies, coherence and complementarity in the implementation of the Plan; and to initiate a coordination mechanism with UEMOA and CILSS and other subregional institutions. Ministers also requested that West African countries take measures to integrate the Plan into national development strategies, such as Poverty Reduction Strategies, as well as in national environment management strategies and action plans.

TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF AMCEN

The twenty-second meeting of the AMCEN Bureau took place from 5–6 November 2007 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting considered, *inter alia*, the report of the Bureau of AMCEN on the work of its twenty-first meeting; issues concerning the African Environment Facility and proposed uses of the general trust fund of AMCEN; status of implementation of the NEPAD Environment Action Plan from July 2006 to August 2007; status of implementation of the decisions taken by AMCEN-11 and other related activities during the period from July 2006 to August 2007; the joint meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions; AMCEN-12; and follow-up on capacity-building in climate change in the region. Regarding AMCEN-12, the Bureau agreed that the theme of the session would be “enhancing the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD.”

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE ABIDJAN CONVENTION COP

The eighth session of the Contracting Parties of the Abidjan Convention took place on 7 November 2008 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The COP took decisions on: its Work Programme for 2008–2011; implementation of the Convention and Action Plan as instruments of sustainable development; measures to accelerate ratification of the relevant global and regional conventions dealing with marine safety and marine pollution prevention and mitiga-

tion; protection of ecosystems and endangered species; assessment and monitoring activities in the region; ratification and revision of the Abidjan Convention and the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution in Cases of Emergency in the Western and Central African Region; strengthening partnerships and institutional and coordination mechanisms; financial matters; and reactivation of the Abidjan Convention. In its Decision CP8/8 (Revitalization of the Convention), parties agreed to hold a Special Session back-to-back with AMCEN-12 to consider and decide on the recommendations for revitalizing the Abidjan Convention.

FIRST AFRICA-SOUTH AMERICA COOPERATIVE FORUM

The first Africa-South America Summit took place on 30 November 2006 in Abuja, Nigeria. Heads of State and Government from Africa and South America adopted the Abuja Declaration, the Abuja Action Plan, and the Abuja Resolution on the Africa-South America Cooperative Forum. In the Declaration, Heads of State and Government of Africa and South America agreed to explore and exploit, in particular, opportunities for cooperation and collaboration in the areas of agriculture, trade and investment, energy, technology, water resources and tourism.

Delegates agreed that, in the context of sustainable development, the efficient management of natural resources will be one of the pillars of cooperation between the two regions. They also agreed to pay special attention to the conservation and sustainable use of the environment, in accordance with the relevant international instruments, including the Kyoto Protocol, sustainable use of biodiversity, including marine resources, and to the promotion of measures against the dumping of hazardous and toxic waste. They further agreed to share experiences and promote technical cooperation in the areas of new and renewable energy, combating desertification, global warming, forestry, protecting the ozone layer, and combating pollution.

In the Action Plan, they agreed to: forge and develop common positions on environmental issues, and environmental initiatives aimed at the implementation of relevant international conventions; encourage the ratification and implementation of relevant international conventions on the environment and sustainable development; and promote sustainable use of marine resources

SECOND EUROPE-AFRICA SUMMIT

The second Europe-Africa Summit took place from 7–9 December 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal. The Summit concluded with the adoption of the Lisbon Declaration, and the Africa-EU Strategy and Action Plan.

The Strategy set out four main objectives, namely: peace and security; governance and human rights; trade and regional integration; and key development issues. Key development issues outlined in the Strategy include: development cooperation; human and social development; gender equality; environmental sustainability and climate change; migration and development; agriculture and food security; infrastructure; water and sanitation; energy; development of knowledge-based societies; cultural cooperation; and communication.

On environmental sustainability and climate change, the Strategy addresses a number of interrelated issues including land degradation and desertification; the preservation of biodiversity and biosafety issues including genetically modified organisms; prevention of toxic waste dumping and environmentally sound waste management; sustainable use and management of natural resources including forests, fish stocks and integrated water management; and weather observation and early warning systems to improve disaster risk management.

The Strategy also states that Africa and the EU will work together in the global arena and international fora to effectively respond and adapt to climate change and other global environmental challenges. In the Strategy, the EU committed to support Africa's capacity building efforts in the sustainable management of natural resources, including on weather observation and early warning systems, as well as helping to tackle illegal logging and associated trade.

GCSS-10/GMEF

The tenth Special Session of the UNEP GCSS-10/GMEF took place from 20–22 February 2008, in the Monaco. Ministers addressed the issues of mobilizing finance to address climate change, and international environmental governance and UN reform. The GC/GMEF adopted decisions on: the UNEP Medium-term Strategy 2010-2013; chemicals management, including mercury and waste management; the sustainable development of the Arctic region; and the International Decade for Combating Climate Change.

FIRST AFRICA-INDIA FORUM

The first India-Africa Forum Summit was held from 4–9 April in New Delhi, India. The Summit adopted the Delhi Declaration and an Africa-India Framework for Cooperation. The Framework addresses a number of priority issues, namely areas of economic; political; science, technology, research and development; social development and capacity building; tourism; infrastructure, energy and environment and media and communication.

SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Delegates to the sixteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16) convened at UN headquarters in New York, US, from 5–16 May 2008, to review the thematic cluster of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. In addition to this review, CSD-16 delegates participated in dialogues with Major Groups, reviewed implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and the CSD-13 decisions on water and sanitation. A High-level Segment was also held from 14–16 May, with nearly 60 Ministers in attendance.

BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

This section summarizes the main developments related to biodiversity and wildlife management since AMCEN-11.

THIRD CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

The Third Conference of Ministers of Agriculture took place in Libreville, Gabon from 27 November to 1 December, 2006. Ministers endorsed the development of the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASPB) to help streamline the seed and biotechnology sectors on the continent. They concurred that improved seeds offer an opportunity to meet the challenge of enhancing agricultural productivity in which lie the pathway towards sustainable food security. The meeting stressed the need to: enhance seed trade and to agree on harmonized rules among member states; improve collaboration between the RECs; and enhance the role of the private sector in the seed industry.

IMOSEB AFRICAN REGIONAL CONSULTATION

The African Regional Consultation of the Consultative Process Towards an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB) convened from 1–3 March 2007, in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Participants considered Africa's expertise and potential users of an IMoSEB; discussed institutional and financial aspects of an IMoSEB; reached general consensus on the need for an IMoSEB; and identified an interest in exploring a pilot project for the African region.

CITES COP-14

The fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-14) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and

Flora (CITES) convened from 3–15 June 2007, in The Hague, the Netherlands. The meeting considered 70 agenda items and 37 proposals to amend the CITES appendices. COP-14 adopted resolutions and decisions directed to parties, the Secretariat and Convention's committees, on a wide range of topics including: the CITES Strategic Vision 2008–2013; a guide to compliance with the Convention; management of annual export quotas; and species trade and conservation issues, including Asian big cats, sharks and sturgeons. Regarding species listings, COP-14 decided to list slenderhorned and Cuvier's gazelles and slow loris on Appendix I and Brazil wood, sawfish and eel on Appendix II. Parties also agreed to amend the annotation on African elephants to allow a one-off sale of ivory from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe with a nine-year resting period for further ivory trade

CBD SBSTTA 12

The twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-12) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) convened from 2–6 July 2007, in Paris, France. SBSTTA-12 adopted a number of recommendations to be forwarded to the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-9) to the CBD, including on: the application of the ecosystem approach; the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; dry and sub-humid lands; biodiversity and climate change; and biofuels.

CMS PRIMATE MEETINGS

During a series of primate meetings held in Paris, France, from 22–26 October 2007, talks on 22–24 October 2007 resulted in the finalization of the Paris Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats (the Gorilla Agreement), which aims to conserve and restore gorilla populations in Central and West Africa through an action plan covering education, research and forest protection. The Gorilla Agreement negotiations were held under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). On 25 October, the UNEP/UNESCO Great Apes Survival Project Partnership (GRASP) organized a meeting of donors to inform potential GRASP partners about GRASP activities and to launch the GRASP Activity and Finance Plan, *Plan it for the Apes*. Finally, on 25–26 October, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) met to undertake technical workshops on capacity building and training, forest monitoring and private investment for forest ecosystem conservation; transfer the CBFP facilitation from the French to the German government; and sign the CMS Gorilla Agreement, the Gorilla Declaration and the Forests Now Declaration.

AFRICAN PREPARATORY MEETING FOR RAMSAR COP-10

The African regional preparatory meeting for Ramsar Convention COP-10 was held from 26–30 November 2007, in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The objective of the meeting was to review the current implementation of the Convention in the region and prepare for COP-10 to be held in October 2008. Participants discussed a number of cross-cutting issues including; wetlands and poverty reduction; wetlands and human health; mining and extractive industries; threats and challenges for African wetlands; wetlands and climate change; links to poverty eradication; financing wetlands-related projects; and knowledge sharing and access to information.

THE TENTH AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT

The tenth AU Summit took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 25 January to 2 February 2008. The twelfth Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council adopted a decision on the report of the third session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST) (EX.CL/Dec.387 (XII)), in which the Council requested the AUC to present the Revised Model Law on Biosafety to all relevant departments and sectors in member states for their comments. In addition the Council requested the AUC, in consultation with member states, to develop a comprehensive framework on intellectual property, individual and community rights to protect traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, including the centralization of all matters related to intellectual property, and individual and community rights. The Council also requested the AUC to develop a bio-prospecting policy framework that ensures beneficial utilization and equitable commercialization of biotic resources, including the creation of a central national control system to manage bio-prospecting affairs.

CBD PROTECTED AREAS WORKING GROUP

The second meeting of the CBD's *Ad hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas convened in Rome, Italy, from 11–15 February 2008, immediately prior to SBSTTA-13. The Working Group adopted two heavily bracketed recommendations for consideration by CBD COP-9 on the review of the implementation of the programme of work and on options for mobilizing financial resources for its implementation.

CBD SBSTTA-13

CBD SBSTTA-13 convened from 18–22 February 2008, in Rome, Italy. Participants at SBSTTA-13 conducted in-depth reviews of the CBD work programmes on agricultural and forest biodiversity, and addressed scientific and technical issues of relevance to the implementation of the CBD's 2010 target to

significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss relating to marine and coastal biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, invasive alien species, and biodiversity and climate change. The meeting also considered the *modus operandi* for addressing new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and use of biodiversity. Unresolved issues included: biofuels in the context of agricultural and forest biodiversity; options for the consideration of genetically modified trees; several issues relating to marine and coastal biodiversity; the possible establishment of an expert group on biodiversity and climate change; and references to climate change mitigation measures.

CITES PLANTS AND ANIMALS COMMITTEES

The seventeenth meeting of the Plants Committee (PC-17) of CITES and the twenty-third meeting of CITES Animals Committee (AC-23) convened from 15–19 and 19–23 April 2008, respectively, in Geneva, Switzerland.

PC-17 discussed 24 agenda items on a wide range of topics, including: the review of significant trade (RST) in Appendix II species; the periodic review of plant species included in the CITES appendices; timber issues; strategic planning; non-detriment findings (NDFs); transport of live plants; and the definitions of hybrids and cultivars under the Convention.

The joint session addressed issues of common interest to both committees, including: the revision of the terms of reference of the PC and AC; cooperation with advisory bodies of other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements; RST in specimens of Appendix II species; an international expert workshop on NDFs; and transport of live animals and plants.

AC-23 addressed 21 agenda items, including: the RST in Appendix II species; production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species; conservation and management of sharks; the periodic review of animal species included in the Convention's appendices; and a proposal to transfer the Mexican population of *Crocodylus moreletii* from Appendix I to Appendix II.

***AD HOC* OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL WORKING GROUP OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Informal Working Group of the General Assembly to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, convened from 28 April to 2 May 2008, at UN headquarters in New York, US. The outcome of the meeting—a Co-Chairs' Draft Joint Statement to be submitted to the sixty-third session of the General Assembly—included issues that the General Assembly may wish to consider referring back to the Working Group.

BIOSAFETY COP/MOP-4

The fourth Conference of the Parties to the CBD serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP-4) was held from 12–16 May 2008, in Bonn, Germany. While the meeting did not complete its mandate to adopt an international regime on liability and redress in the context of the Protocol, it achieved a political compromise that will pave the way towards adopting a legally binding regime, hailed by most participants as a major step forward. The compromise envisions a legally binding supplementary protocol focusing on an administrative approach but including a provision on civil liability to be complemented by non-legally binding guidelines on civil liability. The meeting also established an *ad hoc* technical expert group on risk assessment and risk management.

CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER REDUCTION, AND ENERGY

This section summarizes the main developments related to climate change, disaster reduction and energy since AMCEN-11

UNFCCC AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ADAPTATION

The UNFCCC African Regional Workshop on Adaptation took place from 21–23 September 2006 in Accra, Ghana. The workshop was structured around four sessions: impact and vulnerability assessments; adaptation planning and implementation; regional collaboration; and outcomes and ways forward. The first three sessions consisted mainly of country presentations followed by question-and-answer periods and open discussions. Session three, on regional collaboration, took the form of two roundtable discussions, while session four, on outcomes and ways forward, consisted of discussions in three breakout groups aimed at identifying key adaptation needs.

UN NAIROBI CLIMATE SUMMIT

The UN Nairobi Climate Summit was held from 6–17 November 2006 at the UN Office at Nairobi, Kenya. The Climate Conference included the twelfth Conference of the Parties (COP-12) to the UNFCCC and second Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP-2).

At COP/MOP-2, parties took up issues relating to the Protocol's flexible mechanisms, particularly the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation. Delegates also discussed parties' compliance with the Protocol, a proposed amendment to the Protocol, as well as capacity building

and a number of financial, administrative and other matters. In addition, the first amendment to the Protocol was adopted, allowing Belarus to take on emissions reduction commitments under Annex B to the Protocol.

COP-12 reviewed the implementation of commitments and various other provisions of the Convention relating to such matters as the financial mechanism, national communications, technology transfer, capacity building, and the adverse effects of climate change on developing and least developed countries (LDCs) and of response measures and the special needs of LDCs (Article 4.8 and 4.9).

A major focus of both COP/MOP-2 and COP 12 was on long-term action on climate change and on developing a framework for action once the Kyoto Protocol's "first commitment period" finishes in 2012. A "multi-track" approach to these issues, agreed at COP-11 and COP/MOP-1, continued in Nairobi. Under the COP, a second workshop under the "Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention" was held from 15–16 November. The workshop focused on "advancing development goals in a sustainable way" and "realizing the full potential of market-based opportunities."

EIGHTH AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT

The eighth AU Summit took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22–30 January 2007. The eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly adopted a decision on climate change and development (Assembly/AU/Dec.134 (VIII)) in which the Assembly expressed grave concern about the vulnerability of Africa's socioeconomic and productive systems to climate change and variability and to the continent's low mitigation and response capacities, and endorsed the development of the report "Climate Information for Development Needs: An Action Plan for Africa – Report and Implementation Strategy (ClimDev-Africa)." The Assembly urged member states and RECs, in collaboration with the private sector, civil society and development partners, to integrate climate change considerations into development strategies and programmes at national and regional levels; called upon Africa's cooperation partners to support the member states and RECs to effectively integrate adaptation and mitigation measures into their development plans and to implement them; and requested the Commission, the ECA and the AfDB to develop and implement the Action Plan and to report on progress biannually to the Assembly. The Assembly also adopted a Declaration on Climate Change and Development in Africa (Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (VIII)), in which the Assembly requested the AUC to consult with AMCEN with a view to establishing the necessary mechanisms to follow up on the implementation of the Declaration, in collaboration with the ECA and the

AfDB, and to evaluate progress towards attaining its objectives and to report biannually to the Summit as appropriate.

SECOND MEETING OF THE FORUM OF ENERGY MINISTERS OF AFRICA

African Ministers convening at the Forum of Energy Ministers of Africa (FEMA) met in Maputo, Mozambique, from 28–30 March 2007, and adopted the Maputo Declaration on Energy Security and Sustainability in Africa. In the Declaration, Ministers identified the need to: increase access to modern energy services, and address the significant negative health and environmental implications of heavy reliance on traditional biomass energy; utilize Africa's rich energy resources; increase financial flows to match Africa's energy investment needs; and promote a better mix of energy supply options, ranging from existing conventional options to renewable energy sources, to strengthen Africa's energy security.

FORTIETH SESSION OF THE ECA CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The fortieth session of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was held from 2–3 April 2007 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Conference concluded with the adoption of resolutions and a Ministerial Statement, in which Ministers noted with concern the effects of climate change across the continent, including African countries' vulnerability to natural disasters, the threat to future economic growth and development, and the major challenge climate change poses to reducing poverty. Ministers requested African governments to integrate climate adaptation and mitigation measures into their national development strategies with support from development partners and the RECs. Ministers also requested the ECA in collaboration with AUC, AfDB and other international institutions to develop and implement the ClimDev-Africa Programme and to report on progress annually.

FIRST AFRICA REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CONSULTATIVE MEETING

The First Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Consultative Meeting was held from 26–27 April 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Africa Platform called on the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to, *inter alia*, strengthen capacities of governments and national platforms to identify, assess and monitor disaster risks at national and sub-national levels for effective development planning, including strengthening of people-centered early warning systems and preparedness; support development and utilization of capacities within institutions at regional, sub-regional and national levels such as the AU, RECs and national platforms and specialized institutions for

implementation of DRR and Hyogo Framework of Action programmes; accelerate support for addressing risks arising from hazards of particular significance for Africa, especially epidemics, droughts and floods and other hydro-meteorological hazards which are projected to increase as a result of global climate change and variability; and strengthen involvement of Africa in the implementation of the Global Early Warning System including promoting synergies amongst existing institutions for early warning, climate applications in development and risk monitoring.

ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION AND ACTION PLAN ON SUSTAINABLE BIOFUELS DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The first High-level Biofuels Seminar in Africa was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 July to 1 August 2007. The seminar, held under the theme of “Sustainable Biofuels Development in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges,” was jointly organized by the AUC, the Government of Brazil and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Participants adopted the Addis Ababa Declaration on Sustainable Biofuels Development in Africa, and an Action Plan for Biofuels Development in Africa. In the Declaration, the preamble notes that biofuels development is an important priority for Africa, given increasing oil prices, agricultural and trade policy reforms, local and global environmental challenges, and the availability of new technologies. The Action Plan is based on an ecoregional approach, and encompasses the development of ethanol, biodiesel, biogas, biomass gasification, and cogeneration as priority sectors. It also contains a number of cross-cutting programme areas, including policy and institutional frameworks, financing mechanisms, resource assessments, capacity building and strengthening technical expertise.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE COP OF THE NAIROBI CONVENTION

The fifth session of the Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region took place on 7 November 2007 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The COP took decisions on: its Work Programme for 2008-2011; protection of ecosystems and endangered species; assessment and monitoring activities; revision of the Convention and related protocols; strengthening partnerships and institutional mechanisms; SIDS; support to Somalia; and financial matters.

In its decision CP 5/3 (Assessment and Monitoring Activities), the COP emphasized the development of: projects on adaptation to climate change, and leveraging funds from the international community, including from the GEF and the Adaptation Fund, and research projects and sharing of experiences to

determine the impact of sea-level rise and cyclones on coastal habitats and the risk that these pose to the Contracting Parties. In its decision CP 5/7 (SIDS), the COP urged Contracting Parties to develop projects on adaptation to climate change, taking into account the specific situation of SIDS, and to leverage funds for these projects from the international community, including the GEF and the Adaptation Fund, among others. The COP also urged the development of research projects and the promotion of sharing of experiences to determine the impact of sea-level rise and storm surges on coastal habitats and the risk that these pose to SIDS.

JOINT DECLARATION OF THE ABIDJAN CONVENTION AND NAIROBI CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

The Joint Declaration of the Abidjan Convention and Nairobi Convention on the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment was adopted by the Heads of Delegations at the meeting of the Joint Heads of Delegation of the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions and NEPAD meeting on 8 November 2007 in Johannesburg, South Africa. In the Declaration, Ministers and Heads of Delegation expressed concern that climate change has far-reaching effects on their economies, societies and the environment, and noted the importance of undertaking strategic and other environmental assessments in order to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts on the environment and on ecosystem services, particularly in light of increased activity in the oil, gas and minerals sectors. Ministers and Heads of Delegation also agreed to promote cooperative and collaborative actions with multi-stakeholder partnerships to integrate marine and coastal environment activities into climate change mitigation and adaptation and programmes at national and regional levels

AMCOST-3

At the third Ordinary Session of AMCOST, held in Nairobi, Kenya from 12–16 November 2007, Ministers agreed to establish a High-Level African Panel on Climate Change. The Panel is expected to mobilize and guide African political, corporate, civil society and scientific groups to develop and implement the AU's Declaration on Climate Change and Development in Africa.

The twelfth Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 25 January to 2 February 2008, adopted decision (EX.CL/Dec.387 (XII)), in which the Council requested the AUC and the NEPAD Secretariat to prepare a common framework, coordinated by the AMCOST and AMCEN Bureaus in order to determine the rationale and modalities for establishing a panel on climate change.

AFRICAN MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The African Ministerial Roundtable on Climate Change was held from 16–17 November 2007 in Jinja, Uganda. The meeting followed a decision at AMCOW-6 to convene an event in the margins of the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to discuss Africa and climate change. The outcomes included the Jinja Declaration on Africa and Climate Change which included specific contributions to the CHOGM Session, as well as contributions to AMCOW, including a the convening of an AMCOW preparatory conference on adaptation to climate change.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION FROM CLIMATE CHANGE”

The International Conference on “International Solidarity for the Protection of Africa and the Mediterranean Region from Climate Change” was held from 18–20 November 2007 in Tunis, Tunisia. Co-organized by the AfDB Group and Government of Tunisia, the conference adopted the Tunis Declaration and Action Plan on International Solidarity against Climate Change in Africa and Mediterranean region. In the Tunis Declaration, participants agreed to promote renewable energies and energy efficiency in all sectors in order to attenuate the negative effects of climate change.

SECOND EUROPE-AFRICA SUMMIT

The second Europe-Africa Summit took place from 7–9 December 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal. The Summit concluded with the adoption of the Lisbon Declaration, and the Africa-EU Strategy and Action Plan.

The Strategy outlines how Africa-EU cooperation on energy and environment will link positively with economic growth, job creation, social stability, and the building of capacities for adaptation to, and mitigation of, negative effects of climate change. The Strategy states that Africa and the EU will work together in the global arena and international fora to effectively respond and adapt to climate change and other global environmental challenges. In this context, the compliance with UN and other international agreements is of key importance and—following the December 2007 Bali Climate Summit—Africa and the EU will work together for an ambitious post-2012 climate framework. The EU will furthermore support Africa’s capacity-building efforts in the sustainable management of natural resources, including on weather observation and early warning systems. The Strategy notes that at the global level, the EU will promote a better geographical distribution of Clean Development Mechanism projects, helping Africa profit from the global carbon market.

The Joint Strategy will be implemented through successive Action Plans, which build on the operational part of this Joint Strategy and cover proposed priority actions for the period 2008–2010. The Africa-EU Partnership on Climate Change, which is part of the Strategy, aims to provide a platform for dialogue, cooperation and exchange on concrete actions to respond to climate change and an effective channel for holding deliberations on a shared Africa-EU vision. The Partnership identifies two priority action areas namely building build a common agenda on climate change policies and cooperation and cooperation to address land degradation and increasing aridity, including the Green Wall for the Sahara initiative.

UN BALI CLIMATE SUMMIT

The “UN Climate Change Conference in Bali” was held from 3–15 December 2007. The conference involved a series of events, including the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-13) to the UNFCCC and third Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP-3). These meetings resulted in the adoption of 15 COP decisions and 13 COP/MOP decisions and the approval of a number of conclusions by the Subsidiary Bodies. These outcomes covered a wide range of topics, including finalizing the Adaptation Fund under the Protocol, a decision on reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries, and outcomes on technology transfer, capacity building, the Kyoto Protocol’s flexible mechanisms, the adverse effects of combating climate change, national communications, financial and administrative matters, and various methodological issues.

The main focus in Bali, however, was on long-term cooperation and the post-2012 period, when the Kyoto Protocol’s first commitment period has expired. Negotiators spent much of their time seeking to agree on a two-year process—or “Bali roadmap”—to finalize a post-2012 regime by December 2009. Negotiations were conducted in a number of groups under the aegis of both the UNFCCC and the Protocol. Under the UNFCCC, the discussions focused on how to follow up on the “Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention.” Under the Protocol, the delegates considered a timetable for determining Annex I commitments for the post-2012 period. Delegates also outlined a preparatory process for the second review of the Protocol under Article 9, and held discussions on the “Russian proposal” on voluntary commitments.

TENTH AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT

The tenth AU Summit took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 25 January to 2 February 2008. The tenth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly adopted

decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.179 (X)), which requests the AUC to engage, in collaboration with member states, in a process to designate an eminent African personality as Special Envoy of the Union in charge of maritime and climate change matters. The twelfth Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council adopted decision (EX.CL/Dec.413 (XII)) in which the Executive Council expresses the seriousness of the phenomenon of climatic changes, especially for African countries which are still striving to acquire the appropriate tools and mechanisms to cope with the repercussions of this phenomenon and its implications on the economic and social levels. The Council welcomed the Tunis Declaration and Action Plan on International Solidarity against Climate Change in Africa and the Mediterranean region and decided that the Declaration be referred to AMCEN and AMCOST for further discussion.

In its decision (EX.CL/Dec.387 (XII)), the Council requests the AUC and the NEPAD Secretariat to prepare a common framework, coordinated by the AMCOST and AMCEN Bureaus to determine the rationale and modalities for establishing a panel on climate change.

ALGIERS DECLARATION

The annual meeting of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Energy, held from 15–17 February 2008 in Algiers, Algeria launched the African Commission on Energy (AFREC). Ministers adopted the Algiers Declaration on the Launching of AFREC, and committed, *inter alia*, to develop the energy sector so as to accelerate the industrial development of the continent while safeguarding environment and health.

A JOINT MEETING OF THE NEAR EAST FORESTRY COMMISSION AND THE AFRICA FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION,

A joint meeting of the Near East Forestry Commission and the Africa Forestry and Wildlife Commission, held in Khartoum, Sudan, from 18–22 February 2008, highlighted the links between forests and climate change. The Commissions recommended that the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) continue and increase their cooperation in forests and climate change issues. They further called upon FAO to organize regional workshops and to share information and exchange experiences on forests and climate change; facilitate regional and sub-regional cooperation; and, while recognizing variability among their programmes, to develop unified approaches and positions.

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Ministerial Conference on Energy and Environment for Sustainable Development took place from 22–23 March 2007, in Nairobi, Kenya. The aim of the conference was to share experiences and lessons learned in Africa and other regions, and to identify effective ways to address key energy and environment issues in the context of sustainable development. The Chair's Summary of the meeting emphasizes that clean energy development has great potential for the private sector, including for new businesses in off-grid and community energy systems in areas such as biofuels and low-cost, off-grid lighting products.

FIRST SESSION OF THE JOINT ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE AU AND ECA MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY

The first session of the Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA's Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development took place from 31 March to 2 April 2008 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Ministerial Conference was preceded by a technical preparatory meeting of the Committee of Experts held from 26–29 March 2008.

The Joint Annual Meeting, marked the ECA's 50th anniversary, convened under the theme Meeting Africa's New Challenges in the 21st Century. Ministers adopted a Ministerial Statement reaffirming their commitment to achieve the MDGs in Africa by 2015. Ministers committed to mobilize resources to improve the quality of overall education, with a specific emphasis on research and development, and science and technology. Ministers further committed to undertake 'vigorous measures' to implement the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme and to "effectively integrate and implement climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies into our national and regional development frameworks." They also endorsed an ECA initiative to establish the African Climate Policy Centre, which will be the policy arm of the Clim-Dev Africa programme.

FIRST AFRICA-INDIA FORUM

The first Africa-India Forum Summit was held from 4–9 April 2008 in New Delhi, India. The Summit adopted the Delhi Declaration containing political commitments of the two sides, as well as an Africa-India Framework for Cooperation.

In the Declaration, Africa and India recognized that climate change is a global challenge, that development is the best form of adaptation and stressed that the foremost priority for developing countries is to ensure accelerated social and economic development. They underscored the importance that adaptation measures be adequately financed through additional resources and not from development funds. Africa and India also expressed their determination to participate effectively in the negotiations under the UNFCCC's Bali Action Plan towards comprehensively addressing climate change in accordance with the provisions and principles of the UNFCCC, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

In the Framework for Cooperation, Africa and India agreed, *inter alia*, to create an enabling environment for investment and development of renewable and non-renewable energy sources; enhance cooperation and capacity-building in best practices and adaptation on the impact of climate change and desertification; exchange experiences on recent advances on alternative energy sources and sustainable land management; and engage in technical cooperation for Clean Development Mechanism projects.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY IN AFRICA

The International Conference on Renewable Energy in Africa was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 16–18 April 2008. The Conference focused on the theme “making renewable energy markets work for Africa: policies, industries and finance for scaling up.” The three-day meeting consisted of plenary and parallel sessions as well as a Ministerial Segment. Recommendations from these sessions were consolidated into a Plan of Action on Scaling Up Renewables in Africa, which was endorsed in the Dakar Declaration on Scaling Up Renewables in Africa. The Declaration was adopted during the Ministerial Segment and notes that Conference participants, *inter alia*:

- agree to an African continental target for governments, with support from development partners, to scale-up annual renewable energy investments to US\$10 billion between 2009–2014;
- adopt a Plan of Action;
- call upon African governments, their international development partners, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector to support implementation of the Plan of Action with adequate resources; and
- recommend that the AU, UNIDO and other relevant development partners establish a ministerial-level policy advocacy group, to be supported by a coordination unit.

CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

This section summarizes the main developments related to chemicals management since AMCEN-11.

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION COP-3

COP-3 of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade met from 9–13 October 2006, in Geneva, Switzerland. COP-3 considered reports on activities within the Convention's mandate and adopted 16 decisions, including the Convention's programme of work and the budget for 2007–2008; implementation of the Convention; chrysotile asbestos; financial mechanisms; noncompliance; and cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions' secretariats.

FIFTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON CHEMICAL SAFETY

The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS-V) was held in Budapest, Hungary, from 25–29 September 2006. Delegates agreed on the need to avoid duplication of functions between IFCS and SAICM, and to achieve efficient institutional arrangements that maximize synergies and cost effectiveness. The Forum added to IFCS' contribution to chemicals management with the Budapest Statement on Mercury, Lead and Cadmium that combines the possibility of strengthening the use of voluntary instruments for the three heavy metals and the opportunity to consider a legally binding instrument for mercury to address the risks it poses to human health and the environment.

SAICM REGIONAL MEETING FOR AFRICA

The SAICM African Regional Meeting was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 11 to 14 September 2006. The meeting finalized key documents such as the Draft African Regional Action Plan, agreed on terms of reference for the Africa Core Group, the African SAICM regional focal point, and the African regional representatives serving on the Quick Start Programme (QSP) Executive Board, and developed a number of regional projects that may be considered for funding under the QSP Trust Fund. The meeting also issued a statement on the recent dumping of toxic substance in Côte d'Ivoire.

BASEL CONVENTION COP-8

COP-8 of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal convened from 27 November to 1 December 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya. COP-8 considered several reports on activ-

ities within the Convention's mandate and adopted a declaration on electronic waste (e-waste) and more than 30 decisions on, *inter alia*: the 2007–2008 programme of work; the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention to 2010, including consideration of the work and operations of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres, as well as the Basel Convention Partnership Programme; synergies and cooperation in the environmental field; e-waste and end-of-life equipment; ship dismantling; legal matters; technical matters; financial issues and the budget; amendments to the general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management (ESM) of persistent organic pollutants wastes; the guidelines for ESM of wastes; technical guidelines for ESM of a variety of chemicals; the 2007–2008 work programme of the Convention's Open-Ended Working Group; and the election of new members of the Compliance Committee and its work programme.

THIRD MEETING OF THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION'S CHEMICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

The third meeting of the Rotterdam Convention's Chemical Review Committee (CRC-3) was held from 20–23 March 2007, in Rome, Italy. The Committee took steps to include two pesticides—endosulfan and tributyl tin compounds—in the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure under the Convention. Parties to the Convention will decide when they meet in Rome in 2008 for their biannual COP whether to accept the Chemical Review Committee's guidance.

FIRST MEETING OF THE *AD HOC* JOINT WORKING GROUP

The *Ad Hoc* Joint Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation and Coordination between the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions (AHJWG) held its first meeting in Helsinki, Finland, from 26–28 March 2007. The Working Group was tasked with developing recommendations on ways to enhance cooperation and coordination at the administrative and programmatic levels, to be presented to the Conferences of the Parties of the three conventions. The Working Group developed ten principles to guide its work, including: promoting the implementation and enforcement of the conventions; respecting the legal autonomy of each convention; ensuring that form follows function; responding to the specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition; and promoting programmatic coordination and cooperation. National needs to be addressed in promoting cooperation, including institutional, public awareness and information exchange, as well as the mobilization of financial resources, were also recognized. The Working Group further identified areas of cooperation and coordination that could be

promoted among the three secretariats in new areas such as coordinated use of regional offices and shared legal and financial arrangements, and in formal management and oversight.

STOCKHOLM COP-3

The third session of the COP (COP-3) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) convened from 30 April to 4 May 2007, in Dakar, Senegal. Participants considered several reports on activities within the Convention's mandate and adopted 22 decisions on, *inter alia*: a revised process for the review of entries in the register of specific exemptions; DDT; measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes; guidelines on the standardized toolkit for identification and quantification of releases; guidelines on best available techniques (BAT) and draft guidance on best environmental practices (BEP); regional centers; listing chemicals in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention; reporting; effectiveness evaluation; national implementation plans; budget; financial resources; technical assistance; synergies; and non-compliance.

SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

The Seventh Ordinary Session of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) took place from 7–18 May 2007 in Midrand, South Africa. The Parliament adopted the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Rural, Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment. In its report, the Committee presented its recommendations to authorities from Cote d'Ivoire and the PAP on a fact-finding mission. The Committee further recommended that the health of victims affected by the dumping of toxic waste in Abidjan, must be closely monitored, at least over the next ten years with a view to detecting, if necessary, effects which may come up in the long run. It also called on authorities to keep the dumping sites under control so as to detect the medium- and long-term effects on contaminated soil, subterranean and surface waters. The Committee further recommended that Cote d'Ivoire take appropriate measures to ratify and apply the Basel and Bamako Conventions on the transboundary movement of toxic waste, and called upon all the AU member states that have not yet ratified these conventions to do so as a matter of urgency. The Committee further recommended to the Heads of State and Government the creation of an African Observatory to keep watch over and exchange information on toxic waste traffic.

STOCKHOLM POPRC 3

The third meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC-3) of the Stockholm Convention took place from 19–23 November

2007, in Geneva, Switzerland. POPRC-3 approved the risk management evaluation for five chemicals, and recommended that COP-4 consider listing the following under Annex A (elimination) of the Convention: lindane; chlordecone; hexabromobiphenyl (HBB); and pentabromodiphenyl ether (pentaBDE). It also recommended that COP-4 consider listing, under Annex A or Annex B (restriction), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), its salts, and PFOS fluoride (PFOSF). Risk profiles were approved for four chemicals, and POPRC-3 adopted a draft work programme to prepare draft risk management evaluations for those chemicals, namely on: commercial octabromodiphenyl ether, pentachlorobenzene, and alpha and beta hexachlorocyclohexane. The decision on the risk profile for short-chained chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs) was deferred until POPRC 4, scheduled to convene in October 2008.

SECOND MEETING OF THE *AD HOC* JOINT WORKING GROUP

The second meeting of the AHJWG on Enhanced Cooperation and Coordination between the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions convened from 10–13 December 2007 in Vienna, Austria. Delegates agreed that intercessional work prior to the AHJWG's third meeting would focus on developing draft recommendations on, *inter alia*: administrative issues including back-to-back meetings, resource mobilization, financial management and audit functions; information and public awareness; technical substantive issues, including national reporting and potential coordination on compliance; and organizational issues, including coordination at the national level, programmatic cooperation in the field and coordinated use of offices and regional centres.

WORKING GROUP ON THE FUTURE OF IFCS

The Working Group on the Future of IFCS met in Bangkok, Thailand, from 28–29 February 2008. The working group reviewed options for the future of the IFCS, including: modifying the IFCS as a distinct institutional arrangement that avoids duplication with similar bodies, enhances synergies and saves costs; integrating the IFCS into the International Committee on Chemicals Management (ICCM) by designating part of each ICCM meeting as a session of the forum; or integrating the IFCS into ICCM by making IFCS a subsidiary body of ICCM.

THIRD MEETING OF THE *AD HOC* JOINT WORKING GROUP

The third Meeting of the AHJWG on Enhanced Cooperation and Coordination between the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions convened from 25–28 March 2008, in Rome, Italy. The AHJWG was able to reach agreement on

all recommendations laid out in the co-chair's paper UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.3/2. The key outcome of the meeting was the proposal to convene a joint extraordinary conference of the parties (Ex-COP) of the three Conventions.

MERCURY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

UNEP Chemicals convened a meeting from 1–3 April 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland, to finalize the overarching framework for the Global Mercury Partnership. The meeting was attended by over 70 participants from more than 30 countries, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and industry groups. The outcome of the meeting was an agreed framework for the Global Mercury Partnership. The framework outlines the goal, organizational arrangements (including a Partnership Advisory Group), and operational guidelines for the individual partnership areas.

DESERTIFICATION, FORESTS AND LAND

This section summarizes the main developments related to desertification, forests and land since AMCEN-11.

ITTC-40

At the 40th session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC), which took place in Mérida, Mexico, from 29 May to 2 June 2006, the Council allocated US\$3.9 million to new projects, including initiatives on shoot-borers in timber plantations, management of mangrove and flood forests, and funding for an African regional parliamentary conference on the sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems. International Tropical Timber Organization's (ITTO) Annual Market Discussion addressed tropical timber procurement policies in consumer countries, and a number of side-events were convened on challenges facing community forestry enterprises.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF CENTRAL AFRICAN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

The First International Conference of Parliamentarians on the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems convened in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 24–27 October 2006. The conference focused on good forest governance and poverty alleviation, with the objective of further defining the role of the Central African Forest Commission and subregional parliaments regarding sustainable forest management. Participants adopted the Yaoundé

Message, which encourages the Network of Parliamentarians for the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems (REPAR) and the Parliament of Cameroon to organize subregional meetings on good governance of forest resources, as well as an action plan that highlights three priority actions: institutional development of REPAR, enhancement of REPAR's involvement in forest sector monitoring, and combating transboundary forest crime.

ITTC-41

The forty-first session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC-41) took place from 6–11 November 2006, in Yokohama, Japan. Delegates discussed issues concerning operational, project and policy work for 2006–2007, including: the ITTO Biennial Work Programme for 2006–2007; measures to improve and strengthen the ITTO project cycle; and ITTO Objective 2000. Delegates to ITTC-41 approved 13 new projects and seven pre-projects, pledging US\$5.4 million in project financing. Additional funding from the European Commission was allocated to support capacity building in ITTO member states for the implementation of CITES listings of timber species.

JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “DESERTIFICATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL POLICY IMPERATIVE”

A Joint International Conference on “Desertification and the International Policy Imperative,” organized under the framework of the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD), built on outcomes from other IYDD events to consider policies needed for successful dryland management, was held from 17–19 December 2006 in Algiers, Algeria. High-level representatives endorsed a proposal initiated by Algeria and Arab requesting that 2010–2020 be named as a decade of deserts and desertification at the next session of the UN General Assembly.

EIGHTH AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT

The eighth AU Summit took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22–30 January 2007.

The tenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council adopted a decision on the Implementation of the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative (Assembly/AU/Dec.137 (VIII)). In the decision, the Assembly: endorses the Initiative; calls upon the Commission to fast track implementation of the Initiative through developing a Master Plan, in collaboration with concerned member states, RECs, the private sector, civil society and NGOs; calls upon member states and

RECs to put in place the necessary institutional arrangements at national, sub-regional and regional levels to guide the programme implementation process; mandates the Commission to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Initiative by member states and RECs; and calls upon development partners to support affected member states, the RECs and the Commission to ensure effective implementation of the Initiative.

UNCCD CRIC-5

The fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC-5) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 12–21 March 2007, to review implementation of the Convention in affected country parties in regions other than Africa. The Committee discussed national reports and the results of regional meetings in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Northern Mediterranean and Central and Eastern Europe. The meeting also addressed how to improve information communication and national reporting, reviewed the 2006 IYDD, and conducted a Global Interactive Dialogue with stakeholders, among other activities.

UNFF-7

The seventh session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF-7), which convened from 16–27 April 2007, at UN headquarters in New York, US, negotiated a non-legally binding instrument (NLBI) for sustainable forest management for all types of forests and a Multi-Year Programme of Work for the period 2007–2015. Delegates also adopted the draft resolution to which the NLBI will be annexed, for consideration by the UN Economic and Social Council.

SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

The Seventh Ordinary Session of the PAP took place from 7–18 May 2007 in Midrand, South Africa. The Parliament adopted the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Rural, Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment.

The Committee recommended that on the national level, an appropriate budgetary item be included in national budgets for actions to fight against desertification and poverty as well as to strengthen national organs and coordinate action programmes. The Committee urged African countries to better involve themselves in research and monitoring, and improve communication between scientists and political decision makers so as to better promote the results of scientific research. At the regional level, the Committee recommended creating synergies between African scientific research institutions related to protecting

the environment in general, and combating desertification in particular, as well as implementation of the Sirte Declaration on the creation of centers of excellence on the environment. The Committee further called for the strengthening of regional and continental cooperation through the establishment of an African Environment Protection Observatory. At the global level, the Committee recommended improved cooperation in the framework of implementing the UNCCD by granting sufficient and foreseeable financial resources under the GEF. It also called for increased investments to: assist rural populations in the fight against desertification and poverty; strengthen international cooperation in scientific research and technology transfer; increase the use of clean and renewable energy; and support the use of space tools to help in making decisions to fight against desertification and climate change.

UNCCD COP-8

UNCCD COP-8 convened in Madrid, Spain, from 3–14 September 2007. In addition to the work of the COP, parties also attended the sixth session of the CRIC from 4–14 September, and the eighth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST-8) from 4–7 September. Additional events included a special segment on 12–13 September, which featured a dialogue among high-level officials on the theme “Desertification and adaptation to climate change.”

The COP approved twenty-nine decisions. These included five decisions related to the CRIC’s agenda and eight decisions related to the CST’s agenda. A decision on the ten-year strategic plan attracted considerable attention from COP-8 delegates, because many saw it as an opportunity to refocus the Convention’s institutions with the goal of furthering implementation. The CRIC decision to ask the UNCCD Secretariat, in consultation with the Convention’s Global Mechanism, to revise the format of national reports and the CST decision to convene future sessions in a conference-style format contributed additional efforts to reform the UNCCD’s implementation mechanisms in the coming decade.

ITTC-43

The forty-third session of the ITTC (ITTC-43) took place from 5–10 November 2007, in Yokohama, Japan. The Council approved 15 projects and three pre-projects, and pledged US\$ 5.6 million in project financing. The Council also approved the ITTO Biennial Work Programme for 2008–2009, with a total budget of US\$ 9.2 million.

UNCCD ESCOP

UNCCD COP-8 agreed to hold an Extraordinary Session of the COP (ESCOP) to complete consideration of the programme and budget for the biennium 2008–2009. The ESCOP convened at UN headquarters in New York, US, on 26 November 2007. Delegates undertook extensive consultations and adopted a decision that increases the budget by 4% (euro value) for the biennium 2008–2009, with 2.8% to be assessed from all parties and 1.2% to be contributed a voluntary contribution.

SECOND EUROPE-AFRICA SUMMIT

The second Europe-Africa Summit took place from 7–9 December 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal. The Summit concluded with the adoption of the adoption of the Lisbon Declaration, and the Africa-EU Strategy and Action Plan. The Joint Strategy will be implemented through successive action plans, which build on the operational part of the Joint Strategy and cover proposed priority actions for the period 2008–2010. The Africa-EU Partnership on Climate Change, part of the Strategy, identified, as one of two priority action areas, cooperation to address land degradation and increasing aridity, including the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative. The objective of this priority action is to combat desertification and improve the livelihoods of the inhabitants of the countries of the Sahara and Sahel zones of Africa. Its expected outcomes are to lead to progress towards reversal of desert encroachment and soil degradation and the improvement of micro-climatic conditions and the reduction of land degradation.

BEIJING CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION

The Beijing International Conference on Combating Desertification, which was co-organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the State Forestry Administration of the People's Republic of China (SFA), convened from 22–24 January 2008 in Beijing, China. The Conference was convened as an intersessional event to develop and contribute inputs to CSD-16.

SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

The sixteenth session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) and a joint meeting with the eighteenth session of the Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC) took place in Khartoum, Sudan, from 18–21 February 2008. The session provided a forum for the exchange of information and debate on forests and wildlife management issues in Africa, discussing current trends and policy issues relevant to forestry and wildlife in the region, and advising FAO and member countries on policy formulation and priorities for forestry and wildlife programmes.

EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON LAND FOR SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION IN AFRICA

The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Land for Sustainable Urbanization in Africa took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 21–22 February 2008. Sponsored by the Global Land Tool Network, the EGM considered presentations by experts and drafted key messages for transmission to CSD-16. Participants identified emerging issues requiring attention, emphasized the need for innovation in Africa's land management, called for recognition of the dynamic nature of land tenure systems in Africa, proposed off-farm activities to increase Africa's land productivity in order to alleviate poverty and reduce urban problems, and called for improvement in information management in order to streamline land administration and attain better governance.

FOREST GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALIZATION IN AFRICA WORKSHOP

A country-led initiative in support of the UNFF on Forest Governance and Decentralization convened from 8–11 April 2008, in Durban, South Africa. Proposed recommendations and lessons that emerged included the necessity of strengthening institutional adaptive capacities and mechanisms for negotiation among interest groups, conflict resolution, and collaboration to achieve common goals. Participants proposed recommendations to improve equity in forest revenue sharing and to enhance reinvestment in the forest sector and local social services for forest communities. Participants also recognized the need for new analytical tools with which to understand and respond to the market and global trends in Africa for the benefit of local people and forests.

IISD'S AFRICAN REGIONAL COVERAGE PROJECT

In 2005, IISD Reporting Services approached the South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) with a proposal to expand our conference reporting services to the regional level. The African Regional Coverage (ARC) project is the result of the identified need to give African meetings and activities a higher exposure to the international community, reversing the information flow and giving African policymakers a voice in their own priority setting.

Building on the success of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* in covering international environment and sustainable development meetings, this project expects to replicate this success at the regional level in order to make the outcome of Africa's ministerial meetings available to the world in real-time. The project provides reporting services for African ministerial meetings on sustainable development and environment as well as those on water, energy, transport, human settlements and technology. Through the distribution of targeted policy briefs on upcoming intergovernmental meetings, IISD RS will also be building a network of environment and sustainable development policy experts working in African capitals.

AFRICAN REGIONAL COVERAGE BULLETIN

For the period 2008–2009 the African Regional Coverage project will provide daily and/or summary issues from at least 22 intergovernmental meetings related to environment and sustainable development in Africa.

AFRICA BRIEFING NOTES/PUBLICATIONS

The ARC Project will produce a series of policy briefs for African negotiators/senior officials involved in multilateral negotiations. The policy briefs aim to contextualize various elements of the multilateral landscape and assist in African negotiators to address upcoming negotiations. For the period 2008–2009, the ARC Project will prepare and distribute at least 10 Policy Briefs to African stakeholders.

IISD AFRICA WEBSITE

IISD maintains the Linkages Africa World Wide Web site and upload copies of meetings reports, digital photos, audio interviews and information gathered by the African Regional Coverage team at meetings and otherwise.

LINKAGES AFRICA

Linkages Africa is an e-mail distributed web page that notes updates and recent changes to the Linkages Web site. This publication has information on recent

and upcoming African intergovernmental meetings on the sustainable development calendar, as well as breaking news stories, links to copies of our own reports and the comings and goings in the environment and sustainable development community.

AFRICA SD ELECTRONIC MAILING LIST

Using the powerful Lyris list-processing software, IISD provides the moderation and electronic infrastructure for several peer-to-peer announcement lists on sustainable development issues. These lists allow thousands of subscribing members of these virtual communities to share information on upcoming meetings, recent publications, updates to members' websites, availability of documentation for negotiations and news of professional vacancies.



The twelfth Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) convenes from 7-12 June 2008 in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the theme “Enhancing the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).” AMCEN-12 provides a forum for African environment ministers to address the emerging environmental challenges in Africa, particularly those related to climate change and adaptation, and international environmental governance. This Institutional History report place AMCEN-12 in the broader context of decision making for environment and development in Africa. It focuses on how Africa’s intergovernmental bodies and Africa’s development partners are supporting sustainable development in Africa. The report provides a historical overview of AMCEN, including its many milestone decisions and programmes, as well as an overview of NEPAD. The report also provides an overview of key meetings, decisions and declarations on environment and development as they relate to the key AMCEN priorities of: Africa’s development needs; biodiversity and wildlife management; climate change; chemicals management; and desertification, food security and land.