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*African Ministerial Conference on the Environment*

**Expert group**  
**Thirteenth meeting**  
Bamako, 21–25 June 2010

**Interim draft indicative work programme of the African  
Ministerial Conference on the Environment for the biennium  
2011–2012**

**Note by the secretariat**

**I. Proposals for the indicative work programme for the biennium  
2011–2012**

**A. Introduction**

1. The African region offers significant potential for human, social and economic development. It is, however, facing huge challenges. Rising levels of poverty and inappropriate development practices are among the main factors influencing the state of the environment in Africa. Other factors that have led to continued environmental degradation include climate change, land degradation and desertification, biodiversity loss, drought and other natural disasters, disease, ineffective development policies, unfavourable terms of trade and debt.

2. The preparation of the work programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) has in recent years taken into account the commitments made by heads of State and others in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted in New York in September 2000; in the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); in chapter VIII of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002; in the Millennium Development Goals; and in the aims of and decisions by AMCEN at its sessions.

3. It is therefore noteworthy that the main objective of the current session is to provide a platform for environment ministers to deliberate on substantive issues of importance to Africa that must be tackled in the context of desertification, continuing negotiations on climate change and biodiversity. The ministers will consider the indicative AMCEN work programme for 2011–2012. They will also review progress made towards Africa's preparations for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012; the development of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes; and Africa's preparations for developing a common negotiating position on an international regime on access to and the sharing of the benefits of genetic resources.

4. The ministers will also deliberate on the new status of AMCEN as a specialized technical committee of the African Union and on the status and use of the AMCEN trust fund. The available records show that member States have been contributing to the fund at a rather low rate, hampering the effective implementation of AMCEN decisions and its work programme. There is, therefore, a pressing

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need for ministers to make critical assessments and give further guidance on how contributions to the trust fund can be enhanced.

5. The ministers will reconsider the revised draft constitution, which was amended pursuant to the recommendations of ministers at the eighth session, endorsed at the ninth session and referred for further consideration at the tenth, eleventh and twelfth sessions.

6. The expert group will bring emerging issues, such as chemicals, to the attention of the ministers for their consideration. The group will also highlight a review of work being undertaken on the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD.

## **B. Action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development**

7. The action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD is a coherent, strategic and long-term programme of action prepared to promote Africa's sustainable development. This is consistent with the emphasis placed by NEPAD on measures that will ensure that the continent is able to confront its short-term economic growth challenges without losing sight of long-term environmental, poverty-eradication and social development imperatives. Sustainable development is a long-term undertaking and can only be achieved through investments in the future. Thus, the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD takes a long-term approach. It involves processes, projects and related activities that are aimed at enlarging Africa's economic prospects through sustainable environmental management.

8. The action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD was prepared at the continental level. The following six thematic areas were selected through consultative and participatory processes: combating land degradation, drought and desertification; conservation of Africa's wetlands; prevention, control and management of invasive alien species; conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources; combating climate change in Africa; and transboundary conservation or management of natural resources.

9. The cross-cutting issues set out in the action plan include: health and environment; transfer of environmentally sound technologies; assessment of and early warning on natural disasters; and the environment directory of NEPAD.

10. A publication on the action plan, giving details on the thematic areas and the cross-cutting issues, can be found on the AMCEN website.<sup>1</sup>

11. The implementation of the action plan began in 2004. The African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (formerly the NEPAD secretariat) and AMCEN are each implementing aspects of the action plan.

12. AMCEN is responsible for the implementation of its work programme and relevant decisions, which form an integral part of the action plan. The implementation of the work programme for the biennium 2008–2010 is therefore based on the thematic areas set out in the action plan and the decisions of AMCEN taken at its twelfth session, held in Johannesburg, South Africa (see document UNEP/AMCEN/13/4 for more information).

13. It is worth noting that the action plan was designed to be implemented over an initial period of 10 years. For this reason, among others, the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and AMCEN have initiated a process to review its implementation. The process involves a comprehensive stocktaking exercise, analytical work, the preparation of relevant documents with recommendations, consultative meetings for key stakeholders and the establishment of a partnership platform. The review work began in April 2010 and is expected to be completed in July 2010 with the launch of the partnership platform.

14. In view of the above, the proposed draft indicative work programme of AMCEN for 2011–2012 is interim in nature and the narrative part of the present document has therefore been kept brief. It is suggested that a new draft indicative work programme for AMCEN be prepared after the comprehensive review of the implementation of the action plan has been completed.

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1 <http://www.unep.org/roa/amcen/>.

## II. Clusters in the work programme for the biennium 2011–2012

15. The proposed programme elements of the interim draft indicative AMCEN work programme for the biennium 2011–2012 are organized in clusters of processes, programmes, projects and related activities to be implemented in the biennium. They are:

- (a) Political, policy, advocacy and environmental law and agreements;
- (b) Environmental conventions;
- (c) Capacity-building (others).

### A. Political, policy, advocacy and environmental law and agreements

16. The key components of this cluster include:

- (a) Enhancing the links between AMCEN, the African Union, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the United Nations Environment Programme;
- (b) Enhancing the capacity and capability of AMCEN to oversee the implementation of its work on climate change in Africa;
- (c) Communicating the objectives of AMCEN work on climate change in Africa;
- (d) Mobilizing resources for AMCEN work;
- (e) Undertaking work in the field of environmental law and agreements.

### B. Environmental conventions

17. The key components of this cluster include:

- (a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (b) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;
- (c) Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (d) Chemicals-related conventions;
- (e) Amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean;
- (f) Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention);
- (g) Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Maputo Convention);
- (h) Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes Within Africa.

### C. Capacity-building (others)

18. The key components of this cluster include:

- (a) Providing political support and policy guidance for capacity-building efforts;
- (b) Building the capacity of sub-Saharan African countries to implement the Rio and chemicals-related conventions.

19. Further details on the interim draft indicative work programme of AMCEN for the biennium 2011–2012 can be found in the annex to the present document. The matrix gives an outline of the main objectives and key components; specific activities to be undertaken; expected outcomes; status of implementation; and collaborators.

### **III. General comments**

20. As shown in the report of the secretariat for the biennium July 2008–June 2010 (UNEP/AMCEN/13/4) steady progress was made in the implementation of the work programme of AMCEN during that period. Steady progress in implementing AMCEN work programmes has been a continuing trend since July 2004, when the implementation of the action plan began. Apart from the implementation of some activities in some programme areas, however, efforts to scale up the level of activities have generally been deferred as a result of the perennial financial constraints facing AMCEN. It is hoped that the current session will help to tackle this major constraint that is hampering the enhanced implementation of the work programmes and decisions.

21. The comprehensive review of the implementation of the action plan and the subsequent wide-ranging review of the work programme of AMCEN for the biennium 2011–2012 will offer an opportunity for further consideration of how best to scale up some AMCEN activities. The successful enhancement of activities related to climate change during the biennium 2008–2010 is a good pointer for the way forward.

**Annex**

**Interim draft indicative work programme for the biennium |  
2011–2012**

<i>Main objectives and key components</i>	<i>Specific activities</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Collaborators</i>
<b>1. Political, policy, advocacy and environmental law and agreements</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enhance existing links between AMCEN, the African Union, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and UNEP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-facilitate the process of enhancing the status of AMCEN as a specialized technical committee and the interlinkages between AMCEN, the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency</li> <li>Enhance communication links with the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and UNEP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMCEN status as a specialized technical committee of the African Union enhanced and follow-up institutional arrangements made</li> <li>The roles of the secretariat of AMCEN, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the African Union Commission harmonized, particularly with regard to implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD</li> </ul>	<p>Continuing</p> <p>Mix of new and continuing</p>	<p>AMCEN, AUC, NPCA, UNEP</p> <p>AMCEN, AUC, NPCA, UNEP</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enhance the capacity of AMCEN to oversee the implementation of its work on climate change in Africa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give technical and policy briefs to AMCEN to enable it to provide guidance on the implementation of its work on climate change in Africa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective implementation of measures to combat climate change in Africa</li> </ul>	<p>Continuing</p>	<p>AMCEN, UNEP, ECA, CSOs, IOs</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To communicate the objectives of AMCEN work on climate change in Africa to all AMCEN stakeholders and target groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize the AMCEN climate change communication strategy</li> <li>Implement the climate change communication strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four main areas of intervention enhanced: partnership and networking; capacity-building; advocacy; communication and outreach.</li> </ul>	<p>Mix of new and continuing</p>	<p>AMCEN, UNEP, AUC, ECA, CSOs, IOs</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To mobilize resources for AMCEN work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake resource mobilization, including the forging of responsive partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMCEN better resourced to carry out its objectives and goals</li> </ul>	<p>Continuing</p>	<p>AMCEN, AUC, NPCA, UNEP, ECA</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To undertake work in the field of environmental law and agreements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the capacity of African countries to develop, improve and implement environmental legal frameworks</li> <li>Assist countries to develop access and benefit-sharing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance with and implementation of environmental laws and key conventions, in addition to capacity-building for environmental protection, made a greater priority of member States</li> <li>Awareness of environmental law created among key</li> </ul>	<p>Continuing</p>	<p>UNEP</p>



<i>Main objectives and key components</i>	<i>Specific activities</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Collaborators</i>
(iii) Convention on Biological Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the negotiation process of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing with regard to genetic and biological resources, to be finalized at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Common negotiation position for Africa at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties</li> </ul>	New	AMCEN, UNEP, CBD secretariat
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist African countries to review and strengthen implementation of national wildlife trade policies and regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National wildlife trade policies and regulations strengthened</li> </ul>	New	AMCEN, UNEP, CITES secretariat
(iv) Chemicals-related conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-facilitate the development of the capacity of African countries to manage chemicals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity of member States to manage chemicals enhanced and chemicals issues mainstreamed</li> </ul>	Continuing	Convention secretariats, GEF, AMCEN, UNEP, AUC, NPCA, Basel Convention regional centres
(v) Nairobi Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote a more holistic approach to the implementation of measures for the conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources by the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecosystem-wide approach to the management of large marine ecosystems by the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention carried out through specific actions</li> </ul>	Continuing	UNEP, AMCEN, many collaborators
(vi) Abidjan Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote a more holistic approach to the implementation of measures for the conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources by the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New secretariat for the Abidjan Convention located in Abidjan strengthened</li> <li>Ecosystem-wide approach to the management of large marine ecosystems by the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention carried out through specific actions</li> </ul>	Mix of new and continuing	UNEP, AMCEN, many collaborators
(vii) Maputo Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage member States to ratify or accede to the Maputo Convention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ratification of and accession to the Maputo Convention by African countries increased through support provided to the African Union Commission</li> </ul>	Continuing	AUC, AMCEN
(viii) Bamako Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage member States to ratify or accede to the Bamako Convention.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ratification of and accession to the Bamako Convention by African countries enhanced through support provided to the African Union Commission</li> </ul>	Continuing	AUC, AMCEN, Mali

<i>Main objectives and key components</i>	<i>Specific activities</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Collaborators</i>
<b>3. Capacity-building (others)</b>				
To provide political support and policy guidance for capacity-building efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement subregional environmental action plans</li> <li>Enhance capacity-development efforts with regard to environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subregional environmental action plans implemented with a view to strengthening the capacity of RECs in environmental management and protection</li> <li>Environmental (impact) assessment and strategic environmental assessment used as important sustainable development tools in the subregions and in the member States</li> <li>African Environment Outlook and related capacity-building (through AEIN) institutionalized through the Africa Environment Outlook process</li> </ul>	<p>New</p> <p>Continuing</p> <p>Continuing</p>	<p>NPCA, AUC, AMCEN, UNEP, ECA</p> <p>CLEAA, IUCN, AMCEN, ECA, World Bank, many stakeholders</p> <p>UNEP, AMCEN</p>
To build capacity of sub-Saharan African countries to implement the Rio and chemicals-related conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate capacity-building in respect of member States' implementation of the conventions</li> <li>Facilitate preparatory meetings for AMCEN prior to some meetings of the parties to the Rio and chemicals-related conventions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity of African countries to implement the Rio and chemicals-related conventions enhanced with a view to integrating them into national policies and plans</li> <li>African common positions agreed and capacity of African negotiators enhanced</li> </ul>	Mix of new and continuing	AUC, ACP secretariat, UNEP, Convention secretariats, AMCEN, ECA, IOs, CSOs

*Key to abbreviations:* ACP: African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States; AMCEN: African Ministerial Conference on the Environment; AUC: African Union Commission; CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity; CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; CLEAA: Capacity Development and Linkages for Environmental Assessment in Africa; CSOs: civil society organizations; ECA: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; IOs: international organizations; GEF: Global Environment Facility; GM: Global Mechanism; IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature; NPCA: NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency; RECs: regional economic communities; SINEPAD: interim secretariat of NEPAD; UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.