

Africa



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UNEP in the regions

Division of Regional Cooperation
Regional Office for Africa

Africa

UNEP in the REGIONS

Environment for Development

The mission of the United Nations Environment Programme

is

“to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations”



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About UNEP

UNEP, established in 1972 to be the watchdog of the environment has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The organisation follows the guidance and requests of the ministers of the environment of member-countries, sitting in the UNEP Governing Council.

UNEP is organised under divisions that reflect the various priorities of the organisation – early warning and assessment, policy development and law, policy implementation, regional cooperation, communications and public information, trade industry and economics and support for multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Another division coordinates UNEP work as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The Division of Regional Cooperation consists of the six UNEP regional offices – for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and West Asia – and a small coordination unit at headquarters. There are also a number of liaison offices that come under the relevant regional offices – in Addis Ababa, Brussels, Moscow, Brasilia and Beijing.

What we do

For the past thirty years, since the deteriorating state of the environment first came to greater world attention, UNEP has nurtured global collaboration on environmental issues. Some problems have been tackled - the loss of biodiversity, degradation of soil and water, climate change, production and consumption patterns to name a few examples - largely through the forging and application of multi-lateral environmental agreements. At times UNEP seemed a lone voice, but over time the world community has taken more notice. More action has been taken – major environmental fora have resulted in action plans and programmes of activities – but with varying and often disappointing results. As the global environmental crisis deepens, more is expected from UNEP and the world community in the wake of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) of 2002 and the resulting Plan of Implementation.

UNEP remains a leader in environmental initiatives, encouraging the further adoption of multilateral environmental agreements, integrating the private sector into a new culture of environmental responsibility, creating space for the participation of civil society and fostering environmental policies and legislation. Capacity building and technology transfer are firmly at the top of

“We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanising conditions of extreme poverty to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected”

United Nations Millennium Declaration – 2000

Development Goals in the Millennium Declaration

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/ AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development



the UNEP agenda, through working in close partnership with governments, international and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and others.

The years 2000-2002 saw intensive preparations for WSSD. In the aftermath of the Summit, UNEP realigned its programmes in the light of the resulting Plan of Implementation, but maintained an essential continuity with the UNEP priorities and programmes of the immediate past. New strategies for the regional programmes have been put in place – strategies that while according with the global priorities and mandates of UNEP, also respond to the different regional priorities and help fulfill the internationally-accepted development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration.

Africa

Africa is composed of six sub regions – Northern Africa, Western Africa, Central Africa, Southern Africa, Eastern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean States. The topography ranges from tropical islands to high mountains, plateau and plains. Climates vary widely. This diversity is reflected in the wide variety of landscapes, that include many biologically rich and unique eco-regions, such as the tropical forests, montane forests, rolling grasslands and lush coral reef-fringed islands.

Africa in brief

- Total land area of 29,6 million sq km - 20 per cent of the earth's surface
- 66 per cent is arid or semi-arid, 43 per cent is extreme desert, about 22 per cent is under forest, and 21 per cent is suitable for cultivation
- Population in 2001, 812,603 million, ranging from most populous country: Nigeria (pop. 116,929 million) to the Seychelles (pop. 81,000)
- High population growth rates at 2.4 per cent, against a world average of 1.3 per cent
- HIV/AIDS has a major impact on social development, economic growth and health systems - in South Africa the impact is anticipated by UNAIDS to be 0.4 per cent of GDP over the next decade
- 6,000 people a day die as a result of poor hygiene and contaminated water and about 3 million annually as a result of water-related diseases
- Malaria causes between 1.5 and 2.7 million deaths a year - 90 per cent of them are children under five
- About 60 per cent of the population are dependent on agriculture but annual urban growth rates at nearly 4 per cent are the most rapid in the world and nearly twice the global average

- 20 countries in Africa are classified as having medium human development and 29 low human development according to the UNDP index. This is reflected in :
 - low life expectancy – 52.5 years - world average is 66.3 years
 - high child mortality rates
 - widespread poverty
 - 49 per cent of people in sub-Saharan Africa lived on under \$US 1 a day in 1999
 - high but steadily declining adult literacy rates
- Economies are based on primary products or natural resources - so, extremely vulnerable to external price fluctuations and trade regulations
- Economic performance has been poor - per capita GDP growth rate for sub-Saharan Africa was 4.3 per cent in 2001 and 3.2 per cent in 2002
- External debt constrains economic growth and poverty reduction

The Environment in Africa

The environment in Africa is deeply woven into the lives of Africa's peoples and into their traditional and cultural values. That environment has recently changed profoundly because of serious droughts and floods, the loss of forests and of animal and plant species, land degradation, increasing water shortages and declining water quality. The main pressures on the environment are largely the result of population growth that has outstripped the capacity of natural resources to meet expanding human needs, the high dependence of many economies on natural resources exploitation, unsustainable natural resource utilization, increasing inequality of incomes, and limited planning, especially in urban areas.

The challenges are immense, but governments have responded, setting environmental agendas for action, forming regional and sub regional environmental bodies and introducing measures to protect national environments and those of the wider region.

Some environmental challenges facing Africa and what has been done

Land

- The conversion of land to agriculture has resulted in the loss of forests, rangelands, wetlands and other important habitats, and increasing soil erosion – about 25 per cent of the land is subject to water erosion and 22 per cent to wind erosion



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- Degradation of soil and vegetation resources is caused largely by population pressures, inequitable land access and tenure policies, poor land management and widespread poverty
- Desertification affects over 45 per cent of the land area - 55 per cent at high/very high risk.

***Action:** Land degradation is being addressed - 15 national action plans have been drawn up in the framework of the Convention to Combat Desertification. The soil fertility initiative for sub-Saharan Africa was begun in 1996. National soil fertility action plans are in place in 15 countries and over 20 are in preparation*

Freshwater

- Africa has only 9 per cent of global freshwater resources and average water availability per person is far less than the global average
- Water stress and scarcity are endemic in 14 of the 53 African countries; resources are declining and do not coincide with areas of high population density
- 28 per cent of the global population without access to improved water supplies lives in Africa
- Water quality is deteriorating and water-related diseases cause disability and many deaths a year

***Action:** National environmental management policies are having a positive impact. Schemes in Central Africa to purify freshwater systems and raise public awareness are also positive moves. The African Water Facility helps to improve access to water supply and sanitation, and so reduce poverty and promote development*

Forests and biodiversity

- Annual forest loss of over 5 million ha.; the highest rate in the world - vital resources on which communities depend are lost
- Biological resources and biodiversity are in decline – due to habitat loss, over harvesting, illegal activities, and population growth

***Action:** Progress has been made with community-based forest management, and reforestation, but with less regard to indigenous species. Habitats and biodiversity are better protected in the growing number of designated protected areas that now cover about 7 per cent of the land. The “Partnership for Congo Basin Forests” aims to sensitize the international community to the threats facing the world’s second biggest tropical forest and to support a 10 million ha. network of national parks and protected areas*

Coastal and marine areas

- 38 per cent of these ecosystems are threatened by pollution, over harvesting of resources, inappropriate development in coastal zones, increased salinity and poor inland land management
- An estimated 470 million tones of oil every year are transported through the Western Indian Ocean giving rise to oil pollution
- In spite of rising demand, fish catches remain static or are falling

Action: Fisheries management measures, including closed seasons and control agreements with foreign fleets, have been introduced. West Africa has developed a Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods programme and some national oil spill contingency plans have been drawn up. The Nairobi and Abidjan conventions are drawing up action plans

Atmosphere-Climate

- Africa is very vulnerable to climatic variability and climate change – droughts and flooding have increased in incidence and severity
- Rising emission levels, especially in expanding urban areas, caused by increased energy consumption are increasing pollution
- Respiratory diseases because of deteriorating air quality are increasing

Action: Many national sustainable development strategies address atmospheric pollution. Unleaded petrol is becoming a standard in some countries. Alternative sources of energy are being actively explored. Action is being taken in the context of the Montreal Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Urban areas

- Rates of urbanisation are among the highest in the world
- Urban sprawl and informal settlements are proliferating - provision of housing and basic services lags far behind inward migration and natural growth
- The provision of adequate waste disposal has outstripped the collection, treatment and disposal capacity of municipal authorities

Action: The movement towards sustainable cities is growing - the UNEP/Habitat joint programme includes cities such as Accra, Dar-es-Salaam, Dakar, Ibadan, Ismailia, Lilongwe and Lusaka



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Working for the African environment

The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

AMCEN is an effective mechanism promoting regional cooperation on environmental and sustainable development issues. UNEP acts as secretariat for AMCEN and is part of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee that coordinates international cooperation and supports the implementation of activities. These activities are identified by AMCEN in response to national and regional environmental needs.



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About the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

UNEP, with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) organised the first meeting of AMCEN in 1985, as part of the UNEP response to Africa's environmental challenges

Objective: to mobilise national, sub regional and regional cooperation in order to:

- halt environmental degradation
- enhance Africa's food producing capacity
- achieve self-sufficiency in energy
- correct the imbalance between population and resources

Programme focus: environmental challenges, social and economic inequality and their impact on the environment

Revitalisation : the AMCEN meeting in Abuja of 2000 put in train a Revitalisation process, reflecting the commitment of African governments to address environmental issues, especially new and emerging issues

Action priorities:

Ongoing review of environmental policy and actions

- Building capacity
- Forging partnerships with the public and private sectors
- Coordinating the implementation of environmental treaties
- Following up on commitments under the WSSD Implementation Plan

- Keeping under review the state of the environment
- Signaling emerging issues and trends and providing early warning
- Promoting government and public access to environmental information

What has been achieved

- Adoption of the Bamako Convention on Hazardous Wastes (1991)
- African Common Position for WSSD
- Harmonising Africa's position on global environmental issues
- Strengthening cooperation between African countries
- Revision of the Algiers Convention
- Institutionalisation of the African Environmental Information Network as a basis for regular productions of the African Environment Outlook

AEO 2002

UNEP through AMCEN and with other partners was intensely involved with the preparatory process for WSSD that resulted in the presentation to the Conference of an African Common Position. Other institutional changes have also taken place, notably the transformation of the Organisation of African Unity into the African Union (AU) and the formation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). These have far reaching implications for the continent's development and for the activities of UNEP in Africa.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

- calls for a new partnership between Africa and the international community to overcome the development challenges in the region
- is a commitment by African leaders to the people of Africa
- is supported by all major groups including the G8
- is the accepted programme of the AU
- is accepted by the United Nations General Assembly as the framework for United Nations support to Africa's development

The WSSD Plan of Implementation contains 47 recommendations on sustainable development in Africa within the framework of NEPAD.

NEPAD aims :

- to eradicate poverty
- to set countries on a path of sustained economic growth and sustainable development



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TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

*Adopted by the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session in February 2005 the **Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building (BSP)** is an intergovernmentally agreed approach to strengthen technology support and capacity-building in developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition. The Bali Strategic Plan is designed to assist these countries:*

- *To strengthen their capacity to achieve their environmental goals, targets and objectives, as well as environment-related internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.*
- *To strengthen their capacity to implement programmatic goals set by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in parallel to the response by UNEP to requests by Governments for targeted capacity building within the mandate of UNEP.*
- *To strengthen their capacity to participate fully in the development of coherent international environmental policy, to comply with international agreements and implement their obligations at the national level, and to use and sustain the capacity or technology obtained through training or other capacity-building efforts after such efforts have been completed.*
- *To strengthen their capacity to develop national research, monitoring and assessment capacity to support national institutions in data collection, analysis and monitoring of environmental trends and in establishing infrastructure for scientific development and environmental management, in order to ensure sustainability of capacity building efforts.*

- to provide a framework for sustainable development on the continent to be shared by all Africa's people.

NEPAD will work through partnerships within and among African countries in both private and public sectors and with the international community. Among the eight different NEPAD initiatives is one on the environment.

The NEPAD environment initiative is a coherent action plan and strategy to address the region's environmental challenges while at the same time combating poverty and promoting socio-economic development. The Action Plan contains over 200 proposed projects to tackle some of the most pressing environmental issues in Africa including:

- Combating desertification
- The threat of invasive species
- Sustainable management of forest resources
- Wetland conservation
- Marine, coastal and freshwater resources
- Global warming and adapting to climate change
- Protecting human health
- Environmental governance.

The Action Plan was first adopted by AMCEN and then by the AU as its blueprint for environmental action.

II UNEP in the region

Africa is a special priority for UNEP. UNEP activities in support of the specific priority focus on Africa include:

- Supporting policy formulation and institutional strengthening
- Providing secretariat services for AMCEN and supporting the implementation of its policies and decisions
- In-country implementation activities
- Collaboration with institutions, civil society, and other major groups
- Taking the lead in capacity building activities and technology support under the Bali Strategic Plan since its last Governing Council in February 2005.

UNEP assists governments to respond adequately to national and regional environmental problems and co-ordinates United Nations environmental priority setting and activities in the region. These tasks demand partnerships:

UNEP works closely with the international community, regional and sub regional organisations, NGOs and civil society (Annex I).

The commitments undertaken at WSSD and the drive towards regional integration, have modified the political and economic context in Africa and made it necessary for UNEP to design a new strategy for the region.

Where we are going – The UNEP Strategy for Africa

UNEP's regional strategy for Africa takes account of, and incorporates into its programme of work :

- Global priorities and mandates of UNEP
- Decisions of the UNEP Governing Council - support to Africa remains a major focus
- NEPAD Environment Initiative
- Regional priorities as outlined by AMCEN and the African Union
- The development goals in the Millennium Declaration

Activities will focus on capacity building and technology transfer. They will:

- i **ensure that AMCEN priorities are reflected in the UNEP work programme**, through:
 - Integrating NEPAD priorities in UNEP programme of work
 - Implementing programmes for which UNEP has a comparative advantage, e.g. capacity building
- ii **facilitate the effective implementation of the AMCEN programme of work**, through:
 - Increasing cooperation with partners.
 - Strengthening regional partnerships with relevant institutions, notably the sub regional economic communities.

Where we are going - the way forward under the new strategy

In the light of new initiatives in Africa UNEP will:

Policy and strategy functions

- Consolidate UNEP's position in the new structural arrangements
- Support NEPAD
- Facilitate joint programming with sub regional economic communities



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- Support the work of other partnerships, including the European Union's Africa Water Initiative and the Congo Basin Initiative on Forests
- Analyze trends and identify opportunities for new interventions and partnerships

Programme development and support

- Take a lead in capacity building, including institutional strengthening
- Develop strategic partnerships with civil society organisations
- Provide technical backstopping services
- Respond on request to emerging environmental issues and natural disasters
- Support African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) activities

Information centre and early warning functions

- Create an information systems to facilitate decision-making and priority-setting
- Provide information on gaps in programme support

The regional office services the requests and needs of the region and has integral involvement in UNEP headquarters' programmes. This booklet will describe activities in the region under headings that reflect major UNEP priorities.

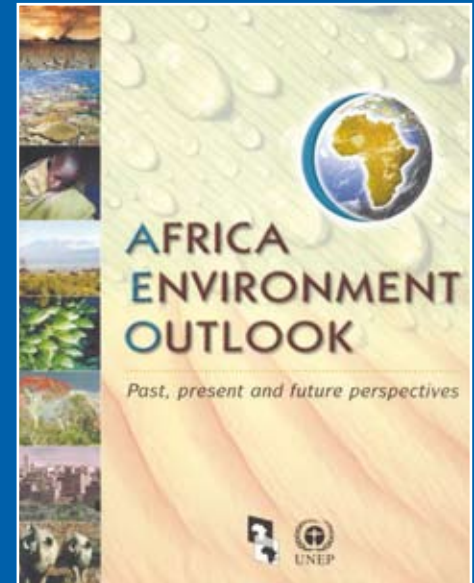
Assessment and early warning

UNEP, through the DEWA Africa Programme, continues to provide support to African governments to improve their meaningful environmental data and information, and to help increase their capacity to use environmental information for decision-making and action planning for sustainable human development. This is being done through direct collaboration with national governments, other partners and expert centres in the region.

What we have done – recent programme highlights

- Africa Environment Outlook Report case study report published in 2004. The report contains case studies on environmental change, human vulnerability and security and expands on issues highlighted in AEO report.

- The pilot phase of the implementation of the Africa Environment Information Network (AEIN) initiative to support the Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) reporting process has been completed. Phase 1, implemented in 12 pilot countries, focused on development and testing of common tools, assessment of the status of Environment Information Systems (EIS) in the countries, capacity building on integrated environmental assessment and reporting, preparation of national and sub-regional environment outlook reports and development of environmental indicators for the region.
- The Africa Environment Outlook-For-Youth (AEO-for-Youth) report was prepared with the contribution of more than 3000 African youth from 41 countries.
- Capacity building in integrated environmental assessment and reporting (IEA) for government and civil society organizations through:
 - Training in IEA for all the sub-regions
 - Training on the use and interpretation of satellite data and associated software
 - Training on environmental statistics for the Economic Commission of West Africa States (ECOWAS) organized jointly by UNEP and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
 - Customization of the global IEA training manual and other training tools for use in Africa
 - Scenario Development Training
 - Formation of the Africa Integrated Environmental Assessment and Reporting Network (AFINET) comprised of African universities to promote training in IEA and to support the AEO process
 - Participation in the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR) process to facilitate the integration of environmental components into the Programmes of Action of the IC/GLR.
 - Support to three pilot cities (Dakar, Lusaka, Nairobi) for preparation of environment outlook reports in collaboration with UN Habitat as part of the Cities Alliance programme.



Africa Environment Outlook 2. Our Environment, Our Wealth

The second Africa Environment Outlook (AEO-2) report is scheduled to be launched at the 11th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in May 2006.

The report has been prepared as a collaborative effort involving experts drawn from national, sub-regional and regional organizations in Africa, AEO collaborating centres and their networks, universities and other specialized centres. The AEO-2 preparation process has also benefited directly from the AEIN initiative.

The main focus of the AEO-2 report is on sustainable livelihoods and the environment. The report will profile Africa's environmental resources as assets for the continent's development. It will highlight the potential of the region's natural resource base to support the development agenda of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and sustain human livelihoods. The report will have five sections namely: Environment for Development, Environmental State-and-Trends: 20-Year Retrospective, Emerging Challenges, Outlook and Policy Recommendations.

What we have done- recent programme highlights

- Support to Kenya for a workshop in Mombasa (2003) on the role of weather and climate in disaster management
- Assisted in the establishment of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Regional Office for Africa (2002)
- Provided assistance, with other United Nations organisations, particularly the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), to countries affected by disasters to help them address the environmental aspects:
 - Inland oil spill in Morocco (2002)
 - Tropical depression storm in Seychelles (2002)
 - Environmental impact of refugees in Tanzania (2003)
 - Floods in Sudan and Kenya (2003).
- Support to the NEPAD Secretariat with UNDP and ISDR/Africa for a consultative meeting to discuss the establishment of a disaster risk reduction strategy at the continental level, primarily through strengthening existing sub regional mechanisms - Nairobi, Kenya (2003)
- Organised a Regional Workshop on Environmental Disasters - Nairobi, (2003).



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- Organised a workshop on National Legislation and Institutions for Environmental Disasters in Selected Countries in Southern Africa in Maseru, Lesotho (2004).

Hydro meteorological Floods in Kenya –an attempt to find lasting solutions

In May 2003 heavy rains caused a flood emergency in Kenya. In response to the situation, UNEP, called a meeting of officials from concerned ministries in the Kenya Government and United Nations organisations based in Nairobi. The purpose was to seek information on the extent of the emergency and above all to offer assistance.

The UNEP response was to contribute to the Emergency Fund to relieve immediate suffering and to develop several pilot projects, on:

- An assessment of dams in Kenya – to determine ways to improve flood management and whether dams could be utilised more effectively in the management of rivers flowing into the Lake Victoria basin
- Seedling production and a nationwide campaign to plant trees, and create or renew forests especially in river catchment areas
- A vulnerability Atlas for Kenya.
- Disaster management and how the flood-related disaster management had been handled in Kenya, in terms of early warning, preparedness and response.

An inter-agency task force was set up to work with the Government of Kenya to undertake an immediate analysis of the situation, and make recommendations on mid-term and long-term responses. UNEP allocated \$US 75,000 for this analysis.

The exercise involved reconnaissance flights and aerial photography over Mt Elgon, the Cherangani hills, the Mau and Nandi escarpments, along the Yala, Nzoia, Nyando, Sondu, and Miriu rivers and over the Sasumua dam. The pictures clearly show the status and what is happening to the river catchments. They will form a vital part of the overall assessment.



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Post-conflict environmental assessments

UNEP works to integrate environmental considerations into post-conflict reconstruction by conducting environmental assessments and identifying strategic issues for environmental assistance including environmental risk reduction, rehabilitation and capacity building.

UNEP's post conflict environmental programme activities in Liberia commenced in November 2003 when it represented the cross-cutting theme of the environment in the United Nations / World Bank Needs Assessment. UNEP's 'Desk Study on the Environment in Liberia' was presented at the International Reconstruction Donors Conference in 2004. It provides a rapid overview of the environmental problems faced by the country, and identifies the immediate needs to be addressed during the reconstruction and development process. UNEP's work in the Needs Assessment process, and the publication of the Desk Study were instrumental in ensuring that environmental issues were placed on the reconstruction and development agenda. Based on the findings from the work, an official request was received in 2004 from Chairman Guyde Bryant, head of the National Transition Government of Liberia, for UNEP to provide a programme of capacity building activities to the environmental authorities in Liberia.



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What we have done – recent programme highlights

- *Desk Study on the Environment in Liberia* released in February 2004 followed in July by a two day seminar on the environment to promote and discuss its findings
- Post-Conflict Environmental Programme in Liberia officially launched with an office opened in Monrovia in January 2005, representing UNEP's first post-conflict country-level presence in Africa.
- Training workshop to identify and address key issues on the environmental considerations of displacement (refugees, returnees and Internally Displaced Persons – IDPs) in Liberia held between 21 and 28 November 2005.

Future activities: 2006 - 2007

- Organise an environmental awareness event for the new government, in conjunction with other environmental stakeholders
- Host a national conference to raise awareness of environmental considerations of camp closure, site rehabilitation and the resettlement process
- Provide a two-week training course for Liberian practitioners to enhance the capacity for environmental management and planning in the government and national NGOs in the areas of camp closure, site rehabilitation and resettlement
- Analyse the available spatial information and produce a map to identify areas of environmental vulnerability at a national scale to assist with the contingency planning for displacement

- Publish the report *“The environmental considerations of displacement in Liberia”*
- Review the status of Liberia’s policy and legislation relating to the protection of biodiversity and provide recommendations with regard to areas requiring reform;
- Conduct training in Environmental Impact Assessment for relevant government and non-governmental staff, in conjunction with UNDP
- Organise a workshop for incoming members of the Policy Council and Board of Directors of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to elaborate on their responsibilities, in conjunction with other environmental stakeholders
- Support the government to raise environmental awareness at county level by organising a two day event in 3-5 regional locations
- Provide training and equipment for environmental monitoring and evaluation
- Refurbish the premises of the Environmental Protection Agency and supply computer and office equipment
- Provide additional support for the implementation of an Environmental Impact Assessment in Liberia
- Facilitate the creation of a modern environmental information centre in Liberia

Environmental policy, law and conventions

UNEP works to enhance policy making in the region and strengthen the capacities of the legal profession and legal institutions in the area of environmental law. UNEP facilitated the development of the Lusaka Agreement (1994) that by establishing close co-operation among African states aimed to reduce and ultimately eliminate illegal trade in wild fauna and flora, and now concentrates on training enforcement officers to help implement it.

What we have done – recent programme highlights

- Developed a conceptual framework on poverty and ecosystems - integrates environment with poverty alleviation and involves the poor as “agents of change”
- Helped formulate capacity building projects for five selected countries
- Supported the Partnership for the Development of Environmental law and Institutions in Africa (PADELIA)



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- Developed and distributed appropriate environmental law materials, books and web sites to 13 countries in Africa to assist in law development
- Supported four regional law enforcement training programmes related to the Lusaka Agreement
- Facilitated revision of the African Convention on Nature and Natural Resources (the 1968 Algiers Convention) for adoption by the African Union (Maputo)

Where we are going – the way forward

- Planned project to assist Mali, Senegal, Uganda, Morocco, Kenya and Mozambique to incorporate environmental concerns within existing national development plans - funded by Norway and Belgium
- Planned broadening of the sub regional focus in environmental policy to incorporate more sub regions, expand the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the French-speaking Sahel group and increase cooperation with the East African Community

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

UNEP assists African governments to participate in and implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). As of October 2000, all but one of the African countries had ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) and 52 countries are Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

Climate change and its affects on the vulnerability of regions and populations is of growing concern. Poor countries and people have little capacity to adapt to the changes. UNEP assists Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to draw up national action plans for adaptation to climate change as a means of implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CCC).

What we have done – recent programme highlights

- Supported negotiators to develop common positions prior to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meeting in 2003
- Training and information materials developed on climate change to help LDCs identify priorities and include them in national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs)
- Preparation of a UNEP/GEF project proposal on strengthening the capacities of African countries to implement MEAs, with special focus on CBD, CCC and CCD - submitted to the Government of Belgium

Algiers Convention

UNEP facilitated the revision of the African Convention on Nature and Natural Resources (the 1968 Algiers Convention). The revised text was tabled adopted by the Second Ordinary Assembly of the African Union (AU decision 10/II) held in Maputo in July 2003. Efforts are now being directed at encouraging African countries to accede to the convention.

Lusaka Agreement

UNEP worked with the Parties to the Lusaka Agreement and the Lusaka Agreement Task Force on the implementation and enforcement of the regional Agreement. In this regard, the Parties held their sixth meeting in July 2003 in Nairobi. Specific decisions have been adopted requesting UNEP to assist Parties and the Task Force in the areas of developing and/or strengthening and harmonising their wildlife law and regulations, capacity building, awareness raising, and independent review of the work of the Task Force and implementation of the Lusaka Agreement. The review made recommendations for the enhancement of the Task Force and the Agreement. These recommendations underwent critical analysis by the main stakeholders and were adopted by the Seventh Governing Council Meeting of the Agreement in January 2005.

Bamako Convention

The Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of the Trans-boundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa came into force in April 1998. In 2005, the Republic of Mali and the African Union agreed to revitalize the Convention. UNEP, through the Regional Office for Africa has provided US\$ 30,000 to support the Secretariat of the Bamako Convention, and also for the organization of the First Conference of the Parties in 2006, in response to a request by the Government of Mali in April 2005. A draft status report of the Bamako convention has also been prepared by ROA.

Preparatory Meetings for Conference of the Parties (UNCCD & UNFCCC)

Ahead of the seventh Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP-7 of UNCCD) and the eleventh Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the first Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol (COP-11 of UNFCCC and MOP-1 of Kyoto Protocol) held at the end of October 2005, African Ministers of the Environment held preparatory meetings to deliberate on issues of particular importance to Africa. The meeting resulted in a Common African Position that was presented at the high level segment of COP-7. In the Common Position,



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AMCEN, among other things, strongly affirmed the need for the Convention to focus its energies on implementation of programmes. AMCEN also welcomed the designation of 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification and urged partners to renew their commitment to the Convention.

AMCEN also facilitated deliberations on climate change and the main concerns of African countries, which were presented to the eleventh Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the first Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol by the President of AMCEN .

OzonAction, Compliance Assistance Programme

UNEP assists countries to develop national capacities to meet and sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Through the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP), UNEP supports national capacity building and target setting for the phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). Special attention is given to countries, or in non-compliance, at risk of non-compliance through:

- information exchange, awareness raising and outreach
- training workshops
- day-to-day guidance to National Ozone Units and focal points
- strengthening regional networks

What we have done – recent programme highlights

- Supported 51 National Ozone Units in Africa to develop and implement ODS phase-out activities;
- Coordinated 2 networks of ozone officers (for Anglophone and Francophone Africa), facilitating the exchange of information and experience through meetings and electronic means - funding from the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund;
- Coordinated preparation of National regulations to control import, export and use of ODS;
- Facilitated adoption of sub-regional harmonized ODS regulations in cooperation with sub-regional organizations in Central and Western Africa (CEMAC and UEMOA);
- Projects on institutional strengthening - including support to national ozone units, to the creation of ozone committees and to industry associations;



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- Training workshops held for refrigeration technicians and customs officers, under the Refrigerant Management Plan in 27 African countries;
- Pilot Farmers Field Schools organized for Cut Flower Farmers for use of Methyl Bromide Alternatives in Kenya;
- Projects developed on phasing out Methyl Bromide in low volume consuming countries (Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania);
- Organized 5 Workshops for environmental journalists to help disseminate information on the Montreal Protocol;
- Produced booklet and video on the implementation of the Montreal Protocol in Africa region.

Our perspectives

- Ensure that all African countries are parties to the Montreal and its amendments;
- Strengthen the 2 networks of ozone officers (for Anglophone and Francophone Africa), by designing additional sub-regional activities;
- Provide special attention to Portuguese speaking African countries to ensure their access to relevant technical and awareness material in their working language;
- Ensure continued support to National Ozone Units through Institutional strengthening projects
- Support all 53 National Ozone Units in Africa to develop and implement ODS phase-out activities, especially their national Terminal Phase out Management Plans (TPMP) to ensure total phase of the major ODS by 2010;
- Provide additional training to refrigeration technicians, customs officers and other stakeholders, to reduce the need for ODS in the region and enforce control import of ODS and ODS-containing equipments;
- Assist countries in the enforcement of their national regulations to control import, export and use of ODS;
- Strengthen cooperation with all sub-regional organizations in Africa to facilitate adoption of harmonized ODS regulations and provide assistance in enforcement of such regulations;
- Ensure that countries that attain zero consumption of any ODS keep the momentum in developing their capacity to sustain their compliance status.



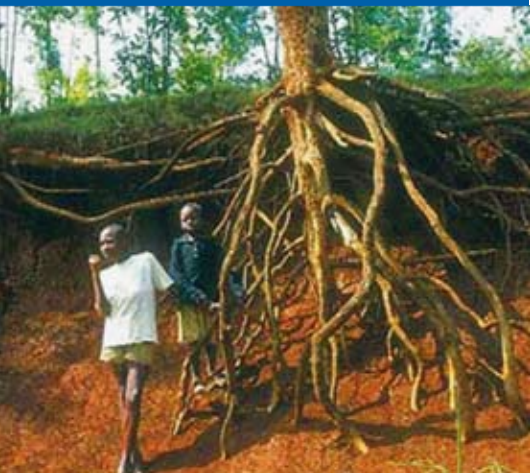
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Regional Seas

Many MEAs relate to marine waters. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme, initiated in 1974, is based on regional action plans related to a common body of water. In Africa the regional seas programme is implemented by the secretariat of the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions for the protection and development of the Marine and Coastal environment within sub-Saharan Africa.

What we have done – recent Programme highlights

- Established a regional Coral Reef Taskforce (CRTF) and supported activities to develop and implement national action plans and strategies on coral reefs through the Regional coordinating Unit of the Nairobi Convention in the Seychelles.
- Developed and launched a toolkit for managers of marine protected areas (MPA) on establishing and managing MPAs in the Western Indian Ocean Region in 2004
- Established and strengthened the work of the task forces, i.e. the physical alteration and destruction of habitats task force, and legal and technical expert group under the GEF-funded project *Addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean*
- Organised a coastal workshop on physical alteration and destruction of habitats, municipal waste management, legal taskforce on the protocol on land based activities in 2005 to enhance technical and institutional capabilities for monitoring, assessment, restoration, prevention and mitigation of destruction of habitats and to prepare practical demonstration activities for the region
- UNEP selected to coordinate implementation of the NEPAD Environment Initiative sub-component on coastal and marine issues, with political guidance from Senegal, Kenya and Nigeria
- Developed the GEF-funded project (with Norwegian co-financing) *Addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean*. The project aims to reduce stress to the ecosystem, strengthen the legal basis for preventing land-based sources of pollution, and develop regional capacity for sustainable, less polluting development
- Prepared a detailed regional report on dugongs with national assessments from Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Seychelles, Comoros, and Mayotte/ Reunion providing summary, general description, overview of the status (distribution and threats to dugongs, recommendations for research and conservation)



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- Developed and submitted for funding a Project entitled : Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS Integrated Water Resource and Wastewater Management
- Prepared a report “ICRAN/UNEP/Project Assessment of Management Effectiveness in Selected Marine Protected Areas in the Western Indian Ocean” for distribution in 2004-2005 – with IUCN
- Supported the International Coral Reefs Action Network (ICRAN) activities in Malindi-Watamu, Kenya and Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, to improve management of the MPAs and demonstrate ways of alleviating poverty among the front-line stakeholders – involved local communities in selecting key priority activities and establishing a small grants programme

Technology and industry

The UNEP regional programme on these issues supports decision-makers from governments, local authorities and industry to develop and adopt policies and practices that:

- are cleaner and safer
- utilise natural resources in an efficient manner
- ensure an adequate management of chemical products
- incorporate environmental costs
- reduce contamination and decrease risks for human beings and the environment

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SC&P), the main focus of the programme, reflects the priorities of the Plan of Implementation of WSSD and NEPAD. UNEP works with international agencies, industry associations, and institutes to promote global awareness and understanding of sustainable consumption and production.

What we have done – recent programme highlights

- Implementation of the project on ‘Institutionalizing the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production’
- The Third Africa Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production organized in May 2004 leading to the establishment of the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) as regional networking organization



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- Support provided for the Registration of ARSCP under Tanzanian law and the establishment of the Interim Secretariat of ARSCP at the Tanzanian Cleaner Production Center
- Support provided for the organization of five national roundtables and 2 sub-regional roundtables on sustainable consumption and production, which led to the establishment of National Cleaner Production Centers and/or development of national and sub-regional activities on SCP
- Organized the First African Symposium and Workshop on Life Cycle Assessment in which 32 participants from universities and NCPCs participated. This resulted in the establishment of the African Life Cycle Assessment Network that would operate as the technical arm of ARSCP
- Development and implementation of the African 10 Year Framework Programme (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Organized two Regional Expert meetings in Casablanca (May 2004) and Nairobi (February 2005) that developed the African 10YFP on Sustainable Consumption and Production and facilitated its approval by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) in March 2005
- Worked with the Federal Ministry of Environment of Germany on the launching of the 'Task Force on Collaboration with Africa' during the Second International Expert Meeting on the 10YFP held in Costa Rica in September 2005
- Launched the Pilot Project on Plastic Waste Management in Nairobi, as part of the follow-up to the African 10YFP, which will be benefiting about 200 youths from 10 community-based groups through its recycling initiatives
- Launched the 'African Brewery Sector Water Saving Initiative' to be implemented in Uganda and other three African countries as part of the implementation of the activities under the water component of the African 10YFP
- Development and implementation of other capacity building projects under the sustainable consumption and production component including:
 - A project on 'Enhancing the Industrial Environmental Management Capacity of Rwanda' has been implemented as part of the Inter-agency (UNEP, UNDP, UN-Habitat) support on Kigali Industrial Zone. Undertaking a Baseline Assessment for the development of an 'Integrated Solid Waste Management System for Maseru City'.
 - A pilot project on integrating sustainable consumption and production is under implementation in Ghana and Senegal.

Where we are going – the way forward

- Fourth African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production to be held in May 2006 under the theme 'Implementation of the African 10YFP'
- The strategy for the implementation of the Task Force on Cooperation with Africa under the context of the Marrakech Process will be further developed and implemented
- Support to be provided for the further development and implementation of the African 10YFP at the national and sub-regional level
- A project proposal to be developed and implemented on 'Capacity building on eco-labels for industries and governments'

Energy

UNEP helps countries to address the environmental consequences of energy production and use, such as global climate change and local air pollution. UNEP has taken the lead in supporting sub-Saharan governments to develop policies and action plans to phase out leaded petrol, as part of a global Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV) established at WSSD. UNEP hosts the Clearing House for this initiative.

What we have done – recent programme highlights

- Implementation of the African Rural Energy Enterprise Development (AREED):
 - Toolkit on start-up and operation of energy enterprises developed
 - 5 NGOs strengthened to provide enterprise development services
 - 250 – 300 entrepreneurs trained; 15-20 enterprises established
- Implementation of the project on 'Financing for Renewable energy in the Mediterranean Region Energy' which is expected to lead to two and possibly three facilities for interest rate subsidy for the use of solar energy
- Conducted the study on 'Power Sector Reform in Africa' in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa which included:
 - The preparation of a regional report on Power Sector Reform
 - Organization of a Regional Consultative Meeting on the Report which was attended by higher level policy makers and experts
- Preparation of the Regional report on Atmospheric Pollution and climate change as an input to the Regional preparatory process for CSD-14.



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Where we are going- the way forward

- Development and implementation of the project on 'Renewable Energy Based Electricity Generation for Isolated Mini-Grids' which is expected to lead to the development of three mini-grids based on biomass gasification
- Provision of support to the Forum for Energy Ministers of Africa (FEMA) that is expected to lead to the preparation of a consolidated input to CSD 14 and 15 and contribute to the strengthening of Regional Policy Forum on Energy
- eCommerce and Renewable Energy (eCARE) which aims at a seed finance facility for renewable energy powered rural business centers in Ghana

Management of Chemicals

UNEP helps governments to achieve sound chemical management, by promoting information exchange, and by building national capacities to use chemicals safely.

What we have done - recent programme highlights

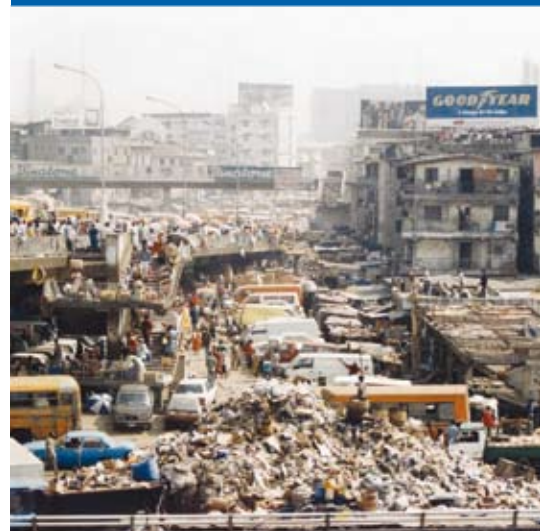
- Regional consultation on the development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and facilitation of active African participation in this global process
- The Chemicals Information Exchange Network (CIEN) project, which is under implementation in 38 African countries, provides training for chemical management officials and other stakeholders on the access and use of the chemical information through the Internet. It also provides basic electronic equipment to national agencies to catalyze the institutional strengthening. Using the CIEN/ESTIS tools to establish national chemicals websites, the project assists countries in creating networks (national, regional and international levels), fosters public awareness and encourages research activities. This facilitates the implementation of the Convention and the communication with Secretariats, the Conferences of Parties and other stakeholders. These objectives were strengthened in 7 countries in 2005
- UNEP Chemicals, in cooperation with SBC, is implementing a Canada POPs Fund supported project "Dioxin Inventory in a Sub-Saharan Country with Particular Focus on Specific Local Practices" in Cameroon and Benin from Jan 2005 to June 2006. The project supports the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on POPs and will

provide measured data for dioxin and furan concentrations from two Sub-Saharan African countries. With these results, some data gaps in UNEP's Toolkit will be closed and regionally measured data can be included

- Jointly with WHO and the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, UNEP provides guidance and support to countries in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention with regard to the use of DDT for disease vector control. Specifically, an induction workshop on DDT reporting and data requirements under the Stockholm Convention was jointly convened in November 2005 for the African region in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to identify needs for building capacities to develop, collect and manage data in countries that use DDT, or potentially will use DDT, in disease vector control
- From 2002-2005, UNEP Chemicals implemented several national PCB inventory projects in Africa. The projects aimed at developing preliminary inventories of PCBs in the context of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The participating countries from Africa were Benin, the Republic of Congo, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, and Senegal
- UNEP Chemicals is implementing a project on the management of PCBs in the SADC region. The SADC regional PCB inventory projects aim to catalyze efforts under the framework of the Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions by enhancing national capacities for the environmentally sound management of PCBs and PCB-containing equipment through the development of regionally harmonized national inventories. The participating countries were Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Zambia

Where we are going - the way forward

- UNEP support for implementation of SAICM in developing countries during 2006-2020 will include a number of capacity-building and awareness-raising activities for the African region
- UNEP DTIE implements activities to strengthen countries' capacity for accessing and using, for management decision making, chemicals information generated at national and International level. This effort will be continued in two African countries and 6 countries in the Asia region



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- Projects on specific chemical issues are moving forward as follows:
 - UNEP Chemicals is implementing the GEF Project “Regional Workshop to Evaluate Existing Capacities and Capacity Building Needs to Analyze POPs in Developing Countries” in the three regions Africa, GRULAC, and Asia/CEE during the years 2005 and 2006. In October 2005, the regional workshop for African countries was organized by the Basel Convention Regional Center in Pretoria, South Africa. This workshop was the kick-off for the activities in Africa to inform countries and laboratories that analyze POPs and to establish a common position for criteria on POPs analysis and sustainability to operate a POPs laboratory. These recommendations and criteria will turn into practical work on real samples in the region during the second phase, to be implemented in 2006
 - UNEP works with WHO and FAO to promote sustainable use and sound management of pesticides to support countries in the implementation of obligations of the Stockholm Convention regarding DDT and other POP pesticides covered by the Convention. Activities include support to two GEF funded projects executed by WHO Regional Offices for Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean involving 8 African countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan) and to promote Integrated Vector Management (IVM) in efforts to reduce reliance on DDT in disease vector control
 - UNEP support for the ongoing work on the environmentally sound management of PCBs in Africa during 2006-2028 will include projects on the environmentally sound interim storage of PCB-containing electrical equipment and on the upgrading of national PCB inventories in Africa

Trade and Environment

UNEP works to enhance understanding of the environment, social and economic impacts of trade liberalization and the trade impacts of environmental policies and agreements. UNEP also works to build the capacities of countries to integrate environmental considerations into macroeconomic policies, including trade policies.

What we have done – recent programme highlights

- Implementation of the ‘Capacity Building for Integrated Assessment and Planning (IAP) for Sustainable Development in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, which is expected to lead to:
 - Development of a Framework for Integrated Assessment and Planning
 - Organization of regional and national training workshops
 - Preparation of national and synthesis reports.
- Implementation of the project on ‘Integrated Assessment of trade-related policies and biological diversity in the agricultural sector’ being implemented in 6 ACP countries including in 2 African countries, which is expected to lead to:
 - A general framework of methodologies and biodiversity indicators for assessing the effects of trade policy on agricultural biodiversity
 - Three National Action Plan and Country Project Reports
- Promoting production and trading opportunities for organic agriculture products in East Africa, implemented in the context of UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force and expected to lead to:
 - Country assessment reports
 - Training workshops
 - Development of regional standards for organic produce

Where we are going - the way forward

Besides continuing with the implementation of existing projects the following project will be developed.

- Development and implementation of the project on ‘Enhancing National Capacities to Assess Wildlife Trade Policies in Support of CITES’ to be implemented jointly by the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force, CITES Secretariat and the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (University of Geneva), covering one country from Africa. Its expected outputs are:
 - General assessment framework and toolkit of wildlife trade policy assessment methodologies
 - Country project reports outlining wildlife policy options



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Natural resources

UNEP stresses the integrated management of natural resources. In order to ensure the adequate protection, conservation and sustainable use of the region's rich heritage in biodiversity and natural resources, UNEP supports activities in the following areas:

Land

UNEP works to help countries implement the CCD, with a concentration on assessment activities, and implementing the provisions on desertification in NEPAD.



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What we have done – recent programme highlights

- UNRP published in 2004 its Strategy on Land Use Management and Soil Conservation—a strengthened functional approach
- Through Belgian and Norwegian support to NEPAD, UNEP is implementing a project on the synergistic implementation of the three Rio Conventions in Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Mozambique
- In collaboration with the Lake Chad Basin Commission, UNEP/Belgian-funded Mega-Chad Community-based Biodiversity Conservation and Renewable Energy Project in Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad, that was concluded in January 2005
- UNEP, through its partnership for the Development of Environmental Laws and Institutions in Africa (PADELIA) is assisting countries like Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania in developing environmental legislation and institution
- UNEP is supporting GEF pilot demonstrations of best practices in land and water management at the community level that include:
 - Lake Baringo Community-based Integrated Land and Water Management Project in Kenya that came to an end in February 2004;
 - Development and implementation of a sustainable resource management plan for Marsabit Mountain and its associated watershed in Kenya
 - Mount Kenya Pilot Project for Land and Water Management

- UNEP, jointly with the Government of Zimbabwe and the International Soil Reference and Information Centre (ISRIC), conducted a case study on: The Impact of Desertification on Food Security in Southern Africa Study was concluded in March 2004
- UNEP initiated a new project entitled 'An Ecosystem Approach to Restoring West African Drylands and Improving Rural Livelihoods through Agroforestry-based Land Management Interventions. The project started in November 2004 covering Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal

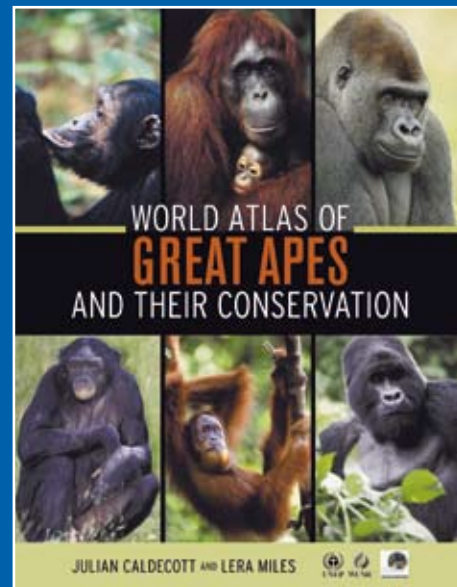
Where we are going – the way forward

- Phase II of the Survey of Networks and Agencies working on CCD Implementation to begin later in 2004

The Great Apes Survival Project

In 2005, the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) organised the Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on Great Apes and the first GRASP Council Meeting in Kinshasa. This meeting took place in September, and achieved a triple objective. First, it raised international awareness on the plight of the great apes. Second, it convinced more donor countries to get financially involved in GRASP. Third, it strengthened the political will to devote energy to great apes conservation. This will was expressed by the adoption and signature of the Kinshasa Declaration on Great Apes, a high-level political statement on the future of the great apes. By signing the declaration, the delegates pledge to do everything in their power to ensure the long-term future for all great ape species and their habitat. A global strategy for the survival of great apes, a set of rules to govern the organization of the GRASP Partnership and a revised workplan were also adopted.

During the year, GRASP also secured a European Commission 4-year project of 3 million Euro. This important grant helped to organise the IGM in Kinshasa and contributes to support the development of national plans for great ape conservation in range states as well as the implementation of four field projects deemed vital for the survival of threatened great ape populations. These projects will take place in Indonesia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire.



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To coincide with the IGM, UNEP-WCMC and GRASP launched, in September 2005, the World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation. This atlas provides a comprehensive overview of what is currently known about all six species of great apes - chimpanzee, bonobo, Sumatran orangutan, Bornean orangutan, eastern gorilla, and western gorilla. It gives a thorough background on great ape behaviour and ecology, including detailed habitat requirements, ecological role, and the possible consequences of their decline. Despite the dedicated efforts of many individuals and organizations, the great apes all fall into the Endangered or Critically Endangered category of the IUCN Red List. This atlas offers a full description of the threats, current conservation efforts, and additional protection needed for each species across its entire range.



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The construction of a low stone wall to stop encroachment into the Virunga transboundary conservation area was completed in 2005. The wall clearly demarcates the boundary of the park and is slowly being accepted as the limit of cultivation. The construction has also been a vehicle for conservation education.

The GRASP Partnership unites all the principal institutional actors in great ape conservation – UN agencies, biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, great ape range state and donor governments, non-governmental organizations, scientists, local communities and the private sector – in an internationally concerted approach to a major extinction crisis. The added value of GRASP in great ape conservation is based on the following principal activities:

- High-level national and intergovernmental dialogue to generate political will and influence policy for great ape conservation globally.
- Planning and monitoring at the national, regional and international level to bring the decline of great ape populations to a halt.
- Development and promotion of best practices, cooperation and technical support between and among all stakeholders.
- Media, information and public awareness to mitigate the threats facing the great apes.
- New and additional funding for great ape conservation.

WATER – The African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW)

- The African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) was launched on 29th April, 2002 as a regional political alliance of African ministers responsible for water. The water ministers adopted “*The Abuja Ministerial Declaration on Water - A Key to Sustainable Development in Africa*”.
- AMCOW’s mission is to provide political leadership, policy/strategic direction and advocacy in the use and management of water resources for social and economic development and the maintenance of Africa’s ecosystems. The mission calls for a regional and global alliance for water security for all in Africa, as a key to poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods.
- Membership of AMCOW is open to all the 53 African countries, and its function is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding adopted by member states, on 6th November, 2004. AMCOW is chaired through its biennial rotational presidency, currently held by Uganda. Its five vice-presidents are water ministers drawn from each of the five African sub-regions.
- The President and the five vice-presidents constitute the Executive Committee (EXCO), which holds regular meetings. Development partners, such as the African Water Task Force, the African Development Bank, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), the African Union and UN agencies, especially UNEP and UN-Habitat, are invited to EXCO meetings as observers.
- The AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee (AMCOW-TAC) consists of twenty-five nominated focal persons - five from each of the five sub-regions. AMCOW-TAC advises the EXCO and facilitates the implementation of its decisions through the Secretariat. The AMCOW Secretariat (AMCOW-SEC) consists of office bearers based in Abuja, Nigeria. The Secretariat is “...responsible for taking action on the decisions of the Council, under the direction and supervision of the Executive Committee”.
- Since its inception, AMCOW has demonstrated outstanding performance and achievement through its presence at global water events. It has played a significant role in the establishment of the Africa Water Facility, a partnership with the G-8, including the German G-8 Trans-boundary Water Initiative and the EU Water Initiative for Africa. All this is in a bid to achieve targets on water and sanitation set under the Millennium Development Goals, the Africa Water Vision 2025, and other initiatives aimed at improving water governance.



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Highlights of UNEP's Contribution

- Technical and financial assistance to the EXCO and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of AMCOW during the consultative process to develop the Triennial Work Programme (2005-2007)
- Supported establishment of a financial mechanism, the AMCOW Trust Fund, which is hosted and managed by UNEP, to support implementation of Council's decisions, commitments and the 2005-2007 Work Programme. During the 7th EXCO held in Addis, 29th June 2005, member states agreed to contribute US \$10,000 annually to the Trust Fund.
- Support to the participation of government ministers and senior technical persons to AMCOW meetings of the water sector in general
- Organized a High-Level Round-Table Forum for African Ministers of Water during the 11th World Lakes Conference held 31st October – 4th November, 2005, Nairobi, Kenya in conjunction with AMCOW and the Government of Kenya
- Technical and financial assistance to the Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON, Addis Ababa, 8-12 December 2003), to develop an African Action Plan on Water.

The Nairobi River Basin Programme – Phase III

- Nairobi River Basin Programme Phase III (NRBP-Phase III) is a four-year programme (January 2005–December 2008) implemented by UNEP's Division of Regional Co-operation through the Regional Office for Africa. NRBP-Phase III is a follow-up of phases I and II of the Nairobi River Basin Project (1999 – 2003) and is an outcome of a UNEP-led multi-stakeholder consultative and participatory process. Its stakeholders include UN agencies based in Nairobi (UNEP, UNDP and UN-Habitat), five ministries of the Government of Kenya (Water and Irrigation, Lands and Housing, Local Government, Environment and Natural Resources), private sector, civil society, and the University of Nairobi.
- The Vision of NRBP-Phase III is *"a restored riverine eco-system with clean water for the capital city and a healthier environment for the people of Nairobi"*. Its objective is to rehabilitate, restore and manage the Nairobi River ecosystem in order to provide improved livelihoods, especially for the poor, enhanced biodiversity, and a sustainable supply of water for domestic and industrial, recreational and emergency uses.

- NRBP-Phase III aims to achieve the following five key results:
 - *Result 1:* Nairobi River Basin Environmental Management and Urban Planning System developed and accepted
 - *Result 2:* Nairobi Dam Rehabilitated and Restored
 - *Result 3:* Water Quantity and Quality Measuring Protocols developed
 - *Result 4:* Service Delivery, Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Resources enhanced
 - *Result 5:* Public Awareness and Participation in Environmental Issues Affecting the Nairobi River enhanced.

NRBP-Phase III is expected to become a model to demonstrate a consistent and sustainable approach to achieve environmental action at the national level

Progress to Date

- The Government of Belgium has provided financial support through the Belgium Partnership Trust Fund, for implementing components 1, 3 and 4 of the NRBP-Phase III. The Irish Trust Fund has supported the process to initiate development of an Environmental Management Plan for Nairobi. The Kenya private sector has raised US \$65,000 for Nairobi Dam. The Government of Kenya will contribute 10% (in kind) of the total programme cost.
- Private sector participation for NRBP started in earnest with the launching of the Nairobi Dam Trust Initiative in March 2004, an event which attracted high-level political leadership, including the executive directors of UNEP (Dr. Klaus Töpfer), UN-Habitat (Dr. Anna Tibaijuka), and representatives from private sector and the civil society.
- The Nairobi Dam Trust was inaugurated in September 2004. The Trust has already developed an intervention plan (architectural design) for the rehabilitation and restoration of the Nairobi Dam. Resources continue to be mobilized (in cash and in-kind) to implement the intervention plan, to commence during 2006.
- Different components of NRBP-Phase III are currently being implemented by UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNEP and their partners in the private sector, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the University of Nairobi. The Private Sector Action Plan addressing priority areas of intervention into the NRBP-Phase III will be launched during the first quarter of 2006. An afforestation programme was launched as a component of catchment rehabilitation on 28th May 2005. Up to 100,000 tree seedlings will be planted in the catchment by the end of 2006.



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Capacity building

Implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan in Africa

Effective and genuine implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan (BSP) in developing countries and countries with economies in transition will provide specific answers to the need for a holistic approach to technology support and capacity development needs in the developing regions. In the context of the Africa Region, the BSP is of particular interest being fully in line with the objectives of the Capacity Building Programme of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as it underlines that capacity building should respond to needs and priorities of countries, and be in line with sub-regional and regional environment initiatives. The BSP will promote effective implementation of the recommendations of the two Partners' Conferences as well as the AMCEN work plan that was adopted by the 10th Regular Session of AMCEN held in Sirte, Libya (June 2004). The Bali Strategic Plan gives a unique opportunity to UNEP to profile its interventions, including at national level.

A pilot approach was suggested and the pilot project was formally launched during the 2005 World Summit in New-York, a way forward for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan in Africa through concrete projects at the country level. The set of pilot projects were initiated by the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) and the Regional Office for Africa (ROA) to be implemented immediately, running from June to December 2005. The pilot projects are being implemented in the Gambia, Lesotho, Rwanda, Kenya, Tunisia, and Burkina Faso.

These pilot projects will provide case studies for presentation at the 9th special session of the Governing Council in Dubai in February 2006. They will also provide key lessons for further implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan in other countries in Africa.

The urban environment

The Sustainable Cities Programme - a joint UNEP-HABITAT initiative - aims to assist cities to achieve more environmentally sustainable growth and development. It supports local authorities in capacity development through the



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Environment Planning and Management (EPM) approach that develops city environment profiles prior to developing strategy and action plans and defining appropriate institutional arrangements. The SCP also tries to replicate local experiences and integrate them into national policy and legal frameworks.

Nine African countries (Burkina Faso, Kenya, Egypt, Lesotho, Tanzania, Nigeria, Zambia, Senegal, Gambia) are involved in the programme, covering 26 cities.

Global Environment Facility (GEF) support to Africa

UNEP is one of the three implementing agencies of the GEF. As such UNEP provides implementation support to a GEF portfolio in Africa. This amounts to \$US 165 million. UNEP/GEF projects in Africa address issues of land degradation, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, climate change, protection of international waters, and persistent organic pollutants.

What we are doing – recent programme highlights

- Support for nine UNEP/GEF full-size projects and fifteen medium-sized projects
- Implementing several global and multi-country projects in which African countries are participating
- Support for global environmental assessments that include Africa, such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the global project to develop National Biosafety Frameworks.
- Assistance to African countries to meet their obligations to the MEAs, through national enabling activities
- Assistance with the preparation of an action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD
- Supported nine thematic workshops on the Action Plan in 2003
- Led the preparation of the capacity building project within the Action Plan
- A partnership conference in Algiers considered the financing of the environment initiative, and the capacity building programme to support its implementation

Environmental training

UNEP puts great emphasis on the need for environmental education and training as a means to improving environmental management.



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What we are doing – recent programme highlights

- Supported the Regional Environmental Action Learning (REAL) Programme
- Workshops on Environmental Journalism in 2002, 2003 and 2005 to improve reporting in electronic and print media and promote and strengthen networking
- Supported Environmental Education for Development in African Universities
- Collaboration in Information Communication and Technology (ICT) for Africa through e-learning on environmentally sustainable development for tertiary institutions

Communication and public information

This is the channel by which UNEP as a whole makes itself visible in Africa and brings to regional attention matters of environmental importance, encouraging links with governments, government organisations, civil society, NGOs, CBOs and institutions interested on environmental topics.

The UNEP message is put out through the printed word, electronic means (including the web site www.unep.org/roa), organised events, AMCEN sessions, and other meetings. The International Year of Mountains, the International Year of Freshwater and World Environment Day and Clean up the World activities in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 provided ample opportunity for media coverage and information dissemination.



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What we have done – recent programme highlights

- New communications strategy for UNEP in the region developed
- Preparation and dissemination of regular environmental information and news releases
- Production of documents on new and emerging environmental issues such as the Assessment of Progress on Sustainable development in Africa since Rio, Regional Industry Review, reports of AMCEN Sessions
- Production/publication and dissemination of promotional information materials, for example ROA News
- Production of a video documentary on Ozone in Africa
- Capacity building for media and development of partnerships and strategic alliance with media and other relevant organisations - partnerships with the African Network for Environmental Journalists (ANEJ), and the Pan-African Press (PANAPRESS)
- ANEJ created and operational
- Preparation and dissemination of regular environmental information



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Annex I

UNEP partners in Africa

Governments

Regional cooperation bodies:

- ❖ African Ministerial Conference on the Environment - AMCEN
- ❖ African Union - AU
- ❖ African Ministerial Council on Water - AMCOW
- ❖ African Development Bank - ADB

Sub regional organisations:

- ❖ Economic Community of West African States - ECOWAS
- ❖ Economic Community of Central African States - ECCA
- ❖ Southern African Development Community - SADC
- ❖ Arab Maghreb Union - AMU
- ❖ East African Community - EAC
- ❖ Intergovernmental Authority on Development - IGAD
- ❖ Economic Community of Eastern and Southern Africa - COMESA

United Nations system organisations:

- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa - ECA
- ❖ United Nations Development Programme - UNDP
- ❖ United Nations Commission on Human Settlements - UNCHS-Habitat
- ❖ United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organisation - UNESCO
- ❖ United Nations Industrial Development Organisation - UNIDO
- ❖ United Nations System-wide Initiative on Africa - UNSIA

Other international bodies:

- ❖ World Bank
- ❖ Convention secretariats
- ❖ IUCN - The World Conservation Union;
- ❖ Network for Water and Sanitation International - NETWAS

Donor governments and the European Union

Civil society

NGOs - international and African

CBOs



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