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**REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED
NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME/GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FUND
MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE OF THE
NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)**

Note by the secretariat

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**Fourth Steering Committee of the UNEP/GEF Medium Sized Project
on the environment component of NEPAD
Maputo, Mozambique, 23 –24 April 2003**

**REPORT OF THE FOURTH STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE UNEP/GEF
MEDIUM SIZED PROJECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE OF
THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)**

Maputo, Mozambique, 23 – 24 April 2003

INTRODUCTION

1. A UNEP/GEF Medium Sized Project (MSP) on the Development and Implementation of the Environment Component of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) of US\$ 300,000 was adopted on 26 July 2001 immediately after the OAU Summit held in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001. The objective of the MSP was to develop a framework of an Action plan for the implementation of Environment Initiative of NEPAD. Chapter 8 of NEPAD entitled the "Environment Initiative" identified the following eight areas of focus: Combating desertification, Wetland conservation, Invasive alien species, Coastal management, Global warming, Cross-border conservation areas, Environmental governance, Financing.
2. To this end a Steering Committee of the project comprising the members of the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the representatives of the five initiating countries of NEPAD was established. At the kind initiative of the Government of South Africa, the first meeting of the steering committee was held in Pretoria, South Africa on 17 January 2002. At the kind invitation of the Government of Algeria, the second meeting of the steering committee was held in Algiers, Algeria on the 11-12 March 2002. At the kind invitation of the Government of Senegal the third meeting of the steering committee was held in Dakar, Senegal on 12 and 13 June 2002 at the level of experts and on 14 June 2002 at the level of ministers. The ministerial segment of the meeting endorsed the Framework of an Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD and recommended its adoption to the ninth meeting of AMCEN. The minister submitted the Framework to the President of Senegal at a meeting also held on 14 June 2002 in Dakar.
3. The ninth meeting of AMCEN held in Kampala, Uganda from 2 – 4 July 2002 endorsed the Framework and mandated the President of AMCEN with the President of Senegal, who also attended the meeting, to submit the Framework to the Summit of the African Union, held in Durban, South Africa from 8-11 July 2002. The ministers mandated the steering committee of the MSP to further elaborate the Framework with a view of submitting a detailed Action Plan to a meeting of AMCEN to be held in June 2003. It was agreed that lead countries of the steering committee would take the responsibility of co-ordinating the further development of each programme area, building on the elements identified in the Framework of the Action Plan. In fulfilling their tasks, the lead countries will work in close co-operation with relevant sub-regional, regional and international institutions, the GEF, and the secretariats of the relevant conventions to undertake a mapping exercise of on-going programmes, initiatives and activities. Their aim will be to identify gaps and priorities, and to develop project proposals with clear time frames, targets, cost estimates and mechanisms for implementation and monitoring. To this end a GEF Medium Sized Project of US\$ 300,000 was adopted on 30 September 2002 with a view of finalizing the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD.
4. It was agreed that the following nine thematic workshops will be convened: Desertification (Algeria), Poverty and Environment (Mali) Invasive Species (South Africa), Forests (Cameroon), Marine and Coastal Environment including Fresh Water (Nigeria), Health and Environment (Senegal), Climate Change (Morocco), Wetlands and NGO Consultative Meeting (Kenya).

5. The following participants attended the meeting: H. E. Mr. John Kachamila, Minister of Coordination for Environment Affairs for Mozambique, H. E. Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Minister of Environment for Uganda, H. E. Mr. Imeh Okopido, Minister of State for Environment for Nigeria; H. E. Mr. Riad Tadros, Minister of Environment for Egypt, Eng. Dahlia Lotayef, Egypt; H. E. Mr. Ntagazwa, Minister of Environment for Tanzania, H. E. Ms. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, South Africa, H. E. Mr. Francisco Mabjaia, Deputy Minister of Environment, Mozambique, H. E. Mr. Nedson Nzowa, Deputy Minister for Environment for Zambia. Mr. Edwin Ijeoma, NEPAD Secretariat; Mr. Mohmaed Si Youcef, Algeria; Mr. Abdallah Rattal, Morocco; Dr. Mohamed Massud Amer, Libya; Eng. Khalifa Abdallah Elawej, Libya; H. E. Ambassador Thancanamootoo, Mauritius, Mr. Santaran Mooloo, Mauritius, Mr. Evaristo Baquete, GEF Focal Point for Mozambique, Mr. Sekou Toure, UNEP, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, UNEP; Mr. Mohamed Sessay, UNEP. The complete list is contained in Annex II.

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The meeting was opened by H. E. Mr. John Kachamila, Minister of Coordination of Environmental Affairs for Mozambique who expressed a warm welcome to the participants of the meeting. He welcomed on behalf of the people and Government of Mozambique, the participants to the meeting. He stated that the meeting is taking place at an opportune time, a few months after World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the establishment of the African Union. It is also taking place a couple of weeks before the Summit of the Heads of States of the African Union to be held in Maputo, which will be preceded by a special session of AMCEN. He also recalled the convening of the nine thematic workshops and the submission of 216 project proposals falling under the environmental component of NEPAD. He commended the African experts for the contribution. He congratulated UNEP and the GEF for their support. He wished the participants success for their important meeting.
7. H. E. Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Minister of Environment for Uganda thanked the Government of Mozambique for hosting this important meeting and for their kind hospitality. He indicated that the participation of the ministers is a demonstration of their solidarity and commitment to the environmental component of NEPAD. He recalled the work of the Steering Committee including its meeting in Dakar on 14 June 2002 with the President of Senegal, H. E. Maitre Abdoulaye Wade. He congratulated the Executive Director to UNEP for his support to AMCEN and to Africa including its environmental component of NEPAD as demonstrated by the Global Ministerial Environmental Forum held in Nairobi, in February 2003.
8. Dr. Edwin Ijeoma, NEPAD Secretariat conveyed the appreciation of Prof. Wiseman Nkhulu, the Chairman of the NEPAD Secretariat for the preparation of the environmental component of NEPAD under the leadership of AMCEN and with the support of UNEP and financial resources provided by GEF. He indicated that NEPAD is an African led process and the preparation of the environmental Action Plan is a good example of such a consultative process. He shared the vision of the secretariat regarding the next stage of NEPAD revolving around the Regional Economic Communities as a building block of its implementation. He indicated that NEPAD is entering a new phase of its existence focusing on the implementation and achieving concrete results on the ground. He indicated that he would inform the participants of the next meeting of the Steering Committee of NEPAD to be held in Cape Town in May 2003 of the progress achieved by the Steering Committee on the environmental component of NEPAD.
9. Mr. Sekou Toure, Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Klaus Töpfer, congratulated H.E. Mr. Kachamila for hosting the meeting and the exceptional quality of the hospitality. He also congratulated the President of AMCEN for attending the meeting as well as the other ministers attending the meeting. He recalled the process of the preparation of the framework and the convening of the thematic workshops. He reiterated UNEP's commitment for its support of the implementation plan, in particular the development of African human and institutional capacities.

10. H. E. Mr. Tadros, Minister of Environment for Egypt thanked the Mozambican government for their kind hospitality. The Minister emphasized the need to urgently reconcile African development needs with the protection of its natural resources as well as the need for an Action Plan for a long term duration. In this regard, he stressed the need for enhancing the capacities of the African countries as a key element for the implementation of the Action Plan. In this regard, he extended an invitation to the Steering Committee members to host a meeting at Ministerial Level in Cairo, Egypt in October 2003 focussing on the strategic plan on Capacity Building prior to the Donors meeting to be held in Algiers in December 2003.
11. H. E. Ms. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs for South Africa congratulated the African ministers for their success in preparing the Action Plan on the environmental component of NEPAD and referred to the African ministers as members of the big African family. She reiterated the need for the meeting to come up with a clear plan for implementation of the Action Plan. She emphasized the need for building partnerships with UNEP, the International Oceans Committee of UNESCO, GEF and the Global Plan of Action for the protection of the marine environment for land based pollution in order to seek new opportunities and to avoid duplication. She appreciated the progress made so far and would report the outcome to H. E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa. The minister introduced the report of the Thematic Report on the Invasive Species held in Pretoria.
12. H. E. Mr. Imeh Okopido, Minister for State for the Environment for Nigeria indicated that the time has come for the implementation of the Action Plan and stressed the importance of translating the Action Plan into complete action. He recalled that the framework of the Action Plan was introduced by himself, in his capacity as co-chair of the Steering Committee to the ninth meeting of AMCEN. The Minister briefed the participants of the meeting on the process of the preparation of the Action Plan since its inception. He indicated the decision taken by the Second GEF Assembly to include Land Degradation as a separate focal area. He presented the outline of the PDF-A and PDF-B on the management of the shared ecosystem of Niger and Nigeria supported by UNEP. He also presented the Report on the Thematic Workshop on Marine, Coastal and Freshwater Resources held in Abuja, Nigeria in 24 – 25 February 2003.
13. H. E. Mr. Ntagazwa, Minister of State in the Office of the Vice President for Environmental Affairs for Tanzania emphasized the need to identify gaps and priorities, time frame and cost estimates for the projects in the Action Plan. He referred to the ongoing projects on renewable energy amongst Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and the Tanzania-Zambia power connection as cases for priority projects. The Minister also mentioned the problem of Invasive Species in Lake Jipe, which is a source of hydroelectric power as an example of a priority project for integration into the Action Plan.
14. H. E. Mr. Nedson Nzowa, Deputy Minister of Environment for Zambia recalled the importance attached by Zambia attached to the environmental component of NEPAD. He reminded the participants on the leading role of Zambia as the chair of the task force on PCBs. He stated that such a role is a demonstration of the Zambia's commitment to protecting the environment. He also stressed the need for all African countries to adopt and take a common stand on the issues related to environment and foreign investments.
15. Mr. Mohamed Si Youcef, on behalf of H. E. Mr. Cherif Rahmani, Minister of Environment for Algeria presented the Report for the Thematic Workshop on Desertification held in Algiers on 17 – 18 January 2003.
16. Mr. Abdallah Rattal, representative of Morocco presented the report of the NEPAD thematic workshop on Climate Change held in Rabat, Morocco.
17. Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Director of the UNEP Division of GEF presented the reports of the Thematic Workshop on Poverty and the Environment, NGO, Forests, and Health and Environment.

18. The participants elected by acclamation H. E. Mr. John Kachamila, Minister of Coordination for Environmental Affairs for Mozambique and H. E. Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Minister of Water, Lands and Environment for Uganda, President of AMCEN and President of UNEP Governing Council, as co-chairs of the meeting.

19. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

- Opening Ceremony
- Review of the results of the nine NEPAD thematic workshops
- Review of the revised Action Plan on the Environment Initiative of NEPAD
- Adoption of Recommendations of the Meeting
- Closing Ceremony

II. REVIEW OF THE REPORTS OF THE THEMATIC WORKSHOPS AND THE REVISED ACTION PLAN

20. During the opening ceremony the reports of the following nine thematic workshops were introduced by the representatives of the host countries and the Secretariat: Desertification (Algeria), Poverty and Environment (Mali), Invasive Species (South Africa), Non-Governmental Organizations Kenya), Forests (Cameroon), Wetlands (Kenya), Health and the Environment (Senegal), Marine, Coastal and Freshwater resources (Nigeria), and Climate Change (Morocco). The participants unanimously commended the African experts for the quality of their recommendations.

21. It must be noted that at the margins of the NEPAD Thematic Workshop on Forests held in Yaounde on 13 – 14 February 2003, an important bilateral agreement was signed between Nigeria and Cameroon on the transboundary protected area between the two countries. This was followed by an agreement to conserve the endangered species under the UNEP Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP).

III. FINALIZATION OF THE ACTION PLAN ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT OF NEPAD

22. The revised Action Plan on the environmental component of NEPAD was introduced by H. E. Mr. Imeh Okopido. In his introduction, the Minister recalled the process, which guided the preparation of the Framework of an Action Plan and its adoption at the ninth session of AMCEN held in Kampala from 1- 5 July 2002. He referred to the decision requesting the convening of the nine thematic workshops and reported on the progress made. He summarized the content of the draft Action Plan before the meeting. A technical presentation on the thematic areas contained in the Action Plan was made by the representative of the Secretariat.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

23. The participants adopted by acclamation the revised version of the Action Plan on the environment initiative of NEPAD incorporating the comments made during the meeting. The participants also adopted by acclamation the draft decision on the Action Plan submitted for the consideration of the Special Session of AMCEN to be held in Maputo, Mozambique on 9 – 10 June 2003. The draft decision is contained in Annex 1.

V. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

24. At the request of H.E. Mr. Imeh Okopido, Minister of State for Environment of Nigeria, a minute of silence was observed by the participants of the meeting, following the sad news of the death of some members of the Mozambican Football team involved in a car accident. The participants request H. E. Mr. John Kachamila to convey to the families of the victims, their deep condolences.
25. H. E. Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Minister of Environment of Uganda and President of AMCEN informed the participant that the Special Session of AMCEN would be held in Maputo, Mozambique on 9 – 10 June 2003. The new dates have been recommended to accommodate the participation of H. E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Republic of Nigeria to the Special Session in his capacity as the President of the Implementation Committee of NEPAD. The new dates have been agreed upon by H. E. Mr. Joaquim Chisano, the President of Mozambique.
26. H. E. Ms. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Environment of South Africa and H. E. Mr. Imeh Okopido, Minister of State for Environment of Nigeria, presented to the participants a report on the ministerial consultation held on 23 April 2003 in Maputo on the African Process. The participants reaffirmed that the African Process is part of the environment component of NEPAD and any follow-up activities should be handled by Africa institutions under the overall coordination of the Nairobi and Abidjan Convention. The participants were of the view that the role of ACOPs, which started in Maputo in 1998, should now come to an end in Maputo at the occasion of this meeting.
27. In his closing statement, H. E. Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Minister of Environment of Uganda and President of AMCEN considered the outcomes of the steering committee as one of the most productive meetings. He congratulate the people and the government of Mozambique for their support and generosity. He congratulated the Ministers for their active involvement. He also congratulated UNEP and the GEF for their support.
28. H. E. Mr. Riad Tadros, Minister of Environment of Egypt made concluding remarks thanking the people and the government of Mozambique for this hospitality. He also congratulated UNEP and the GEF for their support and stated that he was looking forward to welcoming the ministers in Egypt for the Fifth meeting of the Steering Committee.
29. In his concluding statement, H. E. Mr. John Kachamila, Minister of Coordination for Environmental Affairs of Mozambique, expressed his appreciation to the ministers for attending the meeting. He was of the view that the meeting has fully achieved its objectives. He was of the view that the decision adopted by the meeting would contribute to the success of the Heads of State meeting of the African Union to be held in Maputo, Mozambique in July 2003. This would also form the foundation of the success of the special session of AMCEN to be held in Maputo, Mozambique on 9 – 10 June 2003 with the participation of H. E. Mr. Obasanjo, President of the Republic of Nigeria and H. E. Mr. Joaquim Chisano, the President of Mozambique. He thanked UNEP and the GEF for their support.
30. H. E. Mr. John Kachmila, Minister of Coordination for Environmental Affairs of Mozambique declared the Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee at the level of minister officially closed.

ANNEX I

DRAFT DECISION ON ACTION PLAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE OF THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF AMCEN OF 2003

Recalling the Kampala Declaration on the environment for Development adopted by the ninth meeting of AMCEN held in Kampala, Uganda on 1 -5 July 2002.

Recalling also Chapter 8 on Sustainable Development for Africa in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 26 August – 4 September 2002.

Recalling also the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development adopted on 16 September 2002 by the High Level plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000.

Recalling also the relevant decision on the New Partnership for Africa's Development adopted by the Group of Eight major industrialized countries in Kanaskis, Canada on 25 – 27 June 2002.

Expressing its appreciation to UNEP and the GEF for their support in the development of the Action Plan.

Concerned that Africa is the only continent in which poverty is expected to rise during the Twenty First century.

Concerned also about the increasing environmental threat facing the African continent as a result of global environmental changes with adverse effects.

Decide to:

1. Note with appreciation the results of the fourth meeting of the Steering Committee of the UNEP/GEF Medium Sized Project on the environmental initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's development held at Ministerial Level in Maputo, Mozambique on 23 – 24 April 2003.
2. Note the reports of the nine thematic workshops on the finalization of the Action Plan on the environment initiative at the New Partnership for Africa's Development.
3. Endorse the Action Plan on the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.
4. Reaffirm that the African Process on Coastal and marine environment is an integral part of the Action Plan on the environmental initiative of New Partnership for Africa's development and its recommendation and projects should be entrusted to African institutions under the overall coordination of the Nairobi and Abidjan conventions.
5. Invite the President of AMCEN and the host of the Special Session of AMCEN, with the members of the Steering Committee, to submit the Action Plan to the Summit of the African Heads of State to be held in Maputo, Mozambique in July 2003 and encourage the members of the Steering Committee to attend the meeting.
6. Invite the President of AMCEN and the host of the Special Session of AMCEN, to submit in consultation with the Steering Committee, the Action Plan to the next meeting of the Heads of State Implementation Committee of NEPAD.

7. Invite also the President of AMCEN and the host of the Special Session of AMCEN, in consultation with the Steering Committee, to submit the Action Plan to the Secretary General of the United Nations.
8. Invite bilateral and multilateral donors to actively participate to the donors meeting on the Action Plan on the environmental initiate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development to be held in Algiers, Algeria in December 2003.
9. Invite the Global Environment Facility in partnership with the African Development Bank, UNEP, the secretariat of AMCEN and NEPAD to play a leading role in mobilizing additional financial resources for the implementation of the Action Plan and its associated projects, with a special emphasis on the implementation of its Annex on Capacity Building.
10. Welcoming the offer of Egypt to host in October 2003 the fifth meeting of the Steering Committee at the Ministerial Level on capacity building for the implementation of the Action Plan.
11. Keep under review the implementation of the Action Plan at the regular meeting of AMCEN and mandate the Steering Committee to continue playing a leading role in overseeing the implementation of the Action Plan and its annex on Capacity Building.
12. Invite the President of AMCEN and the host of the Special Session of AMCEN to submit through the Steering Committee a detailed report on the implementation of the Action Plan at the next meeting of AMCEN to be held in 2004.
13. Express its gratitude to the Government of Algeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, and South Africa for hosting and supporting the convening of the nine NEPAD thematic workshops for the finalization of the Action Plan.
14. Express its gratitude to the Government of Mozambique for hosting the Fourth Steering Committee Meeting and in particular H.E. Mr. John Kachamila for the leadership he played for the finalization of the Action Plan.

ANNEX II

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