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## **Progress on the development of the regional flagship programmes for the implementation of Rio+20 outcomes\***

### **I. Draft Concept note of the Regional Flagship Programme Framework for the implementation of Rio+20 Outcomes in Africa**

#### **A. Context**

1. The African Consensus Statement, adopted by the Regional Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and subsequently approved as Africa's Common Position for Rio+20 by the eighteenth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, noted with a strong sense of optimism, the modest gains that the region had achieved in environmental sustainability and called for enhanced commitments to advance action in areas critical to Africa's sustainable development to further consolidate progress made. It noted that Africa's progress towards sustainable development is being severely compromised by new and emerging challenges, including the impact of climate change but it also recognized that some of these new and emerging challenges also provide opportunities such as spurring the transition to a green economy as a means of poverty reduction and social inclusion, taking into account the human resource potential and the vast and largely untapped natural resources that are being discovered in many African countries.
2. The outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 underlined the political commitment for the promotion of sustainable development and called upon national Governments and development partners to further strengthen and consolidate their efforts to effectively integrate the economic, environmental and social dimensions in their development policies and strategies. It further highlighted some of the key measures that need to be taken at the national, regional and global levels to address key economic, environmental and social challenges. While the specific actions that need to be taken on the key issues covered under the outcome document may differ from country to country, there are some common measures that could provide the necessary support for actions that could be taken by all countries.
3. The Nineteenth Session of the African Union Summit held in July 2012 called upon the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to conduct a substantive analysis of the outcomes of Rio+20 and develop a roadmap for the effective implementation of the outcomes in Africa. In response to this, the 14th Session of AMCEN, held from 10-14 September 2012 in Tanzania, decided to develop and implement Regional Flagship Programmes (RFPs) as a means to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of Rio +20 outcome. In this context, the 14<sup>th</sup> session of AMCEN identified ten areas that need to be considered for the development of the flagship programmes.
4. Subsequent working sessions convened by the African Union Commission and AMCEN Bureau defined the areas of poverty eradication and sustainable livelihood as an overall objective that has to guide all flagship programmes while capacity building, technology transfer and skills

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\* The present document has not been formally edited.

development is to be addressed as a cross cutting theme across the flagship programmes. The working sessions also further consolidated the eight remaining priority areas into the following five Regional Flagship Programmes that will enable African countries to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote sustainable development:

- (a) African Green Economy Partnership (AGEP);
- (b) Sustainable Land Management, Desertification, Biodiversity and Ecosystems-based Adaptation to Climate Change (LDBE);
- (c) Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Africa (PSCP-Africa);
- (d) African Programme on Sustainable Energy Development (APSED);
- (f) Africa Integrated Environmental Assessment for Sustainable Development (AIEASD).

5. Five working groups coordinated by self-committed partner agencies worked on the development of the Draft Concept notes for the above five Flagship Programmes and these were presented and reviewed by an AMCEN Expert Meeting that was convened from 10-12 April 2013 in Dar es Salam, Tanzania.

6. The Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (Africa-RIM) for the Twentieth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-20), held in November 2012 adopted its Outcome Document, which constitutes Africa's collective input to CSD-20 and other post-Rio+20 follow-up processes. The Outcome Document called for an Action Plan on the Rio+20 outcomes on the basis of the Outcome Document, to be prepared and implemented jointly by AUC, ECA and AfDB in collaboration with all stakeholders and other partners at regional, sub-regional, national and local levels. The Sixth Joint Meeting of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the Economic Commission for Africa underlined that the Regional action plan should include strategies for the integration of the Rio+20 outcomes into national development policies, strategies and plans, taking into account the need for balancing economic, social and environmental development imperatives. The Regional Flagship Programmes for the implementation of Rio+20 will constitute part of the action plan at the Regional level.

7. This concept note is prepared building upon the outcomes of the above process and the inputs received during the AMCEN Expert Meeting to serve as an overall Regional Framework for the further development and implementation of the regional flagship programmes.

## **B. Objectives**

8. The overall objective of the Regional Flagship Programme Framework is to facilitate the effective implementation of Rio+20 outcome by providing a coherent framework that respond to the need and priorities of African countries and provide a platform for a more coordinated engagement and support of development partners to the region. The specific objectives are to:

- (a) Support the development and implementation of strategic regional programmes that contribute to the broader objective of sustainable development and poverty eradication in Africa;
- (b) Facilitate the development of the capacity of African countries to identify and address the specific capacity building needs of the region;
- (c) Provide a coherent regional framework that promotes synergies and coordination between different regional programmes that are addressing different dimensions of sustainable development;
- (d) Serve as a regional platform for further strengthening Africa's partnership on mainstreaming environmental sustainability in the Region's development agenda in accordance with the NEPAD environmental action plan.

## **C. Expected Outcomes**

9. The following are the key expected outcomes from the effective implementation of the Regional Flagship Programmes through a coherent Framework:

- (a) Domestication and integration of strategies, plans and strategies at regional, sub-regional and national level, to implement Rio+20 priorities identified by AMCEN.
- (b) Better alignment of support provided by partners with the strategic priorities and needs of countries in the region within the context of the Rio+20 Outcome.

- (c) Improved quality of support provided to African countries through better coordination of programme activities and efficient use of resources between development partners.
- (d) Consolidated capacity building, technology transfer and skills development for African countries to implement Rio+20 outcomes on Green Economy, contributing to poverty eradication and sustainable development.
- (e) Improved management of natural resources and ecosystems services that could serve as the ecological foundation for the Region's sustainable development.
- (f) Enhanced implementation of the African 10 Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production as part of the Global 10 Year Framework of Programmes.
- (g) Continued progress towards achieving sustainable energy mix that includes increased proportion of renewable energy, expanding energy access and increased energy efficiency as part of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Initiative.
- (h) Enhanced capacity of African countries to effectively use Integrated Environmental Assessment tools in their national development planning processes.

#### **D. Key Actions**

10. The following are identified as the key actions that need to be undertaken by AMCEN Member countries, with the support of regional and sub-regional institutions, UN agencies, development partners and CSOs under the Regional Flagship Programme Framework in support of the activities that are to be implemented under each of the regional Flagship Programmes:

- (a) Organize a functional coordination and support structure that facilitates the development and implementation of the Regional Flagship Programmes building upon existing structures and coordination mechanisms.
- (b) Conduct a detailed assessment on existing programmes and initiatives under the five Regional Flagship Programmes and identify current needs and gaps, including capacity gaps, which need to be addressed at the regional and sub-regional level.
- (c) Develop sub-regional programmes that encompass the Regional Flagship Programmes with a focus on capacity building and technology support that facilitate the coherent implementation of the Regional Flagship Programmes through active involvement of Regional Economic Communities.
- (d) Promote the substantive link between the Regional Flagship Programme Framework and existing strategic partnership programmes with development partners.
- (e) Establish a mechanism for mobilizing the required resource both from within and outside the region for the implementation of the framework programme.
- (f) Monitor the progress on implementation and organize regional review meetings that would propose ways for improving its implementation, bearing in mind the developments on the institutional framework for sustainable development as a follow up to Rio+20, in particular the High Level Political Forum and its regional chapter.

#### **E. Modality of Implementation**

11. The following constitute the proposed key modality of implementation proposed for the Regional Flagship Programme Framework:

- (a) **Policy Guidance:** The African Union Commission through the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment shall provide the overall policy guidance for the development and implementation of the Regional Flagship Programme Framework;
- (b) **Framework Coordination:** a Regional Steering Committee co-chaired by the African Union Commission and AMCEN, with two representatives from each of the Programme Coordination Committee of the Regional Flagship programmes shall be responsible for the overall coordination of the Regional Framework Programme;
- (c) **Programme Coordination:** a Programme Coordination Committee co-chaired by a representative of an African Country (AMCEN Bureau) and a development agency shall be responsible for the development and implementation of the individual flagship programmes;
- (d) **Secretariat:** The Bureau of AMCEN in consultation with the African Union Commission shall designate an existing agency who could serve as the Secretariat for the overall coordination of the Regional Flagship Programme Framework. Partner agencies shall volunteer to

serve as secretariat for the coordination of the implementation of the five Regional flagship programmes;

(e) Technical Committees: time-bounded technical committees could be formed at the framework or programme level as required.

## F. Resource mobilization

12. One of the core functions of the Regional Flagship Programme Framework will be facilitating effective and efficient utilization of existing resources through the promotion of synergies and cooperation between complementary initiatives and partner institutions. In addition to this, the following modality will be used to facilitate targeted resource mobilization for the implementation of the Regional Framework Programme.

(a) Framework resource mobilization: this is the core resource that is required for the overall coordination of the regional framework programme that supports the development and implementation of the Regional Flagship Programmes. The Bureau of AMCEN shall take the lead on mobilization. This will include:

- (i) Funding through the key strategic partnership programmes with Africa;
- (ii) Contributions from African countries to be made through AMCEN Trust Fund; and
- (iii) Contribution and in kind support to be provided by UN Agencies and other partner organizations.

(b) Programme Resource mobilization: This constitutes the bulk of the Resource that will be required to implement the five Regional Flagship Programmes. The agencies that are taking the lead responsibility for the coordination of the respective Regional Flagship Programmes and the partner agencies involved shall be responsible for the mobilization of this resource. This will be achieved through:

- (i) Programme synergy: pooling of resources that are to be allocated by the partner agencies to the respective programme areas through provision of more coordinated support to African countries.
- (ii) Joint Programming: development of Joint regional programmes that could be implemented with the involvement of the relevant agencies through a joint resource mobilization efforts.

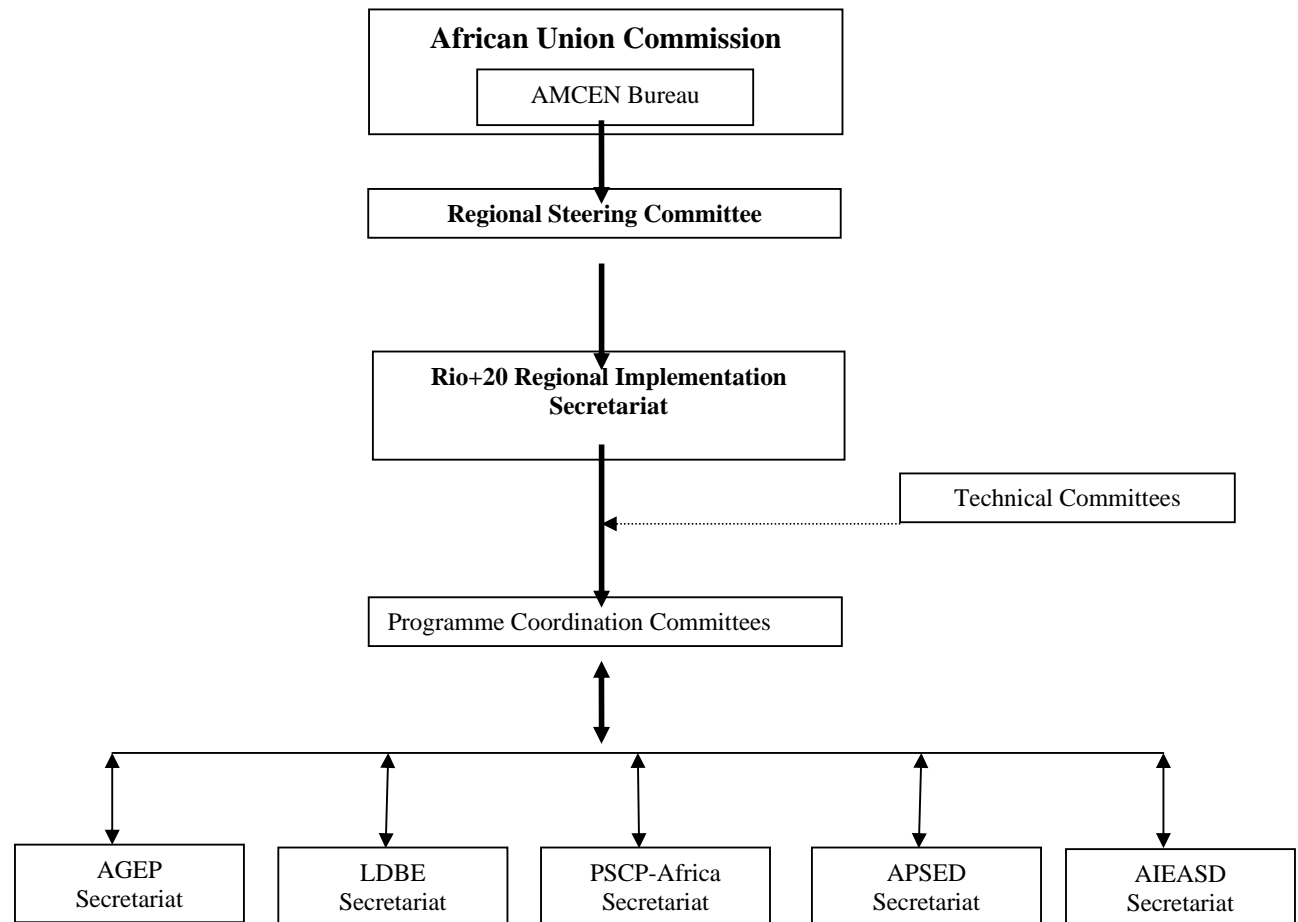
## G. Indicative core budget

13. The following is an indicative budget required for the first two years of coordinating the Regional Framework Programme and undertaking the core activities that are outlined under the section on key actions.

	<b>Budget item</b>	<b>USD</b>
1.	Secretariat for the Framework Programme	300,000
2.	Regional Assessment	250,000
3.	Sub-regional Programme development (5 X 100,000)	500,000
4.	Regional capacity building	500,000
5.	Monitoring and Regional Review meeting	250,000
	Total	2,300,000

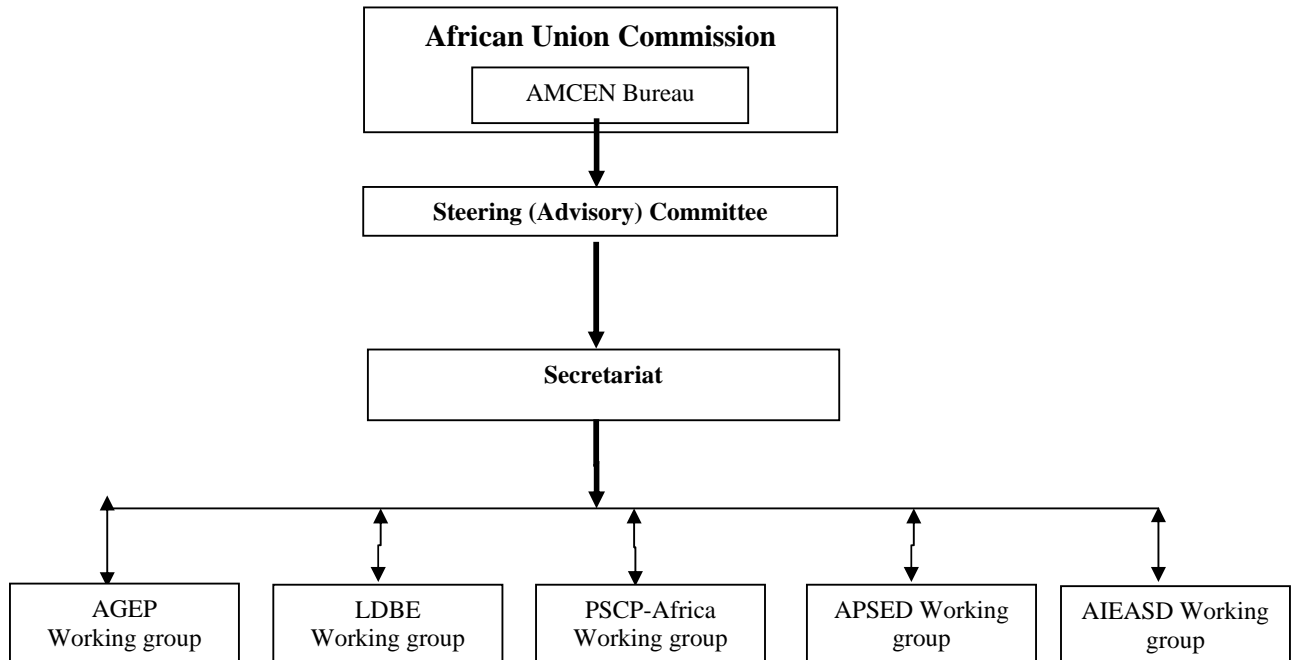
**Coordination Structure for Regional Implementation of Rio+20** (the following two options are proposed to be considered by the AMCEN Special Session)

**Option one:**



**Option2:**

**Coordination Structure for Regional Implementation of Rio+20**



## Annex I

### **Draft concept notes of the Regional Flagship Programmes for the implementation of the Rio+20 Outcomes in Africa as revised by the AMCEN Expert Meeting 10-12 April 2013, Dar es Salam, Tanzania**

#### **I. Revised Draft Concept Note on African Green Economy<sup>1</sup> Partnership (AGEP)**

##### **A. Context**

1. The outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Rio de Janeiro, June 2012 (Rio+20) underlined the political commitment for the promotion of sustainable development and called upon national Governments and development partners to further strengthen and consolidate their efforts to effectively integrate the economic, environmental and social dimensions in their development policies and strategies. It further highlighted some of the key measures that need to be taken at the national, regional and global levels to address key economic, environmental and social challenges. While the specific actions that need to be taken on the key issues covered under the outcome document may differ from country to country, there are some common measures that could provide the necessary support for actions that could be taken by all countries.

2. The Nineteenth Session of the African Union Summit held in July 2012 called upon the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to conduct a substantive analysis of the outcomes of Rio+20 and develop a roadmap for the effective implementation of the outcomes in Africa. In response to this, the 14th Session of AMCEN, held from 10-14 September 2012 in Tanzania, decided to develop and implement Regional Flagship Programmes (RFPs) as a means to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The African Green Economy Partnership (AGEP) is proposed to be one of the Regional flagship programmes to be developed under this regional initiative. AGEP is expected to facilitate synergy and cooperation between national and regional actors and organizations that provide support to African countries.

##### **B. Background**

3. The African Consensus Statement, adopted by the Regional Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and subsequently approved as Africa's Common Position for Rio+20 by the eighteenth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, recognized that 'the transition to a green economy could offer new opportunities for advancing the achievement of Africa's sustainable development objectives through economic growth, employment creation, and the reduction of poverty and inequalities, in accordance with the principles and recommendations of the 1992 Rio Summit and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development' (Source: Paragraph 22 of African Consensus Statement).

4. The Rio+20 Outcome Document underlined that 'Green Economy is one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication and that it could provide options for policymaking but should not be a rigid set of rules' (Source: Paragraph 56 of Rio+20 Outcome Document). Rio+20 called upon UN entities and other partners to "support developing countries upon request to achieve sustainable development including through, inter alia, green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in particular the least developed countries" (Para. 68).

5. The Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (Africa-RIM) for the Twentieth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-20) adopted its Outcome Document and requested ECA, AUC, AfDB, UNEP, UNDP and other regional partners to support Africa's sustainable development efforts, "including through: (i) assessing the challenges and opportunities of pursuing inclusive green growth for their development agenda; (ii) supporting the development of inclusive green growth policies and strategies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; (iii) establishing mechanisms for sharing toolboxes and best practices in applying policies on green

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<sup>1</sup> In the context of this flagship programme, the term Green Economy stands for an inclusive and green growth that is low carbon, climate resilient, resource efficient and equitable and contributes to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

economy/green growth, good examples of policies promoting inclusive green growth; and (iv) developing and applying methodologies for assessing policies on inclusive green growth.” (Paragraph 41).

6. A number of African countries have already started taking concrete strategic measures that place Green Economy at the center of their national development strategy. As a result, increasing number of African countries are taking the lead initiative for utilizing these opportunities by developing national Green Economy and Green Growth strategies. Notable examples include Green Growth and Climate Resilient: National Strategy for Climate Change and Low Carbon Development of Rwanda, Climate Resilient and Green Economy strategy of Ethiopia, the Green Economy Roadmap of Mozambique and New Growth Path of South Africa. African countries need to further consolidate and strengthen this effort at the national/regional level in order to ensure the development of their economies on a sustainable basis.

7. A number of development partners are also supporting different countries in developing national Green Economy Strategies and action plans. The following are some of the key support programmes that can be used as the building blocks of the African Green Economy Partnership (AGEP);

(a) UNEP, through its Green Economy Advisory Services, is working with government and national institutions on green economy assessments to examine the opportunities and challenges to the transition to green economy, looking in particular at the policy options available to shift current investment patterns and catalyze new flows into key sectors for increased income and employment. Such assessments are underway in 7 countries in Africa while it is being initiated in many other African countries;

(b) UNEP, UNDP and UN DESA are implementing a joint programme, “Supporting a Green Economy Transition in Developing Countries and LDCs: Building towards Rio+20 and Beyond,” funded by the Government of the Netherlands, enabling enhanced support to Kenya, Rwanda, and Ghana, with three new countries to be selected for 2013/14 activities;

(c) ILO through its Green Jobs Program has been providing technical assistance and policy support to African countries on employment-led development strategies which have as a prime objective of the creation of green and decent jobs. Such strategies are based on initial national assessments of Green Jobs opportunities at sector and economy-wide levels;

(d) The AfDB has established a cross-departmental Green Growth team, which carries out activities structured along three works-streams: (i) strategic and conceptual framing of Green Growth, (ii) capacity development, and (iii) pilot country activities, which includes support to Sierra Leone, Mozambique and Kenya in in mainstreaming green growth in development agendas in cooperation with other international partners.

(e) The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is providing considerable support to several African countries in east, central and southern Africa in developing and implementing Green Economy strategies;

(f) The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) specifically responds to Rio+20’s call to the UN system to support countries interested in pursuing green economy policies. It will deploy the expertise of four UN agencies – ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, and UNITAR – to progressively assist globally a total of 30 countries – including a proportionate number of African countries - in their efforts to embark on green economy pathways. At a global level, the partnership seeks to: i) enable countries to formulate and adopt Green economy policies, ii) strengthen the capacity of national partners to finance and implement inclusive green economy initiatives, iii) develop and provide global access to tools and training programmes on green economy and iv) create and share knowledge on green economy to support its application at the country level;

(g) The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), under its new strategic direction, has identified Green Economy as one of the primary focus areas under its Special Initiatives Division. While intervention areas are still being discussed, the objectives to be identified will be pursued within the framework of the Rio+20 outcomes, informed by Africa’s development priorities, and realized through, among others: enhanced policy research; knowledge generation and sharing; capacity building and advisory services; fostering collaboration; and building and strengthening partnerships. As an integral part of the Fifth Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA) process, ECA has commissioned five country case studies (Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco, South Africa and Uganda) on the opportunities and challenges in fostering inclusive green growth in selected sectors of the economy.



(h) AGEP shall build upon these and other existing initiatives and processes and provide a common platform for providing a more consolidated and coherent support to the countries in the region.

### **C. Objective**

8. The main objective of AGEP is to facilitate the provision of a coordinated and consolidated capacity building and technology support to African countries to implement Rio+20 outcomes on Green Economy that contributes to poverty eradication and sustainable development. The specific objectives are to:

(a) Enhance understanding and appreciation of the implications of inclusive green economy approaches for Africa's development;

(b) Build the capacities of African countries to develop and implement policies and action plans that facilitate the effective integration and mainstreaming of Green Economy and green growth principles and approaches;

(c) Provide a coordinated technical back-up support to African countries that demonstrate the interest to make the transition to low carbon, climate resilient, resource efficient and inclusive development;

(d) Support the assessment of natural capital at the national and local levels and assist countries in developing strategies for the sustainable management of such capital for economic development, poverty alleviation and food, water and energy security;

(e) Support the practical implementation of Green Economy at the sub-national level through the development of models that could be replicated at the national level; and

(f) Provide a knowledge platform for the exchange of key lessons and best practices from within and outside the Region and promote their replication, up scaling and out scaling across the region through North-South and South-South Cooperation.

9. The support to be provided under AGEP shall contribute to the broader objectives of poverty reduction and sustainable livelihood, achievement of MDGs and the development and implementation of post-2015 sustainable development goals.

### **D. Expected outcomes**

10. The following are the key expected outcomes from the activities to be carried out under AGEP.

(a) Common understanding and harmonization of approach on inclusive Green Economy developed by key development partners laying the basis for provisions of a more coordinated and coherent support to African Countries;

(b) A regional strategy framework that could serve as a guiding template for adapting to specific country conditions and needs is put in place;

(c) Capacities of governments' ministries, including Ministries of Environment, Finance and Planning, and relevant institutions are strengthened for development and implementation of inclusive Green Economy Roadmaps, Strategies and Action Plans;

(d) Inclusive Green Economy principles and approaches effectively integrated in national development plans and strategies of African Countries;

(e) Key national stakeholders including research institutions in African countries will have increased capacity to deliver green economy strategies at country level and have access to relevant green economy toolkits and training materials;

(f) Effective partnerships and linkages established with the key global initiatives including the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP) and Green Economy Coalition.

### **E. Key actions**

(a) Organize regional/sub-regional/national platforms and events that promote better understanding of the contribution of Inclusive Green Economy to Africa's development and facilitate the development of the necessary enabling conditions for a successful transition, leveraging on existing initiatives, platforms, and established for a;

- (b) Support the integration of the inclusive green economy approaches and measures in (existing) regional policy frameworks, such as NEPAD, as well as regional/ sub-regional policies and strategies in order to speed up support for the transition towards a green economy in Africa;
- (c) Initiate joint mechanisms, programmes and activities aimed at enhancing the capacities of African countries to integrate green economy principles and objectives into existing national development strategies or the development and implementation of new ones with a view to promoting sustainable development;
- (d) Undertake quantitative and qualitative assessments of the key opportunities and options to promote inclusive green economy, green jobs and decent work creation, poverty reduction and sustainable natural resource management and environmental improvement in African countries;
- (e) Support programmes on training, skills building, and youth entrepreneurship to enable African countries to take advantage of emerging areas of the green economy;
- (f) Create a network of leading African policy research institutions able to support and provide research and policy advice on green economy issues to governments and others constituents in African countries;
- (g) Assist in developing national investment plans and strategies (short , medium and long term) to mobilize financial resources from national, regional and global sources for sustained implementation;
- (h) Compile best practices, generate and share knowledge on green economy issues relevant to the African context and link to existing platforms and networks within Africa and globally (e.g. Green Growth Knowledge Platform);
- (i) Identify the key issues that have to be addressed by the global consultation and negotiation processes on green economy and foster the elaboration of common positions on issues of international significance with implications for Africa;
- (j) Foster the involvement of private sector and major groups in the promotion of the transition to Green Economy.

## **F. Modality of implementation**

11. The following are some of the key modality proposed for the implementation of the AGEPE.

- (a) Programme coordination: The Africa Green Economy Partnership shall have the following programme coordination structure:
  - (i) Coordinating Committee: that will be consisting of the designated representatives of members of the partnerships and shall provide the general guidance and coordination to the partnership. The Coordinating Committee shall be co-chaired by the AUC representative and a representative of the development partners. The Regional Steering Committee will serve as the regional focal point for coordination with global initiatives related to Green Economy including PAGE;
  - (ii) Secretariat: one of the partner agencies that have Green Economy as the core mandate and programme shall serve as the Secretariat of the Partnership and be the Secretary of the Steering Committee.
- (b) Financing strategy: The activities to be carried out by the partnership at the initial stage will be financed through resources that are available within existing and on-going programmes and initiatives that are managed by the partners involved;
- (c) Joint programming: The partnership promotes the joint development and implementation of Regional programmes that address key priority needs and gaps identified by countries.

## **II. Draft Concept Note on Sustainable Land Management, Desertification, Biodiversity and Ecosystems-based Adaptation to Climate Change (LDBE)**

### **A. Context**

12. The outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) underlined the political commitment for the promotion of sustainable development and called upon national Governments and development partners to further strengthen and consolidate their efforts to effectively integrate the economic, environmental and social dimensions in their development policies and strategies. It further highlighted some of the key measures that need to be taken at the national, regional and global levels to address key economic, environmental and social challenges. While the specific actions that need to be taken on the key issues covered under the outcome document may differ from country to country, there are some common measures that could provide the necessary support for actions that could be taken by all countries.

13. The Nineteenth Session of the African Union Summit held in July 2012 called upon the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to conduct a substantive analysis of the outcomes of Rio+20 and develop a roadmap for the effective implementation of the outcomes in Africa. In response to this, the 14th Session of AMCEN, held from 10-14 September 2012 in Arusha Tanzania, decided to develop and implement Regional Flagship Programmes (RFP) as a means to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) in Africa. The Sustainable Land Management, Desertification, Biodiversity and Ecosystems-based Adaptation (LDBE) is proposed to be one of the Regional flagship programmes to be developed under this regional initiative. LDBE is expected to facilitate synergy and cooperation between national and regional actors and organizations that provide support to African countries.

### **B. Background**

14. Africa has a wealth of natural resources including minerals, land, biological diversity, wildlife, forests, fisheries and water. It has the largest tropical rain forests and the second largest freshwater lake in the world. In spite of the abundance of natural wealth, Africa's vulnerability to climate change impacts have been underscored by the severe droughts in the Sahel in 2012 and the Horn of Africa in 2011. This adds to the many stressors plaguing the continent like rapid population growth, poverty and inappropriate development practices that have negatively impacted on her state of the environment.

15. Environmental degradation in Africa has resulted into loss of biodiversity, low tree coverage, declining soil productivity, drought and desertification leading to loss of livelihood and increasing poverty levels. These impacts exacerbated by pollution, depletion of freshwater resources and loss of arable land, food insecurity, poor human health, human vulnerability, conflicts and migrations. These issues bring into sharp focus the urgent need for stronger ecological approaches including adaptation to climate change as a priority in providing sustainable solutions to reduce the vulnerability of a great majority of Africa's one billion citizens.

16. Africa's population is expected to constitute about 23% of the global population by 2050. This places a huge demand on governments and states to provide opportunities in providing enough food, water, amongst many. The questions however, are the type of measures/approaches required. The challenge in charting a new pathway to eliminate food insecurity, adapt to the changing climate and build sustainable systems will require innovative solutions that build on an internally driven process of change by individuals, communities and institutions coupled with adaptation to climate change.

17. With the shift towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) after 2015, approaches that serve multiple purposes and provide cross-cutting benefits are highly needed in Africa and elsewhere. For example, achieving food security is unmanageable without adaptation to climate change measures and practices that not only support farmers in producing enough food to meet people's nutritional needs, but that also preserve ecosystems from degradation, for example, preventing soil erosion, water, nutrients and pollinators that underpin agricultural productivity, particularly in smallholder dominated landscapes. Approaches with the potential for informing and guiding policy and practices are imperative.

18. One of these approaches is ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), which addresses Land degradation, Desertification, Biodiversity loss and provides flexible, cost effective, and broadly applicable alternatives for building resilient systems and reducing the impacts of climate change. Practices such as agro-forestry, buffer strips, on-site water conservation, use of native species, change in cropping systems, landscape-scale management, protection of water resources and the incorporation

of local knowledge into agro ecological production systems and establishment of woodlots as land management practices have demonstrated that ecological based approaches can provide just the right framework for catalysing transformative change on a larger scale. Adopting ecological based approaches could help build resilient livelihoods, and ultimately achieve global food security in a changing climate. This raises the question of what ecological based approaches can do differently to get Africa and other regions out of food and water insecurity.

19. This proposed regional flagship programme is motivated by the fact that nearly all African countries have developed National Action Programmes (NAPs) under the auspices of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) under the auspices of UNFCCC. Thus, there will be a strong need to develop synergies between the regional flagship programmes and what prevails at the national levels.

### **C. Objective**

20. The main objective of this flagship programme is to provide a framework for coordinated action among countries, and stakeholders at all level to adapt to climate change, combat land degradation and desertification as well as conserving biodiversity, water resources, and promoting the integrity and resilience of ecosystems. It will also complement and support the implementation of existing and new frameworks at national and regional levels. The specific objectives are to:

- (a) Build the knowledge base and information network on effective and sustainable management of ecosystems including biodiversity conservation, land degradation, and desertification issues in Africa and their impacts on development;
- (b) Support the development of adaptive capacity for climate change through harnessing ecosystems services;
- (c) Identify and support existing platforms for high-level policy dialogue around the programme to enhance, regional coherence and integrated development;
- (d) Promote innovative actions and strategic projects/interventions that serve as models for building sustainable livelihoods, environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation;
- (e) Establish linkages with environment and ecosystems to economic growth and poverty reduction in order to understand and appreciate the relationship between environmental sustainability and economic development.

### **D. Expected outcomes**

21. The following are the key expected outcomes from the activities to be carried out under LDBE:

- (a) Improve alternative livelihood opportunities, wealth and prosperity of affected populations;
- (b) Institutional capacity building for institutions to develop and implement programmes;
- (c) Natural resources management leading to, among other things, to restore eco-climatic balances and biodiversity and ecosystem integrity;
- (d) Improved ecosystem services and biodiversity resources conservation, enhancing income generation and job creation for local population;
- (e) Contribute to the rehabilitation of degraded land and prevent future land degradation;
- (f) Sustainable land and water management practices adapted to improve land pro land productivity, and ecosystem services;
- (g) Improved living standards and health due to noticeable improvement in nutrition, living environment, and more easily available and accessible household needs (water, energy, social infrastructures);
- (h) Aggregation of lessons learnt, experiences shared through replication and up scaling of ecological based actions.

### **E. Key actions**

#### **1. Facilitating dialogue in Policy and Institutional Innovations/Reforms**

22. This intervention area is aimed at creating space for all Africans and Development Partners to engage in dialogue on the RFP and through stakeholders and experts meetings. Establishment of an effective institutional framework is crucial to guide implementation.

## **2. Demonstration through Innovative Projects**

23. Actions under this intervention will be aimed at supporting innovation with the potential to serve as future models for environmental sustainability in Africa. Initiatives, such as strengthening national planning and implementation processes, promoting/up-scaling/replicating existing innovations will be vigorously pursued.

## **3. Building Partnerships**

24. Establishment of partnerships will be a major thrust and strategy in the implementation of this programme.

## **4. Knowledge Generation and Sharing (Policy Analysis and Outreach)**

25. Analysis and outreach activities in the context of knowledge generation and sharing will aim at informing the development discussion especially in relation to rethinking on the focus of the RFP.

## **5. Building Effective Coordination and result-based M&E system**

26. This intervention is crucial for the success and effective implementation of the program to ensure that the program outputs and outcomes are in line with its objectives and expected impacts at regional and national levels. The implementation of this regional flagship programme will require long term and challenging engagement of all stakeholders with effective coordination given the variety of issues involved. Coordination on substantive priorities relating to this RFP will also be pursued.

## **6. Building human and institutional capacities for sustainable programme management**

27. This will take into consideration capacity needs at sub national, national, sub regional and regional levels.

## **F. Modality of implementation**

28. The following are some of the key modalities of implementation proposed for the implementation of the LDBe.

### **1. Programme Coordination**

#### **(a) Administration**

29. To effectively manage implementation of the programme, a support unit will be setup in the NEPAD Agency mainly to backstop and coordinate the work programme of the Flagship Programme in conjunction with the AUC's Environment and Natural Resources Division. The Unit will be supported by a Technical Advisory Committee as well as a Programme Steering Committee coordinated by the AMCEN Secretariat.

#### **(b) Technical Advisory Committee**

30. The Technical Advisory Committee will comprise of experts and researchers as well as representatives of African countries and organizations. The primary role of the Technical Committee will be to identify activities for the Programme and provide intellectual and technical programme guidance.

#### **(c) Political Coordination**

31. The African Union Commission will provide an overall political oversight and coordination for the implementation of the Programme in close collaboration with the RECs, while AMCEN secretariat, with support from UNEP, NEPAD, and other partners, will be responsible for the technical coordination.

#### **(d) Partnership & Funding**

32. The implementation of the Initiative cannot, for sustainability, depend entirely on annual budgetary allocations of participating countries and the occasional donor funding. There will be need to develop a reliable funding mechanism for its implementation and exploring public-private partnership may be feasible. The partnership promotes the joint development and implementation of Regional programmes that address key priority needs and gaps identified by countries.

### III. Draft Concept Note on Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Africa

#### A. Context

33. The outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development underlined the political commitment for the promotion of sustainable development and called upon national Governments and development partners to further strengthen and consolidate their efforts to effectively integrate the economic, environmental and social dimensions in their development policies and strategies. It further highlighted some of the key measures that need to be taken at the national, regional and global levels to address key economic, environmental and social challenges. While the specific actions that need to be taken on the key issues covered under the outcome document may differ from country to country, there are some common measures that could provide the necessary support for actions that could be taken by all countries.

34. The Nineteenth Session of the African Union Summit held in July 2012 called upon the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to conduct a substantive analysis of the outcomes of Rio+20 and develop a roadmap for the effective implementation of the outcomes in Africa. In response to this, the 14th Session of AMCEN, held from 10-14 September 2012 in Arusha Tanzania, decided to develop and implement Regional Flagship Programmes (RFP) as a means to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20). The Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Africa is one of the Regional Flagship Programmes to be developed under this regional initiative.

#### B. Background

35. The African Consensus Statement that was prepared as an input to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) noted that 'Africa, being at the early stages of industrialization, has an opportunity to pursue sustainable industrial growth that limits the environmental, social and economic costs of industrialization, and increases the efficient use of energy and material input, thereby enhancing international competitiveness. Therefore, there is a need to remove all obstacles to the full implementation of this process. The African Ten-Year Framework of Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production and the subsequent activities on developing national and local sustainable consumption and production action plans should be used and supported to contribute to the promotion of sustainable industrial development and the green economy'.

36. The 14<sup>th</sup> Session of AMCEN adopted a decision (14/4) on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Africa in which it was decided:

(a) To review the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production so as to hasten the implementation of the adopted global 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns;

(b) To implement the activities and programmes of the African 10-Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production as shall have been reviewed;

(c) To call upon our development partners to provide financial and technical assistance and capacity-building to support the implementation of sustainable consumption and production activities at the regional and national levels for the effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

(d) To provide support for the implementation of the African Eco-labelling Mechanism and its Eco Mark Africa eco-label so as to promote Africa regional intra-national and international trade, as well as strengthening its Secretariat;

(e) To support the Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production in Africa, and to strengthen the Secretariat of the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

37. A number of African countries have been implementing activities under the African Ten Year Framework Programme (10-YFP) on SCP in Africa - which emphasizes the importance of linking SCP with the challenges of meeting basic needs and provision of sustainable livelihoods - in response to the call made by the Dakar Declaration of AMCEN in 2005. These include policy support, SCP tools and methodologies for capacity building and identification of best practices to promote SCP in Africa.

38. Examples include development and implementation of national and local SCP programmes in Burkina Faso, Egypt (Cairo), Ghana, Mauritius, Mozambique (Maputo), Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia; demand-side management of energy use in Uganda and Zambia; promotion of resource

efficiency in SME's in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda; development of the African Eco-labelling Mechanism (AEM) and its Eco Mark Africa (EMA); Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) plans in Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Lesotho and Zimbabwe; development of SPP policies in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritius, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda; and mainstreaming of SCP in Burkina Faso, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia. These efforts have been constrained by the capacity and of regional and national institutions to sustain and up-scale these programmes and thus a platform to bring together national, regional and international partners is required.

39. The proposed Partnership for SCP in Africa shall build upon enhancing these and other existing programmes and institutional frameworks including the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption Production (ARSCP) and NEPAD, the coordination mechanism shall be with regional institutions including the African Union Commission, UNECA and UNIDO, and the continued cooperation with the German Federal Ministry of Environment.

40. Furthermore, UNEP is currently in close consultation with the European Union on the development of a four-year pilot project that will be implemented in six countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the region generally, in shifting towards SCP patterns. The project concept which is now undergoing approval within the EU, envisages policy support and a networking facility on SCP, as well as support to green businesses to launch a transition to an inclusive green economy.

### **C. Objective**

41. The main objective of the Partnership for SCP in Africa is to provide support for the development, mainstreaming, implementation and up-scaling of SCP programmes and projects in the region that would effectively contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable development of the region and respond to the growing need and interest expressed by a few countries. The specific objectives are to:

- (a) Enhance capacities of existing regional networks and processes on SCP on emerging production and consumption issues that are relevant to the region, including implementation of the reviewed African 10-YFP on SCP;
- (b) Strengthen the secretariat of the ARSCP to support implementation of the African 10YFP;
- (c) Strengthen existing NCPCs and establish new ones in member countries to support implementation of SCP and RECP programmes;
- (d) Facilitate continued support for the development and implementation of local and national sustainable consumption and production programmes that contribute to poverty eradication, productive capacities and sustainable development, including up-scaling of existing SCP programmes and mainstreaming of those programmes in national sustainable development agendas;
- (e) Coordinate and work with governments, stakeholders and development partners, working in the field of SCP to develop regional initiatives that provide direct support to SMEs and community groups that create employment (including green and decent jobs) based on innovative SCP practices, and to up-scale existing initiatives such as the African Beverage Industries Water Saving Initiative and the AEM. The initial focus will be on developing and implementing specific projects in collaboration with development partners such as the European Union;
- (f) Strengthen existing knowledge platforms and promote south-south cooperation on development and dissemination of region-relevant knowledge, replication of best practices and capacity building on SCP at regional and national levels.

### **D. Expected outcomes**

42. The following are the key expected outcomes from the activities to be carried out under the Partnership for SCP in Africa:

- (a) Enhanced capacities of African countries to develop, implement and up-scale national and local SCP programmes and action plans that strengthen institutional capacity, identify key priority areas that need to be addressed, generate region-specific knowledge and provide a framework for implementation of policies related to SCP;
- (b) ARSCP secretariat is strengthened and offers enhanced support at regional and national levels;
- (c) Existing NCPCs strengthened and member countries have NCPCs;

(d) SCP programmes mainstreamed in national Sustainable Development agendas that raise awareness and build capacity among countries how to better take into account SCP in national development strategies and in national Poverty Reduction Strategies;

(e) The African 10 Year Framework programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production which was adopted by AMCEN in 2004 is revised taking the recent developments and changing priorities of the region into consideration;

(f) African Beverages Industries Water Saving Initiative up-scaled into an African Industries Water Saving Initiative that covers all water-consuming sectors;

(g) Additional sectors to be included in the African Eco-labelling Mechanism identified and its Eco Mark Africa promoted; and

(h) A regional Network Facility that facilitates effective knowledge sharing and exchange developed building upon the existing experiences from the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the network of National Cleaner production Centres, academic institutions, civil society, industry associations, consumer groups, SCP service providers and other intermediaries involved in SCP dissemination.

## **E. Key actions**

43. Organize regional and national capacity building and awareness raising workshops on SCP programmes that facilitate the development and implementation national and local SCP action plans as well as mainstreaming SCP in national development strategies;

44. Support the development, implementation and up-scaling of specific initiatives and mechanisms under the African 10-YFP on SCP;

45. Liaise with development partners to provide financial and technical assistance to support the implementation of SCP activities at the regional and national levels for the effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

46. Engage with stakeholders including organisations of employers and workers in Africa to ensure consensus building and full uptake of SCP initiatives by relevant actors at sector, industry and enterprise level;

47. Publication of SCP literature and reference materials that are tailor made to the context of African countries. This could be in the form of SCP toolkits based on African experiences, case studies which also demonstrate and quantify the economic, social and environmental benefits of shifting to SCP patterns, as well as publications and briefs and a compendium of SCP best practices in Africa.

## **F. Modality of implementation**

48. The following are some of the key modalities proposed for the implementation of the Partnership for SCP in Africa:

(a) Programme coordination: The Partnership on SCP shall have the following programme coordination structure:

(i) Steering Committee: that will be consisting of the designated representatives of members of the partnerships shall provide the general guidance and coordination to the partnership. The Steering Committee shall be co-chaired by the AUC-AMCEN representative and a representative of ARSCP.

(ii) Secretariat: one of the partner agencies that have SCP as the core mandate and programme shall serve as the Secretariat of the Partnership and be the Secretary of the Steering Committee.

(b) Financing strategy: The activities to be carried out by the partnership at the initial stage will be financed through existing resources that are available within national budgets, the various programmes and initiatives that are managed by the partners. Subsequently, a full financing strategy for SCP programmes in Africa will be developed which will enhance means of implementation.

(c) Monitoring and evaluation: the Steering Committee will ensure continuous monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes of the regional flagship programme.

(d) Joint programming: The partnership will build on the experience with partners such as ARSCP, NEPAD, regional economic commissions (RECs), AEM, RECPnet, UNEP, UNIDO, ILO,



ECA and AfDB that have been supporting SCP activities in Africa as well as with national partners such as National Cleaner Production Centres.

## **IV. Revised Draft Concept Note on African Programme on Sustainable Energy Development**

### **A. Context**

49. The outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development underlined the political commitment for the promotion of sustainable development and called upon national Governments and development partners to further strengthen and consolidate their efforts to effectively integrate the economic, environmental and social dimensions in their development policies and strategies. It further highlighted some of the key measures that need to be taken at the national, regional and global levels to address key economic, environmental and social challenges. While the specific actions that need to be taken on the key issues covered under the outcome document may differ from country to country, there are some common measures that could provide the necessary support for actions that could be taken by all countries.

50. The Nineteenth Session of the African Union Summit held in July 2012 called upon the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to conduct a substantive analysis of the outcomes of Rio+20 and develop a roadmap for the effective implementation of the outcomes in Africa. In response to this, the 14th Session of AMCEN, held from 10-14 September 2012 in Arusha, Tanzania, decided to develop and implement Regional Flagship Programmes (RFP) as a means to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20). The African Programme on Sustainable Energy Development is one of the Regional Flagship Programmes to be developed under this regional initiative. This program will draw upon the various continental and regional energy programmes (e.g. Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), Africa-EU Energy Partnership), and the existing work undertaken under the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Initiative in Africa, including under the auspices of the Conference of Energy Ministers of Africa (CEMA). This will be implemented in line with Decision 14/1 of the September 2012 AMCEN meeting highlighting the importance of complementing (not duplicating) existing structures.

### **B. Background**

51. The African Consensus Statement that was prepared as an input to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) noted with concern that “... 40 per cent of the 1.4 billion people worldwide without access to energy services are in Africa, and almost entirely in sub-Saharan Africa. Access to sustainable energy facilitates development and contributes to the achievements of internationally agreed sustainable development goals, including the MDGs. However, we recognize the opportunities offered by the energy sector in terms of growth, social and economic development and improved quality of life. We reiterate our commitment to addressing the energy challenge by improving the availability of sustainable forms of energy in rural areas.” (Source: Paragraph 16 of the African Consensus Statement).

52. The Outcome Document from Rio+20 underlined that “We recognize the critical role that energy plays in the development process, as access to sustainable modern energy services contributes to poverty eradication, saves lives, improves health and helps to provide for basic human needs”. We emphasize the need to take further action to improve this situation, including by mobilizing adequate financial resources, so as to provide these services in a reliable, affordable, economically viable and socially and environmentally acceptable manner in developing countries. We note the launching of the “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative by the Secretary-General, which focuses on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energies. We are all determined to act to make sustainable energy for all a reality and, through this, help to eradicate poverty and lead to sustainable development and global prosperity. (Source: Paragraph 125, 126 and 129 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document).

53. An Advisory Board co-chaired by the Secretary General of the United Nations and the President of the World Bank is providing the overall strategic direction to the SE4All initiative while a Global Facilitation Team (GFT) headed by a CEO will serve the purpose of facilitating all actions and work streams of the SE4All initiative globally. An Executive Committee is formed to provide oversight, direction, and advice to the Chief Executive (CEO) of the SE4All initiative, to review and approve the initiative’s Strategic Work Program and budget. Several Regional and Thematic Hubs will be linked to the GFT and operate under the guidance of the SE4ALL Executive Committee and the Advisory Board. As of March 2013, some 39 African countries have opt-in to SE4All; 17 Rapid Assessments/Gap Analysis and two country Action plans have been completed.

54. In line with the aspirations of the UN SE4All initiative, the Johannesburg Declaration of 2011 adopted by African Energy Ministers noted that unless urgent measures are taken the number of people without Access to Energy service will increase by 2030. Furthermore, the Abu Dhabi *Communiqué of 2011 on Renewable Energy for Accelerating Africa's Development*: resolved by African Energy Ministers urged the need ensure sustainable deployment of renewable energy; and support R&D and innovation within the continent and through South-South cooperation. In this context, various African institutions, development partners, UN agencies, International institutions, private sectors and civil societies have started working towards the realization of the objective of harnessing all African energy resources resulting in poverty reduction and vigorous sustainable development of the continent.

55. Among others, UNDP, NPCA, AUC, and AfDB are currently collaborating to develop an African institutional framework to harmonize the energy policy and programme frameworks at the continental (AU), regional (RECs) and country level in support of the achievement of the UN Secretary General's initiative on Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL). This process encompasses four steps: i) Country Opt-In; ii) Stock-taking and Gap Analysis; iii) National Action Plans; and iv) Implementation and Monitoring. The focus of the first half of 2012 leading up to Rio+20 was on the first two steps. In this context the following series of expert meetings were held in 2012 to advance national, regional and continental programmes and supporting policies to achieve sustainable energy development in Africa:

- (a) Africa Rollout of the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, February 2012, Nairobi Kenya, organized by UNEP in collaboration with UNIDO;
- (b) AUC/NPCA/UNDP Workshop on Sustainable Energy for All, Nairobi, Kenya, September 2012;
- (c) SE4ALL Meeting, Tunis, Tunisia, November 2012 organized by the AfDB in cooperation with the Global Facilitation Team (GFT);
- (d) AUC/NPCA/UNDP Workshop with AfDB support, Nairobi, Kenya, December 2012;
- (e) Post 2015 Energy Consultations, March 2013.

56. In November 2012, the Conference of Energy Ministers of Africa endorsed the recommendations of the September Nairobi workshop and further requested AUC, NPCA and AfDB to coordinate the implementation of SE4ALL initiative in Africa and invited those countries that have not joined the initiative to consider doing so. Pursuant to the decision of CEMA of November 2012, the modus operandi and the Terms of Reference for the Africa SE4ALL have been tentatively agreed between the AUC, NPCA, UNDP and AfDB, in close consultation with the Global Facilitation Team (GFT). The Africa Hub comprises an Oversight and Operations Committee (OOC) providing strategic guidance for the operations of the Hub Secretariat with representatives from AUC, NPCA, AfDB, UNDP and of the RECs (selected on a rotating basis), additional parties may be invited as needed; and a Hub Secretariat hosted by the AfDB. The Hub Secretariat will carry out the activities of the Hub and its work program, and in particular coordinate and facilitate interactions amongst stakeholders. The 2013 work program of the Hub is under final review and will be adopted shortly.

57. Besides hosting the Africa roll-out of the International Year of SE4All in February 2012, UNEP is also undertaking a number of Energy development activities that contribute to the three goals of the Sustainable Energy for All. This includes: i) the African Rift Geothermal Development (ARGeo) that is implemented in coordination with the African Union Commission; ii) Innovative financing for renewable energy development; iii) Efficient lighting for emerging and developing countries; and iv) Africa Rural Energy Enterprises Development (AREED). Similarly, UNIDO supports African countries in the development mini and small hydropower plants, renewable energy development and promotion of energy efficiency in industries through the Joint UNIDO-UNEP Programme on Resource Efficiency.

58. The African Programme on Sustainable Energy Development builds upon existing energy initiatives and programmes that are being implemented by different development partners and consolidate the support provided to African countries by taking the Sustainable Energy for All Hub as its core building block.

### C. Objective

59. The main objective of this Programme is to facilitate the provision of a coordinated and consolidated support to African countries to develop their energy sector to achieve sustainable energy mix <sup>2</sup> in conjunction with the AU-NEPAD Programme on Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), other investment programmes related to infrastructural development and decentralized solutions, and the UN Secretary General Initiative on Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) with an objective of contributing to poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

60. The specific objectives are to:

- (a) Develop African Strategy through the alignment and collaboration of key African institutions and stakeholders (AfDB, AUC, NPCA, RECs, UN Agencies, donors, private sector, CSOs, Academia and research institutions), to effectively facilitate and coordinate the development and implementation of the Sustainable Energy initiatives;
- (b) Strengthen support provided to African countries on development of energy sector with a focus on energy access, the development of Renewable energy resources (including geothermal, solar, wind, biomass, mini-hydro power) and energy efficiency;
- (c) Enhance the capacities of countries to develop and implement policies and the Sustainable Energy Action Plans that facilitate the effective integration of SE4ALL principles and approaches in national development policies and planning processes;
- (d) Facilitate and Coordinate the mobilization of the financing required to implement the Sustainable Energy Initiative including facilitation of private sector engagement;
- (e) Undertake necessary and appropriate monitoring, evaluation and reporting on Sustainable Energy activities in sync with global SE4All reporting and monitoring processes;
- (f) Support Energy development and trading at sub-regional and regional level;
- (g) Provide a knowledge platform that consolidates key lessons and best practices from within and outside the Region and promote their replication across the region.

### D. Expected outcomes

61. The following are the key expected outcomes from the activities to be carried out under the Programme:

- (a) Common understanding and approach on Sustainable Energy Initiative and its implementation amongst the key development partners laying the basis for provisions of a more coordinated and coherent support to African Countries;
- (b) A regional strategic framework that guides countries to adapt Sustainable Energy requirements to specific country conditions and needs;
- (c) Proven policies and investment mobilized for new sustainable energy sectors;
- (d) Environment protected and response to climate change impacts through increased uses of renewable Energy resources and cleaner technologies;
- (e) Energy Access, security and efficiency enhanced in the African Continent;
- (f) Capacities of countries and partner institutions on development of SE4ALL Strategies and Action Plans enhanced;
- (g) Sustainable Energy objectives and approaches effectively integrated in national development plans and strategies of African Countries;
- (h) Effective partnerships and linkages established with the key SE4ALL partners.

### E. Key actions

62. Identify the key issues that have to be addressed by the countries and the international community and foster the elaboration of common positions on issues of international significance with implications for Africa;

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<sup>2</sup> ( sustainable energy mix by resource base, scale, grid/off-grid, technology choice)

63. Establish partnerships with key stakeholders, including the Financial Institutions, to provide the broad range of capacity building, project development support and financing tools required for sustainable energy growth across the continent;
64. Use existing regional, sub-regional and national platforms/programmes to deepen alignment and collaboration among African institutions and key stakeholders around the sustainable energy development including SE4ALL initiative;
65. Support the further development and implementation of the Sustainable Energy regional framework to support the planning and implementation of the Sustainable Energy initiative, including those that are consistent with the region's sustainable development and poverty reduction aspirations;
66. Initiate joint mechanisms, programmes and activities aimed at enhancing the capacities of African countries to integrate Sustainable Energy principles and objectives into existing national development strategies with a view to promoting sustainable development.

## **F. Modality of implementation**

67. A coordination committee chaired by AUC with representatives from CEMA, AMCEN and relevant partners will provide the necessary coordination and guidance for the flagship programme. This coordination committee will work closely with the SE4All Africa Coordination Hub.
68. The SE4All Africa Hub in collaboration with other partners and UN agencies will implement the activities in accordance with the ToRs of the Hub as agreed amongst partners;
- (a) Financing Strategy: The activities to be carried out by the partnership at the initial stage will be financed through existing resources that are available within the various programmes and initiatives that are managed by the partners involved in consultation with the SE4ALL Hub.
- (b) Joint programming: The partnership promotes the joint development and implementation of Regional programmes that address key priority needs and gaps identified by countries.

## **V. Revised Draft Concept Note Africa Integrated Environmental Assessment for Sustainable Development**

### **A. Context**

69. The outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 (Rio+20) underlined the political commitment for the promotion of sustainable development and called upon national Governments and development partners to further strengthen and consolidate their efforts to effectively integrate the economic, environmental and social dimensions in their development policies and strategies. It further highlighted some of the key measures that need to be taken at the national, regional and global levels to address key economic, environmental and social challenges. While the specific actions that need to be taken on the key issues covered under the outcome document may differ from country to country, there are some common measures that could provide the necessary support for actions that could be taken by all countries.

70. The Nineteenth Session of the African Union Summit held in July 2012 called upon the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to conduct a substantive analysis of the outcomes of Rio+20 and develop a roadmap for the effective implementation of the outcomes in Africa. In response to this, the 14th Session of AMCEN, held from 10-14 September 2012 in Arusha, Tanzania, decided to develop and implement Regional Flagship Programmes (RFP) as a means to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20). The Africa Integrated Environmental Assessment for Sustainable Development is one of the Regional flagship programmes to be developed under this regional initiative.

### **B. Background**

71. Informed policy and decision making on matters concerning natural resources and the environment is dependent on sound scientific assessment of the state of the environment and emerging environmental issues of wide significance at national, regional and international levels. The major environmental issues that continue to manifest in Africa include land, wetland and forest degradation; loss of biological diversity; over-harvesting of natural resources; outdoor and indoor air pollution; poor access to clean and safe water; inadequate sanitation; and poor urban conditions.

72. Many countries and other stakeholders in Africa are faced with the challenge to collect data, integrate it to generate information, identify emerging issues, and conduct scientific environmental assessments. Furthermore, there are problems in accessing scientific data and knowledge at appropriate levels in the region, and this in turn negatively influences the nature of environmental governance decisions, resulting in less than desirable implications for human livelihoods in Africa.

73. The 8<sup>th</sup> African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) Session held in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2000, called for a comprehensive scientific assessment of the environment, policies and programmes in Africa. This was further reiterated at the 9<sup>th</sup> AMCEN Session held in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2002. In addition, the Session also recognized that absence of adequate data and information was a major constraint to environmental management planning and implementation of regional and global conventions in many countries in Africa. Similarly, a 2006 UNDP report “*Ensuring Environmental Sustainability in the MDG Framework: a Review of over 150 Millennium Development Goal Country Reports*” concluded that “*Countries face many challenges in monitoring the MDG 7 indicator*” and that “*these challenges include unreliable and inaccessible data, a lack of statistical capacities, as well as difficulties related to lack of public awareness, legislative and regulatory frameworks, inadequate human capacity, and the need for more partnerships*”. In addition, the 2010 MDG Report notes that “*reliable, timely and internationally comparable data...are crucial for devising appropriate policies and interventions needed to achieve MDGs*. All AMCEN decisions and declarations have called for the strengthening of integrated environmental assessment in the region as a basis for sound management of natural resources and the environment.

*Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) is a participatory and structured approach that links knowledge and action. It links environmental state and trend analysis with policy analysis; incorporates global, regional, sub-regional, national and local perspectives; includes historical and future perspectives; covers a broad spectrum of issues and policies; and integrates environmental change and human well-being. This is different from Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which is the systematic and comprehensive process of evaluating at the earliest possible stage, the environmental effects of a policy, plan or programme and its alternatives. It also differs from Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which is a tool to assess the environmental impacts and risks of an activity, with a purpose is to inform decision-makers and other stakeholders about impacts, and to suggest ways to reduce or minimize such impacts.*

74. Thus, the African Ministers of Environment strongly believe that it is through the availability of scientifically credible, timely, relevant and up-to-date information produced through IEA processes that they can have a sound basis for making informed decisions for sustainable environmental management and sustainable development in the region. Furthermore, the data and information that results from the planned assessment processes will not only make a valuable contribution to national level reporting to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), but provide an opportunity to ease the environmental reporting burden at national and regional levels.

## C. Objectives

75. The objectives of this flagship programme are to:

- (a) Introduce and foster the use of integrated environmental assessment in Africa in order to enable appropriate and timely consideration of current and future environmental challenges by decision makers, as well as other stakeholders and partners for sustainable development;
- (b) Strengthen the capacity of African countries and institutions to collect and access environmental data, information and knowledge to support the management of Africa’s natural resources and the environment as a basis for improved livelihoods.

## D. Expected Outcomes

76. The following are the expected outcomes of this flagship programme:

- (a) Improved quality of policy relevant (national, sub-regional and regional) environment assessment products.
- (b) Increased mainstreaming of sustainable environmental management into development strategies (national, sub-regional and regional);

- (c) Increased environmental awareness and knowledge of the impacts of human interactions with the environment in Africa;
- (d) Improved accessibility of different information products, including through on-line platforms, for consumption by governments, the public, civil society, academia, media and other stakeholders, for policy/decision making and action;
- (e) Improved monitoring and evaluation of the use of the integrated assessment reports and other products;
- (f) Strengthened networks of stakeholders in the area of integrated environmental assessment, specifically data and information producers and users, including African scientists and relevant centres of excellence.

## **E. Key Actions**

77. The programme on Integrated Environmental Assessment for Sustainable Development will revolve around the following activities:

- (a) Action 1: Strengthen the Africa Environment Information Network (AfricaEIN), in line with existing AMCEN decisions, with development and support to country-driven national networks as building blocks for the provision and sharing of data and information. This will involve promoting a more coherent and coordinated data collection, analysis, sharing and access, including lessening of reporting burdens to multiple MEAs;
- (b) Action 2: Promote the use of a core set of policy relevant environmental indicators for use in integrated environmental assessment and their selected adoption in national statistical systems for improved natural resources management and poverty reduction;
- (c) Action 3: Develop a regular framework to provide an integrated analysis of environmental issues in Africa taking into account all three pillars of sustainable development (social, economic and environment). This is to enable keeping the national and regional state of the environment under review, and support preparation of a set of products such as State of the Environment Reports, Atlases, Africa Environment Outlook Report, and others. The establishment of on-line, live platforms for reporting assessment findings at national and regional levels (e.g. SoE-Live, AEO-Live, etc.) is a central part of this activity;
- (d) Action 4: Designate African centres of excellence (to be known as African Topic Centres) and maintain a database of competent African scientists to support integrated environmental assessment activities in the region. This activity will also be augmented by the development of partnerships with external institutions, networks and scientists to provide additional support to the region;
- (e) Action 5: Develop modalities, promote and support practices aimed to bridge the science-policy interface through the use of credible, relevant and up-to-date information in decision making for sustainable development. Methods to monitor and report on the uptake and use of findings and policy options in integrated assessment reports will be developed and implemented;
- (f) Action 6: Subject to request from countries, sub-regional and regional organisations, develop their capacity for integrated environmental assessment processes and technologies, as well as the management of outreach and engagement with a variety of audiences;
- (g) Action 7: Introduce and/or strengthen the use of economic tools for environmental accounting in integrated assessment processes and products.

## **F. Modality of Implementation**

78. The following constitute the proposed key modality of implementation proposed for the implementation of the Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) for Sustainable Development flagship programme.

### **1. Programme Coordination**

#### **(a) Administration**

79. To effectively manage implementation of the programme, a support unit will be setup in the AUC's Environment and Natural Resources Division. The Unit will be supported by a Technical Advisory Committee as well as a Programme Steering Committee coordinated by the AMCEN Secretariat.

**(b) Technical Advisory Committee**

80. The Technical Advisory Committee will comprise of experts drawn from national institutions as well as representatives of Regional Economic Communities and the African science community. The primary role of the Technical Committee will be to identify activities for the Programme and provide intellectual and technical programme guidance.

**(c) Steering Committee**

81. The Steering Committee will provide overall guidance to the implementation of the Programme. It will comprise of representatives of key stakeholders and major providers of resources, both financial and technical, for the implementation of the Programme. The Steering Committee will meet in the margins of all major regional meetings of the Programme. Members of the Steering Committee will also serve as facilitators of these regional meetings. The Commission of the African Union, NEPAD, AfDB, UNECA and AMCEN Secretariat will be members of the Steering Committee.

**2. Political Coordination**

82. The African Union Commission will provide an overall political oversight and coordination for the implementation of the Programme in close collaboration with the RECs, while AMCEN secretariat, with support from UNEP and other partners, will be responsible for the technical coordination.

**3. Joint programming**

83. The partnership promotes the joint development and implementation of Regional programmes that address key priority needs and gaps identified by countries.

**4. Funding**

84. The implementation of the Initiative cannot, for sustainability, depend entirely on annual budgetary allocations of participating countries and the occasional donor funding. There will be need to develop a reliable funding mechanism for its implementation and exploring public-private partnership where feasible.

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