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UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME: ABIDJAN CONVENTION

Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine
and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and its
related Protocols

Report of a Comprehensive review and Strategy Document for the Abidjan Convention

Draft Final Report

Prepared for the Governments of Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa and Togo in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS / GLOSSARY:	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
INTRODUCTION	8
THE ABIDJAN CONVENTION.....	9
(a) Original Mandate:	9
(b) Objectives of the Convention:	10
(c) Mechanisms that exist to implement the Convention's work programme	16
C1. Institutional Mechanisms	16
C2. Financial Mechanism.....	17
C3. Coordination Mechanism	19
C3.1 Visible Regional Coordinating Centre:	20
C3.2 National Focal Points:	20
C3.3 Ministerial/ Bureau Steering Committee:.....	20
C3.4 Nodal structure:	21
C3.5 Task forces/working groups:	21
(d) The Convention, NEPAD work programme and other initiatives:	22
(e) Institutional Arrangements:	28
(f) Links to other Organizations/Agencies	29
(g) Role and Impacts of the National Focal Points:	32
(h) Opportunities:.....	34
CONCLUSION:.....	37
REFERENCES:	40
Annex I.....	41
Annex II	44
Annex III	45
Annex IV	49
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	53

ACRONYMS / GLOSSARY:

ADB	African Development Bank
AEF	African Environment Facility
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and Marine Zones of West Africa
BCLME	Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CCC	Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem
CCT/BNETD	Centre for Map Making and Remote Sensing (Cote
CECAF	East and Central Africa Fisheries Commission
CERSGIS	Center for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information
CNTIG	National Committee for Remote Sensing and Geographic
COMIFAC	Forestry Commission of Central Africa (Commission des Forets d'Afrique Centrale)
COP	Contracting Parties
CP	Contracting Parties
CSRP	Sub-regional Commission for Fisheries d'Ivoire) Development
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCLME	Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEF-MSP	Global Environment Facility – Medium Sized Project
GIRMAC	Programme for Integrated Management of Marine and Coastal Resources (Programme de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources Marines et Côtières)
GLOBALLAST	Removal of barriers to the Effective Implementation of Ballast Water Control and Management Measures in Developing Countries
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
GPA-LBA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Landbased Activities
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
ICAM	Integrated Coastal Area Management
ICCAT	International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic
ICS-UNIDO	International Centre for Science and High Technology –
IMO	International Maritime Organization Information
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOCEA/IOC	Regional Committee for the Central Eastern Atlantic Ocean
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Areas

NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
ODINAFRICA	Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa Organization
OSPAR	The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
PRCM	Regional Programme for the Conservation of the Coastal
RCU	Regional Coordinating Unit
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SINEPAD	Secrétariat Intérimaire du Volet Environnement du NEPAD (Interim Secretariat for NEPAD)
TOR	Terms of Reference
UEMOA	Economic Monetary Union of West Africa
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, scientific and Cultural
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WAMER	West African Marine Eco-region
WB	World Bank
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WWF	World Wide Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents a comprehensive review of the Abidjan Convention – the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and its related protocols – to ensure its continuing relevance in view of current realities. It is expected to provide guidance in the development of a future orientation to commit governments to honour their commitments and take ownership of the Convention and proffer concrete measures to strengthen the institutional arrangement for effective coordination and sustainable financing mechanism for the Convention’s activities.

The Contracting Parties include member countries that have ratified the Convention –Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Togo and member States in the process or yet to ratify the Convention including Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Sao Tome & Principe.

The original mandate of the Abidjan Convention was in a “broad sense” adequate to address environmental problems of specific interest and priority to participating countries and covered a wide range of issues as a comprehensive umbrella regional agreement for the protection and management of the marine and coastal areas. The mandate paid little attention to socio-economic “development” as an engine of growth from which wealth generated could be channelled to address attendant environmental threats to marine and coastal areas by targeted actions. The objectives were also justified by public concern in the seventies that are probably not as strong as they were anymore in view of current realities.

The restructured objectives have focused on environmental valuation, which must be part of investment and infrastructure projects for sustainable development to ensure the integration of economic growth, social development and environmental protection. This is in line with the overall objective of several new initiatives including those of NEPAD for improving environmental condition by addressing the root cause of environmental degradation, which is widespread poverty in the region.

The approach recommended for raising public awareness of the economic values of marine and coastal resources and their ecological role encourages broad-based participation to ensure support for environmental action and engender ownership. This advocacy also guarantees voluntary and private protection of coastal resources by the resource users themselves. There is a need for communication/training strategy for advocacy, awareness raising,

information dissemination, participation, decision-making, interactive knowledge exchange and problem solving concerning coastal issues.

The re-engineering of the coordination mechanism is long overdue. The lack of effective coordination has generally been recognized as one of the three impediments to the implementation of the Action plan of the Convention. The other impediments are a lack of political will or commitment and the need to create new resources/funding mechanisms. While the root cause of ineffective coordination is inadequate funding, the underlying cause is a lack of political will, and the immediate cause is a general lack of visibility at the level of Contracting Parties and the secretariat of the Convention hosted by UNEP in Nairobi.

The resultant poor institutional communication has led to a clamour for the strengthening of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and relocation of the secretariat to Abidjan, within the region. The relocation of the secretariat of the Convention to Abidjan and upgrading of the RCU to a full-fledged regional body, similar to all other UN Regional bodies will provide a sound and effective institutional structure and internal organization of the Action plan. Other strategies for institutional strengthening include the creation of National Focal Points, Ministerial/Bureau Steering Committee; Nodal structure involving the Large Marine Ecosystem Projects; and special task forces/working groups.

The revamped secretariat must pursue financing mechanisms through active resource mobilization by its bureau, negotiation of affordable contribution from member countries, broadened membership to include additional partners/donors including multinational oil companies operating in the region as stakeholders. The RCU will catalyse for regional and sub-regional activities that could attract funding and follow-up on financial commitments expressed by donors during WSSD for programmes/projects related to coastal and marine environment.

Fundamental to the overarching leading and supervisory role of the Convention in the region is the incorporation of NEPAD work programme and other initiatives of collaborators in the work programme of the Convention. This multi-sectorial platform and its unique role of promoting the implementation of projects and programmes further re-emphasize the coordinating role of the Convention and a need to claim/reclaim ownership of all ongoing programmes/projects in the region, ensure a reporting obligation; facilitate archiving of information as repository/depository of expertise and knowledge from projects that come to an end; and act in advisory and policy support roles for ongoing and future environmental initiatives.

The sustainability of the Convention will depend on its ability to respond to changes, sustainable funding, institutional strengthening, integration of

interdisciplinary programmes and projects, capacity building with assistance from technical development partners, regional and international cooperation and solidarity. These are predicated on establishing linkages and collaboration with additional regional and international institutions, stakeholders, partners, donors and professional bodies in addition to those already supporting the Convention.

The Convention should take advantage of the numerous environmental initiatives in the region for improving its relevance and recognition as the sole legal framework for all marine and coastal related programmes/projects through effective coordination and consultation. This should be anchored on strategic principles such as institutional communication and information services, promotion of joint actions, liaison with centres of excellence, reinforcing synergy between programme activities, capacity building, data exchange and networking, strategic partnerships, harmonization of policy and legal frameworks, and finally initiation, development and negotiation of new Conventions and GEF-MSP programmes to complement ongoing activities and avoid duplication for cost effectiveness.

It is noteworthy that most member countries strongly accept the Convention as a leading organ for a design of a regional platform for integrated management of marine and coastal resources that should capitalize on sub-regional experiences. This should ensure coherence of interventions; reinforce environmental governance; and build confidence and trust and promote national, sub-regional and regional protection of marine and coastal areas. Some suggestions for sustaining the momentum generated so far in retooling and revamping the Convention are included as urgent needs and initial activities to among others, reinforcing the relevance of the Convention in the Region.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents a comprehensive review of the Abidjan Convention – the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and its related Protocols – to ensure its relevance in view of current realities and to provide guidance in the development of a strategy to commit governments (as Contracting Parties) to honour their commitments to the Convention.

The review was facilitated by the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a follow-up to the request of the contracting parties at the Seventh Conference of Parties (COP7) meeting held in Libreville, Gabon from 22-23 March 2005. Specifically UNEP was requested to assist the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) in Abidjan, to become autonomous and to equip it with resources for the effective discharge of its coordination function (Decision CP.7/1/3). This was regarded as a necessary step towards revitalizing and re-tooling the Abidjan Convention to responding to current realities for effective coordination mechanism in the Convention area in view of the increasing numbers of environmentally-related national, regional and international initiatives, programmes and projects on the marine and coastal environment.

The purpose of this in-depth review is to assist the Contracting Parties to assess progress and to take decisions on the future orientation and emphasis as well as to decide on implementation mechanisms for effective coordination, engendering ownership and renewed commitment by the Contracting Parties, donors, partners and all relevant stakeholders.

The Contracting Parties (presently strictly member countries) include Governments of Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa and Togo.

The review mission was assisted by Mr. Dixon Waruinge, Programme Officer, Ms. Ulrika Gunartz, and Ms. Anne Maina of the Convention Secretariat by arranging and coordinating field visits and by providing and compiling the necessary and adequate background information and documentation for the review report. The review was conducted during the period of August to September 2005 and followed the guidelines identified in the Terms of Reference (TOR) as detailed in **Annex 1**. The itinerary of the interview visits is in **Annex II** while the list of agencies visited and persons met for consultations/discussions is given in **Annex III**.

THE ABIDJAN CONVENTION

(A) ORIGINAL MANDATE:

Within the context of a regional approach (UNEP/GC.6/7 of May 1978) exemplified by its Regional Seas Programme, UNEP Governing Council provided the original mandate for environmental action as encompassing a comprehensive transsectorial approach to environmental problems which should deal with the consequences as well as with the causes of environmental degradation. The approach focused on specific problems of high priority to the States of a given region with a view to responding readily to the needs of the Governments and helping to mobilize adequately their own national resources. It envisaged "that undertaking activities of common interest to coastal States on a regional basis should, in due time, provide the basis for dealing effectively with the environmental problems of the oceans as a whole" (UN, 1981).

Two elements are fundamental to the Regional Seas Programme approach:

- (1) the need for States of the region to benefit from the programme and therefore their participation from the inception in the formulation, acceptance and policy development of the programme approach which engenders a sense of ownership.
- (2) the substantive aspect of any regional programme is based on a regional action plan formally adopted by the governments of the region and is carried out primarily by the national institutions of those governments.

The original mandate of the Abidjan Convention was in a "broad sense" adequate. The Convention (1) addresses environmental problems of specific interest and priority to participating countries through their collective will and commitment, (2) envisages immediate, underlying and root causes of environmental problems and the need to provide solutions to address them, (3) covers a wide range of issues as a comprehensive umbrella agreement for the protection and management of the marine and coastal areas – it lists the sources of pollution which require control e.g. pollution from ships, dumping, land-based sources, exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed, and pollution from or through the atmosphere, (4) Identifies environmental management issues for which cooperative efforts are to be made i.e. coastal pollution, specially protected areas, combating pollution in cases of emergency and environmental impact assessment , (5) Has articles on scientific and technological cooperation, and liability and compensation. While it was all encompassing "the West and Central African States felt that the Abidjan Convention was too general to provide sufficient protection on its own", albeit protection could be sought from any of its specific protocols.

The flexible formula responded to the needs of the region. However the convention recognized the need for a pro-active action in dealing with future environmental problems and acting on environmental concerns as they arise and to keep pace with emerging environmental problems and initiatives necessary to solve them.

The mandate sought to foster regional cooperation to address environmental problems and duly recognized the varying governance structures, extreme political, social and economic variations within and between the Contracting States and their impacts on varying capacity for political will, technological and human and material resources for collective action. It recognized the need for sustainable development for maintaining and preserving the natural heritage available for utilization and exploitation for the benefit of the human environment, quality of life and for the elimination of abject poverty, without which there can be no sustainable development, and by extension, the protection of natural resource base in the coastal and marine environment. However, the mandate failed to focus on "Development" as a major issue to be addressed by a set of action, without which the root cause of all inherent environmental degradation in the region i.e. poverty cannot be addressed.

A new mission statement could encapsulate the "sustenance of the national and regional environmental and ecological systems in a healthy condition for human health and socio-economic development for the present and future generations and for overall global benefit." A clear vision representative of the characteristics desired for the future environment could be stated as "to promote and achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the rational and equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the protection and integrated management of the common waters of the region on the basis of solidarity and mutual cooperation".

(B) OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION

The original objectives of the Convention included *inter alia*:

- 1) The reduction of threat to the marine and coastal environment, its ecological equilibrium, resources and legitimate uses caused by pollution and by the absence of an integration of an environmental dimension into the development process;
- 2) To ensure cooperation among Contracting Parties in order to ensure sustainable, environmentally-sound development through a coordinated, comprehensive approach;
- 3) To put in place a carefully planned research, monitoring and assessment programme in view of the scarcity of scientific information on marine pollution in the West and Central African Region.
- 4) To complement existing conventions on marine pollution and fill the gaps to meet the special requirements of the West and Central African Region.

The specific objectives of the Convention included *inter alia* the following:

- 1) to take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce, combat and control pollution of the Convention area and to ensure sound environmental management of natural resources, using for this purpose the best practicable means at their disposal, and in accordance with their capabilities;
- 2) to cooperate in the formulation and adoption of other protocols prescribing agreed measures, procedures, and standards to prevent, reduce, combat and control pollution from all sources or promoting environmental management in conformity with the objectives of the Convention;
- 3) to establish national laws and regulations for the effective discharge of the obligations prescribed in the convention and endeavour to harmonize their national policies in this regards;
- 4) to cooperate with the competent international, regional and sub regional organizations to establish and adopt recommended practices, procedures and measures to prevent, reduce, combat and control pollution from all sources in conformity with the objectives of the Convention and its related protocols and to assist each other in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention and its related protocols;
- 5) in achieving objective (1) above the contracting parties shall act to avoid the transfer, directly, or indirectly, damage or hazards from one area to another or transform one type of pollution into another;
- 6) to take all appropriate measures in conformity with international law to prevent, reduce, combat and control pollution in the Convention area caused by normal or accidental discharges from ships, and to ensure the effective application in the Convention area of the internationally recognized rules and standards relating to the control of this type of pollution;
- 7) to take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce, combat and control pollution in the Convention area caused by dumping from ships, and aircraft, and to ensure the effective application in the Convention area of the internationally recognized rules and standards relating to the control of this type of pollution;
- 8) to take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce, combat and control pollution in the Convention area caused by discharges from rivers, estuaries, coastal establishments and outfall, coastal dumping or emanating from any other sources on their territories;
- 9) to take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce, combat and control pollution resulting from or in connection with activities relating to the exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed and its subsoil subject to their jurisdiction and from artificial islands, installations and structures under their jurisdiction;

- 10) to take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce, combat and control pollution in the Convention area resulting from or transported through the atmosphere;
- 11) to take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce, combat and control coastal erosion in the Convention area resulting from human activities, such as land reclamation and coastal engineering;
- 12) to take all appropriate measures, individually or jointly, to protect and preserve rare or fragile ecosystems as well as the habitat of depleted, threatened or endangered species and other marine life and to establish protected areas, such as parks and reserves, and to prohibit or control any activity likely to have adverse effects on the species, ecosystems or biological processes in such areas;
- 13) to cooperate in taking all necessary measures to deal with pollution emergencies in the Convention area, whatever the cause of such emergencies, and to reduce or eliminate damage resulting therefrom; and to notify the Convention and / or any other Contracting Party likely to be affected by such emergency;
- 14) to develop technical and other guidelines to assist the planning of development projects in such a way as to minimize harmful impact on the Convention area;
- 15) to endeavour to include an assessment of the potential environmental effects in any planning activity entailing projects within their territory, particularly in the coastal areas that may cause substantial pollution of or significant and harmful changes to the Convention area; and to develop procedures, in consultation with the Convention, for the dissemination of information concerning such assessment activities;
- 16) to cooperate, with the assistance of competent international and regional organizations, in the field of scientific research, monitoring and assessment of pollution in the Convention area, and to exchange data and other scientific information for the purpose of the Convention and its related protocols;
- 17) to develop and coordinate national research and monitoring programmes concerning all types of pollution in the Convention area and to establish in cooperation with competent international and regional organizations, a regional network of national research centres and institutions to ensure compatible results, and to participate in international arrangements for pollution research and monitoring in areas beyond their national jurisdiction;
- 18) to cooperate, directly or through competent international or regional organizations, in the development of programmes for technical and other assistance in fields related to marine pollution and sound environmental management of the Convention area;

19) to co-operate in the formulation and adoption of appropriate rules and procedures for the determination of liability and the payment of adequate and prompt compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the Convention area.

The objectives were justified by public concern in the years 1968-72 when the problem of pollution of the ocean attracted the general populace. Print and electronic media reported on it and marine scientists were pressured by politicians to research the question of pollution. There was a general concern that the sea, the last paradise on earth, must be kept clean at any price.

However, there are good reasons for a decreasing interest in matters of marine pollution. Public interest has turned elsewhere to the energy question and economic crisis. Interest in matters relating to marine pollution *per se* has decreased, except the notion of "continuous pollution". This is borne out of a recent practical exercise for a group of regional experts on the listing of environmental problems.

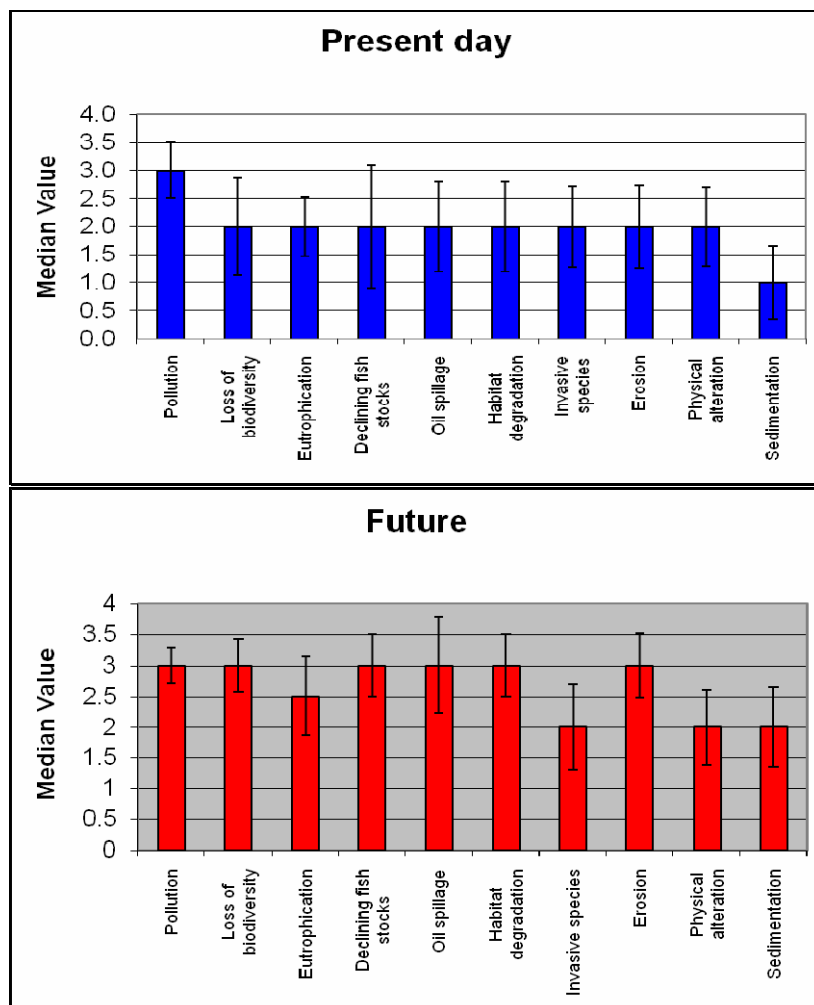


Figure 1: Perception of the status of environmental problems by a group of environmental experts for now and the immediate future if no environmental action is taken (scores collated by Bloxham, 2005).

Figure 1 depicts the perception of the mixed group of participants and their conceived state of the same environmental problems in the future if no action is taken. Perhaps, the dominance of “pollution” in Article 2 of the Convention as defined by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO still influences our perception of a clean environment, although there has been a paradigm shift to other environmental problems of equal dimension that today attract public attention. Environmental problems such as loss of biodiversity, eutrophication, declining fish stocks, habitat degradation, invasive alien species, etc., now feature prominently in Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis as priority issues to be addressed on a regional and global basis.

This implies that the overemphasis on “pollution” should allow more room for emerging environmental concerns and initiatives for now and the foreseeable future. These initiatives also include:

- Excessive withdrawals of surface and/or groundwater for human uses
- Changes in freshwater availability
- Changes in flow regimes from structures
- Pollution of existing drinking water supplies
- Nutrient over-enrichment
- Habitat alteration and destruction (deforestation, de-vegetation, etc)
- Invasive alien species
- Poverty and the environment
- Radionuclide pollution
- Loss of ecosystems or ecotones
- Modification of ecosystems or ecotones
- Sea level change /hazards
- Soil and Coastal erosion
- Watershed management
- Over-exploitation / over-harvesting
- Trans-boundary eco-tourism
- Excessive by-catch and discards
- Destructive fishing practices
- Impact on biological and genetic biodiversity
- Fluctuating ocean circulation patterns
- Eco-certification
- Eco-labelling
- Excessive salinity/salt-water intrusion, etc.

The report of the Executive Director of UNEP to the Seventh meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention noted a new focus, requiring the reconfiguration of the objectives with a view to placing more emphasis on:

- a) Raising awareness of the economic values of coastal and marine resources and their ecological role in the ocean; and
- b) Strengthening regional coordination mechanisms and building an effective regional framework for actions designed to reduce further degradation of the marine environment and to restore the degraded and destroyed critical habitats.

The restructured objectives are impressive and in line with a need for environmental valuation which must be made part of investment and infrastructure projects for sustainable development to ensure the integration of economic growth, social development and environmental protection. This is in line with the overall objective of the Action Plan of NEPAD, which is to improve environmental conditions in Africa in order to contribute to the achievement of economic growth and poverty reduction. The first emphasis on raising awareness would promote the sustainable use of natural resources and strengthen public and political support to the regional initiatives.

The approach identified for public education, awareness or “sensitization” is that of Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) which encourages broad-based participation and involvement of local communities in the management of environmental resources. This serves the dual role of ensuring support for environmental action and inculcating a sense of ownership in the populace, which ultimately translates into positive impacts needed for political commitment by governments. The advocacy for public education and awareness also ensures voluntary and private protection of coastal resources by the resource users and private property owners. The cooperation from stakeholders (and interest groups) is a positive indicator of success achievable in the implementation of environmental initiatives.

Communication and education are essential for raising public awareness and improving the capacity of people to understand as well as appreciate issues and problems. These two broad domains are regarded as critical in efforts to reinforce and develop knowledge, values, attitudes, practices and skills required to participate fully in the sustainable development of coastal areas (UNESCO, 1999). There is a need to appreciate priority coastal issues in Africa, the status of such issues in the educational policies and programmes, and the problem-solving potentials offered by communication and education. To this end, there is a requirement for communication/training strategy for advocacy, awareness raising, information dissemination, participation, decision-making, interactive knowledge exchange and problem solving concerning coastal issues.

The second objective of strengthening regional coordination is in response to the slow and staggered implementation of the Convention due in part to ineffective coordination as expressed in the report of the Sixth Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP 6) and the National Focal Points forum of 24-26 November 2004 in Accra, Ghana and emphasized at the Seventh Conference of Contracting Parties (COP 7) in Libreville, Gabon.

The re-engineering of the coordination mechanism is long overdue. The urgency for a restructuring is further emphasized and demonstrated in the light of complexities arising as a result of increasing numbers of environmentally-related international initiatives, Conventions and programmes and the role of the Abidjan Convention as a platform for implementing the environmental initiatives of NEPAD Environment Action Plan for the coastal and marine environment.

However, the addendum to the second objective for restoration of degraded habitats and depleted resources to enable them regain full economic potential is a legitimate concern in integrated coastal area management. It does take a long time and often incurs huge expenditure e.g. the process of restoration of mangrove. Nevertheless, most restorations are expected to yield major economic returns through reviving the major ecological and socio-economic functions of the restored habitats (UNIDO, 2001). It would require a comprehensive integrated regional framework for policy, coordinated planning and holistic management. It combines resource conservation, biodiversity preservation and economic development for social prosperity of coastal communities and interested groups in the long-term.

(C) MECHANISMS THAT EXIST TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION'S WORK PROGRAMME

C1. Institutional Mechanisms

Governments of the region are invited to participate from the very beginning in the formulation, acceptance, and policy development of the regional work programmes. The programme is conceived to be based on the regional action plan formally adopted by the Contracting Parties and is carried out by the national institutions of those Government. A large number of specialized organizations provide assistance to these national institutions with UNEP acting as an overall coordinator of the regional programme. The operational programme is dependent on the needs and priorities of the region including interdependencies. It is structured to include assessment, management, legal, institutional and financial components. The strength of the work programme is the collective political commitment on the part of the Contracting parties that translates to active participation by national institutions charged with the implementation of the work programme in each country. Its weakness has equally been shown in the slow and staggered implementation due to:

- 1) weak institutional framework in the participating countries;
- 2) lack of or inadequate budgetary allocation by national governments to the implementing institutions/agencies;
- 3) weak interpretation and internalization of the Conventions work programme in participating countries, e.g. national institutions are not involved in the formulation or fully aware of the work program they are expected to implement;
- 4) lack of or varied capacity (financial, human scientific and technological) in the participating countries;
- 5) lack of appropriate technology transfer mechanism within the region and from external sources;
- 6) poor awareness of the Convention's work programme;
- 7) lack of synergy between the Convention's work programme and those of its collaborators, etc.

The work programme for 2005-2007 was prepared by the National Focal Points Forum of the Convention, in collaboration with various institutions and agencies and established partnerships with IMO, WWF, UNIDO, and cooperation with the CCLME, BCLME and GCLME. The involvement of these various collaborators and partners in the implementation of work programme is highly desirable especially in the weak areas identified for institutional strengthening, capacity building (training and infrastructural, where necessary), catalytic funding, internalization through policy and legislative framework, and appropriate technology transfer.

The work programme should recognize country specific programme or group-of-countries priority programme, which could attract funding from such collaborators and donor partners for their mutual benefits. These specific programmes should be integrated within the framework of the larger regional work programme and coordinated for smooth implementation by the Convention.

C2. Financial Mechanism

The implementation of the Convention's work programme is related to on sustainable financial resources. Apart from UNEP's catalytic funding, the Convention was to rely on a Trust Fund, as a coffer of agreed contributions to be provided by each Contracting Party. The failure to meet this obligation at all, or only periodically/irregularly by most parties, has stalled the implementation of the Work programme. The operation of the Convention and its sustainability in the long-term can only be as good as its sustainable financing.

In order to overcome the problem of inadequate financial resources, the Convention must broaden its resource base by all of the following mechanisms:

- a) engage meaningfully in the collection of financial commitments from parties to the Convention;
- b) review the present basis for contribution to the Trust Fund and set up an affordable contribution scale to ensure a rigorous contribution system. The sixth meeting of the Contracting Parties suggested that contributions be mandatory, arrears waived and invoices should be sent regularly to Contracting Parties or countries.
- c) request that commitments be channelled through the financing mechanisms (Trust Fund).
- d) broaden the membership of collaborators, stakeholders (national and regional) partners, donor agencies, etc. with interest in the work programme of the Convention and the protection, conservation and integrated management of the coastal and marine environment. Such new partners, collaborators potential stakeholders and donors should include UEMOA, CSRP, GTZ, JICA, IUCN, IOC, COMIFAC, UNCCD, ADB, Saudi Fund, NEPAD-AEF, EU (Environment governance), BID, WAMER, Switzerland, Netherlands, French and Canada Co-operations, Organized private sector, Multinational Oil Companies (particularly those operating in the region), Sub regional Commission for Fisheries, Regional network for Coastal Planning, Sub regional Port and Harbour Commission, and such organizations as may be identified by the national steering committees.

It is noted that there may be a need to integrate the work programme of the Convention with environmental initiatives of its various partners, collaborators and stakeholders. This should be agreed upon through consensus building and allowance for financing of whole or partial programmes based on the interest of various groups within the overall regional programme. The modalities for the mobilization of additional financial resources (internally and externally) are therefore:

- a) integration of the work programme with broader environmental initiatives in order to attract funds from various partners; especially securing annual budgetary allocation for NEPAD work programme on environment initiative to be implemented by the Convention;
- b) development of strategic partnerships between countries around projects of common interest;
- c) development of strategic partnerships with regional and international organizations and programmes, through clearly articulated Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs);

- d) follow up on the financial commitments expressed by donors during WSSD for programmes and projects related to coastal and marine environment;
- e) take advantage as leading organ and regional platform for Integrated Management of coastal and marine area to integrate environmental concerns in transboundary coastal development;
- f) develop regional activities that could attract funding;
- g) charge a certain percentage as administrative coordination fee on all programmes projects for implementation in the Convention area.

C3. Coordination Mechanism

The long-standing challenge facing the implementation of the Convention's work programme (since inception in 1981/1984) is the need to overcome the problem of inadequate financial resources. This has directly/indirectly affected the coordination of activities. In general the problems related to coordination of initiatives on environment in Africa have been identified as:

- the poor utilization of existing resources;
- the need to create new resources/funding mechanisms;
- the need for African governments to provide their own resources as an incentive to attract donor funding.

For the Convention, it can be accepted that the meagre financial resources have been sufficiently utilized. The need is to mobilize additional financial resources as earlier outlined on Financial Mechanism (C2). This should increase and reinforce countries capacities in programme development and implementation. The mechanisms of financing should also ensure commitment by ownership of the process in the hands of the Contracting Parties. To this end, the conclusion of the NEPAD Dakar Conference (12-14 October 2004) on the financing mechanisms relative to the creation of an African Trust Fund for the Environment at the African Development Bank, if realized, is a step in the right direction.

The lack of effective coordination has generally been recognized as one of the three impediments to the implementation of the Action plan of the Convention. The other impediments are a lack of political will or commitment and lack of financial resources or funds. While the root cause for ineffective coordination is inadequate funding, the underlying cause is a lack of political will, and the immediate cause is a general lack of visibility or insufficient visibility at the level of Contracting Parties and the secretariat of the Convention hosted by UNEP in Nairobi. Both of these have informed the decision at the Sixth Conference of Parties as a way forward "to mobilize political will with UNEP and the RCU playing a major role. UNEP and RCU were asked to use the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the Abuja Super PrepCom to seek support".

C3.1 Visible Regional Coordinating Centre:

The poorly visible link between the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat of the Convention resulted in poor institutional communication at the level of the Secretariat that finally led to a clamour for the strengthening of the RCU and relocation of the secretariat to Abidjan, within the region. The relocation of the Secretariat of the Convention to Abidjan is expected to provide a sound and effective institutional structure and internal organization of the Action plan, and clearly provide physical “visibility” to the Abidjan Convention as a regional body similar to other UN regional initiatives.

C3.2 National Focal Points:

A second strategy proposed at the Sixth Conference of Parties and which has been implemented, was institutional strengthening for effective coordination. This was achieved through the designation of national focal points and the establishment of a focal points forum of representatives of national authorities responsible for the coordination of national efforts required for implementing the Convention and its related protocols. The appropriate national authority, now referred to as the National Focal Point, shall serve as the channel of communication between the Contracting Party and the Convention (erstwhile Regional Coordinating Unit in Abidjan).

C3.3 Ministerial/ Bureau Steering Committee:

A third but rather silent strategy was the “establishment of a ministerial implementation committee, development of twinning arrangements e.g. with OSPAR, and bilateral arrangements with partner countries”. Article 17 of the Convention provides for ordinary meetings of Contracting Parties once every two years and extraordinary meetings at any other time deemed necessary, upon the request of the Convention or at the request of any Contracting Party, supported by at least three other Contracting Parties.

There is a need to consider the implementation of the Convention’s work programme (through monitoring and evaluation) in the inter-sessional period of two years between ordinary meetings, and the unlikely extraordinary meetings due in part to inadequate financial resources. Therefore a meeting of a select group of Contracting Parties acting during the inter-sessional period as a Ministerial or Steering Committee should be considered. Such a body could actively guide and steer policy implementation, review progress of programme implementation, and act in advisory role to the meeting of Contracting Parties on its functions as listed in Article 17(2) (i-vii). These functions cannot be effectively performed in the absence of a standing body capable of acting on behalf of the larger body. The composition of such a body should be limited to ten members with the Regional Coordinator as Secretary. Such members should act for a minimum of three

years and maximum of six years to ensure continuity. Members of the standing Ministerial Committee should be as listed below:

Chairman, serving Chairperson of the Conference of Parties.

Elected Members of the Bureau in charge of:

- Work Programme
- Coordination with Nairobi Convention
- Coordination with GEF
- Resource mobilization
- Partnership conference and
- Rapporteur (1)
- Rapporteur (2)
- UNEP Secretariat representative
- RCU – Coordinator (Secretary).

This body should meet at least twice a year in the first and third quarter, to deliberate on all issues of implementation in order to move the Convention forward. Members of the Committee should be encouraged and /or required to be financially supported by their own government for participation at meetings as a positive indication of political will and commitment to the Convention. This should reduce budgetary allocation for meetings of Contracting Party members.

C3.4 Nodal structure:

A fourth strategy also suggested at COP6 and COP7 is the setting up of nodal structures or sub-regional groupings within the Canary Current, Benguela Current and Guinea Current areas, taking advantage of the natural geographical locations of the countries. The sub-regional support structure could facilitate closer coordination in view of the rapid development of environment-related programmes and the need to share information on activities on a timely basis. This should be especially useful for coordination of joint projects of countries for initiatives of common interest. Such a structure as rightly observed at COP6, will help decentralize implementation by bringing the coordination function closer to the centre of activity of the large marine ecosystem projects. It was also suggested that the LMEs should be considered as the natural groupings of the sub-regional information centers. However, further subdivisions for the 16 countries under the Guinea Current LME may not be desirable, and as far as possible existing structures should be employed and /or strengthened for coordination activities. Clear terms of reference should be drawn for the nodal structure arrangement.

C3.5 Task forces/working groups:

A fifth strategy, also mentioned at COP6 and COP7 is the establishment of task forces or working groups for implementation of some aspects of the

biennial work programme of the Convention especially where such groups address specific priority issues of participating countries. Such activity groups assist in timely implementation of projects/tasks in the overall decentralization for effective coordination. The task forces should be project specific and operational within the period allotted for their tasks/activities only.

(D) THE CONVENTION, NEPAD WORK PROGRAMME AND OTHER INITIATIVES:

The 2005 – 2007 Work Programme of the Convention is said to be in line with several relevant programmes currently under way within UNEP and other collaborating partners in the West and Central African region. These programmes are based on

1. UNEP Regional Seas Strategic Directions for 2004 – 2007
2. The SIDA-supported project to strengthen the coordination mechanism, management and assessment activities within the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions over the period 2003 – 2006
3. The GEF LME projects for the Benguela, Canary and Guinea Currents.

The work programme was also built on the strength of the last two work programmes and new initiatives by other agencies of the United Nations system, other partners and non-governmental organizations.

Within the same UNEP Regional Seas framework and especially Strategic Direction 5 which is meant to enhance the use of Regional Seas as a platform for the coordinated implementation of MEAs and global initiatives, the Convention has a responsibility of incorporating and integrating its work programme with those of NEPAD Environmental initiatives. There are strong linkages between the work programme of the Convention and NEPAD's programme area on conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources. This incorporates environmental concerns to the development agenda of the countries through targeted actions that address not only the environmental aspects, but also institutional, regulatory, policy and capacity elements. The key element of the programme areas is the creation of awareness and commitment to the sustainable development of coastal resources through targeted interventions that address priority issues which encompass not only environmental, **but also socio-economic concerns**. This is indeed a primary focus of the reconfigured objectives of the Convention in response to current realities.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) recognizes that the range of issues necessary to nurture Africa's environmental base and sustainable use of its resources is vast and complex. Environment was integrated as the eighth theme of NEPAD Action Plan. The consultative process for the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative identified over 200 projects whose implementation will have a direct impact on preserving

Africa's environmental resources as well as contributing to poverty eradication and the fostering of sub-regional and regional integration.

The cluster of NEPAD's priority projects with strong linkages to the Convention's past and present work programme are listed in Programme areas 2, 3, 4, and 6 titled as:

Programme 2: Conserving Africa's wetlands

Programme 3: Prevention Control and Integrated Management of Invasive species.

Programme 4: Conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and Freshwater resources.

Programme 6: Cross-boarder collaboration and Natural resource management.

PROGRAMME AREA 2: CONSERVING AFRICA'S WETLAND	COST ESTIMATE (\$ MILLIONS)	IMPLRMENTATION TIME FRAME (YEARS)	NUMBER ON FACT SHEET
Capacity building for wetlands assessment, planning, management and monitoring in Africa	10	5	42
Strengthening the information base and the opportunities for sharing experiences for the management of wetlands in Africa	10	5	43
Restoration and rehabilitation of African wetlands	6	3	44
Integrated management of wetlands ecosystems in major lake/river basins in Africa	30	5	45
Sustainable management of wetlands to enhance communities' livelihoods	6	5	46
Management, restoration and rehabilitation of coastal wetlands.	4	5	47
Assessment and monitoring of Africa's freshwater ecosystems	12	3	48
Improving Africa's freshwater ecosystems governance and management	6	4	49
Valuing Africa's freshwater ecosystems in economic development and poverty alleviation.	15	5	50

PROGRAMME AREA 3: PREVENTION, CONTROL AND INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES	COST ESTIMATE (\$ MILLIONS)	IMPLRMENTATIO N TIME FRAME (YEARS)	NUMBER ON FACT SHEET
Assessment and mitigation of the impacts of selected plant invaders (Prosopis juliflora, Acacia spp.) in agriculture, Forestry and Rangelands in IGAD	50	5	35
SADC regional project on control infestation and translocation of aquatic weeds	45	20	18
Assessment and mitigation of the impacts of water hyacinth Eichornia crassipes and other invasive alien aquatic plants	6.5	5	5
Pilot programme to prevent alien invasive species entering through airports	10	3	36
Assessment and mitigating the impact of invasive plant species (37)	3.5	3	37

PROGRAMME AREA 4: CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINA, COASTAL AND FRESHWATER RESORUCES	COST ESTIMATE (\$ MILLIONS)	IMPLRMENTATIO N TIME FRAME (YEARS)	NUMBER ON FACT SHEET
Management of municipal Sewage in Sub-Saharan Africa through Appropriate Technology	89.1	Up to 5	77
Mitigation of Coastal Erosion and Restoration of Degraded Area in Sub-Saharan Africa	30	3-5	60
Improving Protection and stability of coral Reefs and Associated Communities	3.5	5	66
Supporting the development and implementation of Integrated Coastal area Management (ICAM)	12	5	61
Mariculture and aquaculture development in Sub-Saharan Africa	8.9	4	73
The Regional Ocean Observing and Forecasting System for Africa (ROOFS-Africa project)	15	5	79
Assessment of the Vulnerability of sub-Saharan Coastal Zones to the different Impacts of Climate Change (including sea level rise)	8	5	62
Development of sound Land-use Practices and Reduction of Suspended Solids in Estuaries and Lagoons in sub-Saharan Africa	3	5	67
Mangrove Management in sub-Saharan Africa	12	5	65
Promoting the Establishment of RAMSAR Sites and Developing a Participatory and Integrated Approach for River Basin Management in Sub-Saharan Africa.	5	5	64

PROGRAMME AREA 4: CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINA, COASTAL AND FRESHWATER RESOURCES	COST ESTIMATE (\$ MILLIONS)	IMPLEMENTATION TIME FRAME (YEARS)	NUMBER ON FACT SHEET
Conservation of Biodiversity through the Enhancement and/or Establishment of Marine protected Areas in sub-Saharan Africa	5.5	5	63
Strengthening Management and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Capacity of Fisheries Management Organisations in Sub-Saharan Africa	18.5	4	75
Assessment and Mitigation of the Ecological and Socio-economic Impacts of Destructive Fishing Practices in sub-Saharan Africa	16.4	6	72
Impact of Global Climate Change on Key Marine and Coastal Ecosystems in Sub-Saharan Africa	2.54	3	74
Development of Sustainable Coastal Tourism Development Policies & Strategies	3	5	68
Promoting Environmental Sustainability within the Tourism Industry through Implementation of an Eco-certification and Labelling Pilot Programme for Hotels.	2.05	3	69
Preparation of national Ecotourism Policies/Strategies and Identification of Pilot Projects for Implementation	4.4	5	70
Pilot Measures to Demonstrate the Best Practices in Mitigating Environmental Impacts of Tourism:- Reef Recreation management	1.45	2	71
Municipal Solid Waste Management and Enhancement of Environmental Quality in sub-Saharan Africa.	22.64	4	76
Prevention of Pollution from Shipping Activities and strengthening of National and Regional Oil Spill Management Systems in sub-Saharan Africa	30.85	5	78
Addressing Land Based Activities in the Nairobi and Abidjan Convention Countries.	11.5	5	59

PROGRAMME AREA 6: CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT			
FORESTS AND OTHER ECOSYSTEMS	COST ESTIMATE (\$ MILLIONS)	IMPLEMENTATION TIME FRAME (YEARS)	NUMBER ON FACT SHEET
Convergence Plan for the Sustainable Ecosystem Management of the Congo Basin (Plan de convergence pour la Gestion durable des Ecosystemes du Bassin du Congo): Conference of Ministers in Charge of the Forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC)	*	Long term Plan	10

PROGRAMME AREA 6: CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT			
FORESTS AND OTHER ECOSYSTEMS	COST ESTIMATE (\$ MILLIONS)	IMPLEMENTATION TIME FRAME (YEARS)	NUMBER ON FACT SHEET
Domestication, transformation and processing of cash crops (<i>Arbres fruitiers</i>) and agro forestry for feeding and revenue generation	150	20	11
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT			
African Stockpiles Programme	70	12 to 15	29
Capacity building of the Base convention Regional Centres in Africa in the context of NEPAD	3.2	3	33
A new Partnership with local authorities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes in urban areas	0.50	1.8	30
Preparation of a regional programme for healthcare waste management in Africa with particular focus on the prevention of release of POPs	0.60	1.25	32
Preparation of a regional plan for the environmentally sound management of PCB and PCB containing equipments in French speaking Africa	2.3	1.5	31
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION, ASSESSMENT, MONITORING, EDUCATION			
Environment education and training in the IGAD sub-region	8	5	25
Environmental information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa Environment Information Network • Africa Environment Outlook Report, education and public awareness 	0.900 1.5	3 3	12 and 13

Footnote: Programmes 2, 3, 4 and 6 as listed in Annex B – Panel Discussion, Selected Priority Programmes and Projects by thematic areas – Algiers, Algeria, 15-16 December 2003

The following proposals are covered by “notes” only:

- Prevention, resolution and management of conflicts
- Capacity development for formulation implementation and monitoring policies and strategies at the regional, national and local levels.

However, Programme 5 on Combating Climate change in Africa is missing from the Convention’s 2005–2007 Work programme although addressed in the project portfolio of the LMEs. Capacity building was also highlighted as a major programme area and a crosscutting issue necessary for the

implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD. The need for capacity building is overwhelming in all programme components of the Convention, LMEs and other linkages.

It is noteworthy that the Ministerial Conference on Resource Mobilization mechanisms for the Implementation of the Action Plan of the NEPAD Environmental initiative recognized the Abidjan Convention as reflecting closely the spirit of NEPAD in the area of integrated management of marine and coastal resources. It urged the Convention to take advantage of the political support of NEPAD to become a leading organ entrusted with the design of a regional platform for the integrated management of marine and coastal resources. The Terms of Reference for the design of such a platform shall be formulated by SINEPAD in collaboration with relevant institutions of the member countries.

This multi-sectorial platform and its unique role of promoting the implementation of projects and programmes aimed at integrated management of marine and coastal resources for sustainable development should enable the Convention access funding for NEPAD Environment initiative from the Trust Fund to be organized by the ADB and /or from the AEF as appropriate. In this respect, the Interim Coordinator of the RCU and the Executive Secretary of SINEPAD should establish a close working relationship on marine and coastal environment issues.

Fundamental to that overarching leading and supervisory role is a need for:

1. The inclusion of economic concerns in the work programme of the Convention
2. The harmonization of sector policies pertaining to the environment particularly integrated management of marine and coastal resources
3. Coordination and ensuring coherence of interventions of programmes and projects for synergy and
4. Information dissemination and communication.

The importance of issues related to fisheries (now addressed by the three LMEs) as well as the national and sub-regional dimensions of coastal and marine management should be major concerns. Partnerships with sub-regional Commission for Fisheries (CSRFP), the place of NGO's and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at all levels, national, sub-regional and regional should be reflected in the integration. It will be useful to capitalize on sub-regional experiences in the field of integrated management of marine and coastal resources (such as GIRMaC programme in Senegal, PRCM and CRSP), reinforcement of environmental governance, and promotion of national and sub-regional implementation.

There is synergy in the overall objectives of the coastal marine and freshwater resources programme area of NEPAD in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Abidjan Conventions (and Nairobi Convention). These contribute to the implementation, in an integrated manner, the decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development relating to the management of Africa's coastal and marine resources.

In addition, both work programmes (Abidjan and NEPAD) promote linkages to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on land-based sources of marine pollution and of the interface between freshwater and marine issues. They also provide linkages with existing activities and programmes of other agencies and organizations such as the Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO), IMO, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), WWF and projects on Large Marine Ecosystems.

(E) INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Article 16 of the Convention spells out the institutional arrangements envisaged for its operation. The Contracting parties designated UNEP as the Secretariat of the Convention to carry out functions stated as 1(i) to 1(vi) of the article. Article 16(vi) allowed the Secretariat "to enter into such administrative arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of the secretariat functions". This in part, allowed the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) for the Convention in Abidjan. The Heads of Delegations, led by the Minister of Environment of Cote d'Ivoire, Hon. Bleu-Laine during the 6th Conference of Parties held at Abidjan on 17 May 2002, inaugurated the office of the Regional Coordination Unit based at the Ministry of Environment and Quality of Life, Abidjan.

The call for a relocation of the Convention secretariat to the region (Abidjan) should be seen as:

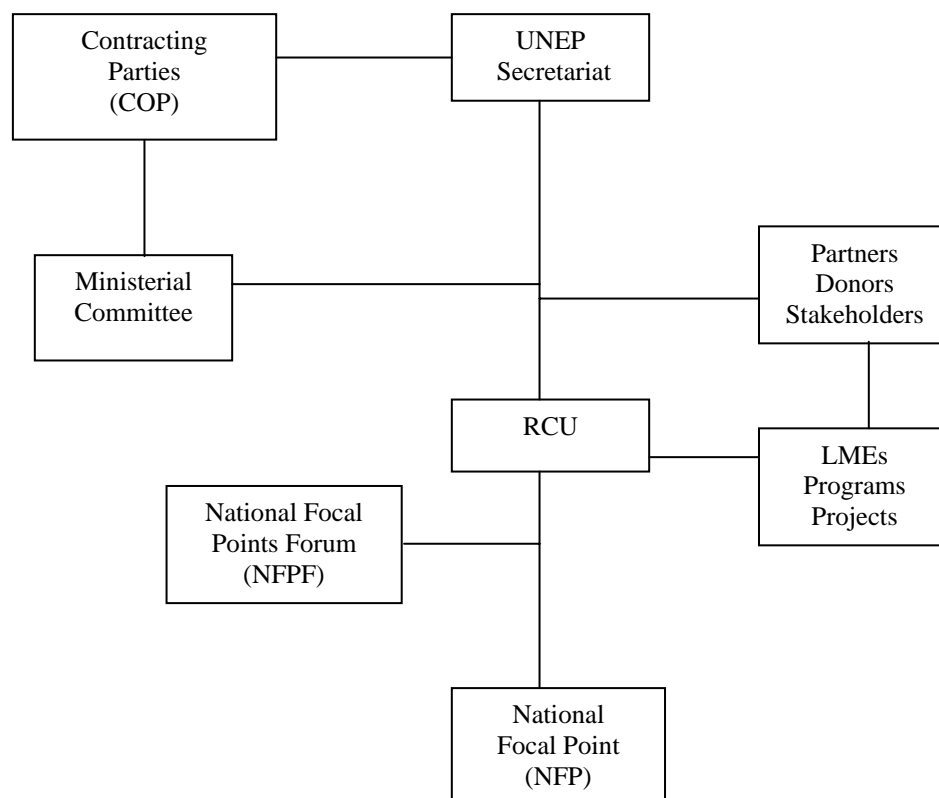
- 1) a call for autonomy and independence for the sub-regional Convention;
- 2) a strong indication of political will to assume ownership and be fully committed;
- 3) based on a need to make the regional body "visible" within the region and poised to discharge her functions.
- 4) a clear sign for donor confidence in the Convention – up till now, even donors do not see it as a Regional body.

Therefore, in strengthening the RCU to a full-fledged Regional secretariat, the experience of other regional bodies especially within the Regional Seas Programme should guide UNEP Secretariat to enable the Convention achieves the desired objective. As a matter of urgency, UNEP should find the

seed funding to establish the Abidjan secretariat, but on a sound footing. The Regional Coordination office should have the status of a Regional Organization (in the context of other UN Regional bodies) and headed by an appointed full-time Regional Coordinator, with an appropriate job description. He / she must be credible and able to provide strong leadership in pursuit of the objectives of the Convention. Presently leadership is key to jump-starting the Convention.

The critical staff should be regional and recruited by UNEP on behalf of the Contracting Parties. It is expected that Programme officers will be recruited based on the scope of operation of the Convention, the thematic areas for coordination as the need arises.

Some component of local support staff is expected according to laid-down UN regulations for national staff. The regional staff may include members shared by different agencies/organizations and supported by them. Contracting Parties should also be encouraged to second staff members to the regional office, as a sign of political commitment, for periods of 2-4 years and support such seconded staff members as in-kind contribution. The Institutional arrangement proposed is illustrated below:



(F) LINKS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS/AGENCIES

Pursuant of its mandate and objectives the Convention had established linkages with some national, sub-regional and international collaborators,

partners, donors, stakeholders etc in order to facilitate the implementation of the action plan and to link-up with existing activities and programmes of other agencies and organizations. These include IOC-UNESCO GOOS-AFRICA, ODINAFRICA, IMO, World Conservation Union (IUCN), WWF and projects on Large Marine Ecosystems (BCLME, CCC and GCLME). Others are UNEP/GPA, PRCM, and NEPAD/SINEPAD. Associated partners also include the FAO, CSRP, NOAA, IOCEA/IOC, among others.

More recently, in response to new realities and needs, UNEP and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) have developed a support programme aimed at improving the coordination mechanism in the Convention area. The objectives of the programme are directed at for fostering further coordination with other Conventions and partners and developing a work programme for the assessment and management of coastal ecosystems as well as other related social and economic issues. *The aim has been aptly described as promoting effective coordination mechanism based on the premise that priority thematic issues have geographical influence that may best be addressed through an effective and strong coordination centre.*

The linkages are essential for the strategic principles described under the sub-heading (H) Opportunities as outlined in H(a-j) below. The linkages will enable the Convention keep abreast of new initiatives and emerging issues and the need to conform to changing global settings. Besides, the RCU needs to claim ownership of all programmes/projects in the region as a legitimate body and should therefore be linked to every programme/project, ongoing or new initiatives for vetting, coordination, identifying gaps, and ensuring overall synergy.

The sustainability of the Convention in the long-term will also depend on its ability to respond to such changes and its capacity for dynamism, sustainable funding, institutional strengthening, integration and sustainability of inter-disciplinary programmes and projects, capacity building from technical and development partners, regional cooperation, and regional and international solidarity. These are predicated on participation or linkages, which is the heart of integrated sustainable management and protection of coastal regions. Participation provides only advantages and opportunities for national, regional and global benefits. It also assures safeguarding its achievements.

There is a clear need for more stakeholders, partners, institutional collaborators, donors, professional bodies, etc to fill gaps (financial, technical, institutional resource mobilization, etc) already apparent in the operation of the Convention. These gaps could be filled by partners already identified in C2(d) in addition to the longstanding partners/donors supporting the Convention. Besides, linkages should be fostered with institutional collaborators including national and regional institutions, recognizable local community-based organizations (CBO's) and Non-governmental

organizations (NGO's), research institutes, sub-regional/regional bodies and professional bodies. The Work Programme for 2005 – 2007 identified some relevant stakeholders whose supportive role in the implementation of the work programme and/or Action plan will help to realize the objectives of the Convention. A listing of all stakeholders and their relevant roles is provided in Table below.

STAKEHOLDERS /PARTNERS/COLLABORATORS	Areas of Collaboration
FAO, CECAF, ICCAT, IUCN	Regional networking mechanism for monitoring and management of fisheries mangroves and associated ecosystems, Regional Assessment of stocks and conservation of endangered species. Sustainable fisheries policies and legislation.
IOC/ODINAFRICA	Regional data exchange and Information management.
UNEP/ GPA-LBA	Facilitate National action Plans protocol on land based Activities, and MPAs and solutions from such degradation.
IMO	Advocacy for maritime safety and protection, institutional capacity building and resource development.
EU, IUCN, WWF, WETLAND INTERNATIONAL, NORAD, RESEARCH INSTITUTES, WCS	Facilitate Conservation and management of marine and coastal biodiversity, designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Toolkit for MPA managers, Environmental Sensitivity Index, Mapping and modelling, marine turtle conservation.
GLOBALLAST	Invasive alien species programme, Implementation of Ballast loader Convention, regional task force.
CSE (SENEGAL) CNSHB (GUINEA) PRCM, CCT/BNETD, CNTIG, CURAD, CERSGIS (GHANA)	Maps/Atlases of critical habitats, Prevention, Reduction and elimination of pollution
UNIDO-ICS	Sub regional partners, development partners.
UNIDO (NIGERIA-CLEANER TECHNOLOGIES CENTRE, SENEGAL AND SOUTH AFRICA)	Functional cleaner technologies waste management, sustainable coastal tourism, strengthening institutional capacities, environmental management, policy and legal frameworks, enabling activities for implementation of Stockholm Convention on POPs/PTS.

STAKEHOLDERS /PARTNERS/COLLABORATORS	Areas of Collaboration
ECOWAS, UEMOA, JICA, SIDA ADB, SAUDI FUND, NEPAD-AEF, EU, BID, SWITZERLAND, NETHERLANDS, CANADA, AND FRENCH COOPERATION, GTZ, MULTINATIONALS, WORLD BANK.	Sub regional partners, development partners
IOC GOOS-AFRICA	Ocean long-term observations and in-situ ocean and satellite remote sensing data and information for forecasting tools and application for sound management of ecosystem.
GIRMAC, PRCM, CRSP, UNDP	Integrated management of marine and coastal resources, broad partnership in economic integration dimension, sustainable financing, reinforcement of environmental governance, promotion of national and sub regional implementation.

Table. 1: Stakeholders and their relevant roles in the Abidjan Convention

(G) ROLE AND IMPACTS OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS:

Article 16(2) of the Convention provided for the designation of an appropriate national authority by each Contracting Party as responsible for the coordination of national efforts for implementing the Convention and its related protocols. Each national authority shall serve as the channel of communication between the Contracting Party and the Organization. The Institutional strengthening through designation of focal points and establishment of a focal points forum was in consonance with the Article and requirement for representation as implemented in 2002.

The draft terms of reference for the National Focal points and Focal Point Forum were intended to get the Contracting Parties fully involved in the operation of the Convention at national and sub-regional levels. With the strengthening of the RCU for effective coordination, a few suggestions/modifications will have to be made to the Terms of Reference. These are for:

(I) National Focal Point:

- (1) to serve as the channel for all formal communications between the Regional Coordinating Unit and the government and national collaborating institutions and task force members;
- (2) to coordinate information flow from national institutions, non-governmental organizations and locally-based national, bilateral or

multilateral projects and ensuring the dissemination of information to and within their country;

- (3) to ensure/facilitate regular and timely contribution to the Trust Fund of his/her country's contribution for timely implementation of the Convention's work programme;
 - (4) to participate in or assure adequate representation at the meetings of the National Focal Points Forum at least once every year and at the COP meetings;
 - (5) to facilitate internalization of the agreements on policy, legal, regulatory etc of the Convention and its protocols for timely implementation;
 - (6) to participate in biennial work plans as national experts and ensure
 - (7) preparation and submission of reports on the implementation of biennial work plans and relevant activities implemented at the national level by institutions, departments, agencies, non-governmental organizations etc.;
 - (8) to coordinate the preparation of the "state of the marine and coastal environment" as contribution to the regional report of the RCU;
 - (9) to ensure inter-sectoral coordination at the national level on the implementation of all activities approved by COP meetings and report same to RCU;
- (II) For the Convention Focal Point Forum:
- (1) actively promote the objectives and implementation of the work plan of the Abidjan Convention and other complimentary activities;
 - (2) prepare the work plan to be approved by the Conference of Parties in collaboration with the RCU and taking into account activities of partners of the Abidjan Convention;
 - (3) oversee the implementation of regional programs under the Convention;
 - (4) provide guidance, technical and scientific advice to the RCU; and policy recommendation for the Convention;
 - (5) act as a platform for information sharing and exchange within the participating countries, and Convention partners;
 - (6) review and adopt regional programs/project proposals for presentation to COP and potential partners;
 - (7) identify issues/activities that require the establishment of taskforces, constitute and monitor the progress of such taskforces;
 - (8) identify, initiate and recommend resource mobilization activities in consultation with the RCU.

The National Focal Point shall be a senior government official whose selection will be based on the strong knowledge and experience on Convention matters and supported with a national budget (or Convention budgetary allocation) to implement the Convention's activities including creating awareness of such activities. Funding for the National Focal Points should be seriously considered if they are not to be reduced to mere desks in the countries they represent, a situation in which many already find themselves.

(H) OPPORTUNITIES:

The Abidjan Convention is the legal framework for all marine related programmes in the region and as such has overarching role in the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the West and Central Africa. The Convention has to provide a lead and supervisory role in the area of integrated management based on a new work programme incorporating the ongoing LMEs, NEPAD environment initiatives, sub-regional programmes (PRCM, CSRP, GIRMaC), partners, etc. This would require a coordination and consultation framework anchored on concrete strategic principles that address among others the following:

- a) as a first step the RCU will claim all programmes and projects within the region and ensure coordination, integration and a reporting system linking them to the Convention;
- b) institutional communication and information services;
- c) promotion of joint actions;
- d) facilitating specific tasks by centers of excellence;
- e) reinforcing synergy between programme activities;
- f) reinforcing capacity building for the region;
- g) setting up a database as repository of knowledge and experience from programmes/projects successfully completed and translating lessons learned for future development;
- h) development of strategic partnerships between countries around projects of interest and with regional and International organizations and programmes;
- i) harmonization of environment improvement policy and legal frameworks for integrated management of marine and coastal resources;
- j) development and initiation of new GEF-MSP projects to fill gaps and / or complement ongoing programmes .

In particular, the Convention will have to address crosscutting issues and inter-linkages identified as priorities for action in the region within the framework of existing national, regional and international institutions. These

portfolios of actions are very similar to those suggested at the Conference on Sustainable Integrated Coastal Management, Maputo, Mozambique, 18-25 July 1998 and highlights the following:

- (i)** To strengthen the existing institutional and legal framework for integrated management of coastal areas by:
 - (a) promoting integration of marine and coastal related issues in national development policies and plans to guide the sustainable management of the coastal areas;
 - (b) ensuring the empowerment of national institutional structures with (i) strong mandates for effective actions in dealing with the multi-facet and complex challenges of coastal management; (ii) responsibilities for promoting multi-sectoral approaches in coastal management; (iii) sufficient authority to regulate and facilitate the enforcement of environmental policy and to influence national development strategies on which the protection of marine and coastal environment depends; (iv) responsibilities for facilitating the ratification of all relevant sub-regional, regional and international environment agreements, Conventions and protocols; (v) ensuring national legislation in conformity with corresponding sub-regional, regional and international environmental agreements, Conventions and protocols.

- (ii)** To ensure the acceptability and sustainability of programmes and projects by involving all relevant stakeholders through:
 - (a) broad participation of local communities in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, projects, plans and programmes;
 - (b) effective involvement of non-governmental and community-based organizations in order to reach the grass-root and facilitate the management processes of coastal areas;
 - (c) active involvement of the organized private sector as partners in the development and conservation initiatives of coastal areas – this should include multinationals, especially oil companies and prospectors with activities in the marine and coastal areas;
 - (d) ensuring gender-balanced participation at the policy formulation process in the design and management of development information and communication initiatives in the coastal areas;

- (iii)** To build and/or strengthen indigenous capabilities to address the full complexity of environmental problems in Africa's marine and coastal areas by:
 - (a) building human and technical capacities in all disciplines relevant to the needs of the region;

- (b) introducing and/or reinforcing environmental education including coastal area issues at all levels of education.
- (iv) To strengthen the collection and dissemination of scientific information as a basis for effective management of coastal areas through:
- (a) enhancement of management – driven marine scientific research e.g. LMEs;
 - (b) collection, sharing and protection of sustainable cultural education and experience which can be useful for planning development programmes;
 - (c) facilitating sustained routine and long-term measurements and monitoring of environmental variables as a basis for forecasting change especially through linkages with IOC-UNESCO, GOOS- AFRICA, ODINAFRICA, LMEs-Cruises, etc.
 - (d) data and information exchange on integrated coastal management programmes and projects;
 - (e) identification of common methodologies and harmonizing activities in information collection and dissemination;
 - (f) use of appropriate information delivery mechanisms - integrated and interactive communication and education, use of local languages where necessary in grassroots communication and instruction, etc.
- (v) To improve / enhance cooperation at sub-regional, regional, and international levels in order to resolve present and future challenges facing the region in the coastal areas by:
- (a) reviewing and/or updating existing sub-regional and regional Conventions, protocols and action plans, and negotiating new instruments on behalf of the Contracting Parties;
 - (b) coordinating and harmonizing programmes and projects in order to avoid duplication, maximize efforts and ensure cost saving;
 - (c) using indigenous capacities, especially human, in implementation of sub-regional and regional initiatives and establishing strong linkages with external bodies/organizations for collaboration and technology transfer.
- (vi) To build confidence and trust and ensure support for the successful implementation of integrated marine and coastal areas management through:
- (a) establishment of demonstration projects and programmes in the region and the replication of highly successful ones for lessons

learned in sustainable integrated coastal management e.g. successful on-going GCLME demonstration projects:

- (b) protection of coastal cultural, spiritual and tourist sites, historical monuments, etc as well as critical habitats for the biodiversity;
- (vii) To actively pursue financing mechanisms (as earlier listed in C2) whereby :
 - (a) Governments / Contracting Parties prioritize the Convention's work programme and make adequate budgetary allocation for their implementation;
 - (b) Contracting Parties honor their funding commitments to the Convention and its protocols;
 - (c) Contracting Parties provide incentives to the organized private sector to encourage their financial contribution to the implementation of the Convention's work programme;
 - (d) Bilateral and Multilateral donor agencies provide support for programmes and projects under the umbrella of the Convention based on national, sub-regional and regional priorities.

In summary, the Work Programme of the Convention is for **Coordination** and should be linked with those of her collaborators and partners. The RCU has to initiate, reinforce/sustain and take ownership of all programmes/projects (legitimate claim) within the region, be an advocate for emerging issues and create the apparatus for their implementation. The RCU should draw lessons from existing Conventions to put it on the right footing and offer effective coordination to allow a vantage position for participation by Contracting Parties, donors, partners, and all other stakeholders.

CONCLUSION

It is gratifying to note that all respondents to a Questionnaire administered to National experts and National Focal Points (Annex IV) reiterated the support, acceptability and recognition of the Abidjan Convention as a veritable tool for sound environmental management in the region. It is expected to play a leading role in guiding and sustaining environmental action for the protection and development of the coastal and marine areas through concerted efforts and activities to which Governments and the citizenry can positively respond to facilitate in the complex challenges of the management processes of coastal areas. The active involvement of all stakeholders is crucial, but the multiplier effect of action by a critical mass of committed parties, guided by UNEP, can provide and sustain the momentum required for achieving the objectives of the Convention for the benefit of all. The opportunities are tremendous, in view of the increasing numbers of environmental initiatives and ongoing programmes/projects in the region. The constraints are equally daunting but surmountable, with increasing environmental awareness and responsibilities to our global common, one planet and one ocean.

In view of the need to sustain the momentum generated so far, in retooling and revamping the Convention, the following are suggested as urgent needs and initial activities:

1. Urgent Needs

- (a) the appointment of a full-fledged or substantive Regional Coordinator, in accordance with standard UN regulations, to be located in Abidjan, bearing in mind that the leadership of the Convention is the key to jumpstarting it;
- (b) the appointment of at least two (2) program officers, co-located in Abidjan with the Regional Coordinator, to assist the Coordinator, but with clearly defined Job description; these two should be nationals from the member countries chosen for their technical competence, and with national officers status, as practiced in IMO and GCLME Project to reduce personnel cost;
- (c) the critical mass for staffing presently are the Regional Coordinator, one to two program officer(s) and a secretarial assistant, fully supported for carrying out their functions;
- (d) the present office/bureau granted by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire could continue to serve as the Secretariat until funding permits relocation to an independent Regional office;
- (e) backstopping for the Office/Bureau should be the responsibility of UNEP in this initial phase, but could be changed later in conformity with practice for similar Regional bodies;
- (f) UNEP should source the seed money for establishing the Secretariat, and together with the new bureau, commence active resource mobilization for sustainability.

2. The initial activities for the Coordination Unit should include the following:

- a) Compilation of all ongoing programmes / projects on the coastal and marine environment and River basins, etc in the region;
- b) Compilation of all GEF- assisted initiatives on the coastal and marine environment, river basins, etc with relevance for the protection of the ocean;
- c) follow-up on vetting of such initiatives for content, relevance and sustainability to ensure their smooth implementation, evaluation and monitoring, with a view to deriving maximum benefits to the region;
- d) establish claims/ reclaim all ongoing and new programmes/ projects as the legal framework for implementing all interventions on the coastal and marine environment in the region;

- e) establish close linkages with all sub-regional /regional programmes/ projects in the region (e.g. PRCM, GIRMaC, SINEPAD, NEPAD(South Africa) LMEs, etc. related to integrated management of coastal and marine areas through their Coordinators;
- f) liaise and establish a reporting system for all such programmes/ projects in order to act as depository/ repository for programmes/ projects completed in the region and ensure that lessons learned can be useful for future interventions;
- g) establish working relationships with relevant Ministers, Senior Government Officers and Principal Organizations/ Agencies in each Member country for fostering the activities of the Convention; ensure ownership, political commitment and timely contributions to the Trust Fund; and facilitate the delivery of action-oriented service to programmes/ projects in each of the countries for the relevance of the Convention;
- h) liaise with National Focal Points of the Convention for reporting on all ongoing programmes/ projects in each country with relevance to integrated management of coastal and marine areas;
- i) compile/update list of relevant Conventions for the protection, development, and management of coastal and marine areas including river basins/catchments, to which member countries of the Abidjan Convention are party or should be party; follow-up on their ratification/accession and initiate action necessary for immediate ratification of such related Conventions. Draw lessons from such Conventions to assist coordination efforts.
- j) participate in all meetings/conferences/workshops with relevance to the mandate and objectives of the Convention for fostering the coordinating role; establishing the lead and policy support role; and providing action-oriented service to each programme/project and countries within the region;
- k) establish a coordination mechanism for tracking the progress of programmes/projects implementation and trouble shooting for smooth implementation, identifying gaps and providing linkages for filling such gaps, and sustaining necessary political support;
- l) organize a Conference of Partners, Donors, Collaborators and interested stakeholders for resource mobilization and linkages with various environmental initiatives within the region;
- m) establish close / strong linkages with key United Nations agencies, external programmes / projects, collaborators, partners, donors, etc through appropriate Memorandum of Understanding and follow-up on their implementation;

- n) initiate new areas for interventions based on the Action Plan / emerging issues and seek support for their funding from interested partners / donors;
- o) initiate collaboration with Centers of Excellence for Information and Data Management; technical capacity building in all areas of interventions by programmes / projects to ensure their support and timely implementation.

REFERENCES:

Bloxham, Martin (2005): TDA/SAP Training conducted at the GCLME Regional Coordinating Unit, Accra, Ghana, 19-23 August 2005.

UNESCO (1999): The role of Communication and education for sustainable coastal development. Proceedings of a PACSICOM technical workshop, Maputo, Mozambique, 18-24 July 1998. CSI info. No. 7, 81pp.

UNIDO (2001): Integrated Assessment, Management and Governance in River Basins, Coastal zones and Large Marine Ecosystems. A UNIDO Strategy paper. Printed in Austria. 57pp.

ANNEX I

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY FOR THE ABIDJAN CONVENTION

BACKGROUND

During the Seventh Conference of Contracting Parties (COP 7) meeting, Libreville, Gabon, 22-23 March, the contracting parties requested UNEP, to assist the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) to become autonomous and to equip it with the resources necessary for the effective discharge of its coordination function. This was done through Decision CP. 7/1/3.

The meeting further asked the Regional Coordinating Unit of the Abidjan Convention to work with UNEP to define the steps required and mobilize the necessary means to attain the above objective. In a follow up to the COP 7, the Head of the Regional Seas and Coordinator of the Global Programme of Action convened a two day meeting in the Hague – May 26-27, 2005. The meeting discussed the means to further strengthen the Regional Coordinating Unit in Abidjan and the following was recommended:

1. A review of the Abidjan Convention to make it relevant in view of the current realities
2. Develop a strategy to commit governments to honour their pledges to the convention in order to strengthen the Conventions ability to deliver the projects in its work programme

To achieve the above objectives, it was decided that a consultant be hired to undertake a comprehensive review of the Abidjan convention that would provide guidance in the development of a strategy to commit governments to honour their pledges to the Convention. The specific duties of the consultant are highlighted below.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The review process was to include the following tasks:

- a) Review the original mandate and objectives of the Convention;
- b) Asses the original mandate in view of the current realties;
- c) Review the mechanisms that exist to implement the Convention's work programme; Review how the Convention operates currently in relation to the NEPAD work programme and other initiatives;

- d) Review the institutional setup and how the Abidjan Convention links to other organizations/agencies;
- e) Review the opportunities with a view to minimizing constraints;
- f) Review the role and impacts of the national focal points in order to ensure national ownership.

The review process was to also identify the stakeholders, how to enhance their roles and how to further involve them in the development and implementation of the new Abidjan Convention Strategy.

The Secretariat, working closely with GCLME RCU was to develop a long-term strategy for the Convention and present the report to the secretariat of the Abidjan Convention and also during the 2005 meeting of all the key stakeholders participating in the Large Marine Ecosystem project.

OUTPUTS OF THE REPORT

- A mission statement for the Convention;
- A demonstration on how the Convention will provide an overarching leading and supervisory role as the basis for a new Work Programme based on ongoing LME projects and develop capacity to identify gaps;
- Strategies on how to make the Convention operational and ensure sustainability in the long-term;
- Strategies on how to make the Convention the regional repository of expertise and knowledge from projects that come to an end;
- Mechanisms on how to operationalize the RCU with either local or regional staff members (shared by different agencies/organizations);
- Mechanisms that will give ownership to the contracting parties and link with the NEPAD structures;
- Strategies on how to develop the capacity of the RCU to meet its obligations; e.g. how to mobilize financial/political support in all projects designed by the partners, strategies to enable the RCU to play an advisory and a policy support role;
- A structure that will address emerging issues and conform to changing global settings;
- Options on how best to use the LMEs/river basins as the operational management units;
- An operational structure at the regional level with a clear role for their sub-regional LMEs nodes.

Time-Scale: 40 days consultancy conducted in the Months of August and September 2005 over a period of 40 days.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Advanced degree in Environmental Sciences; demonstrated capacity to work with national institutions and a minimum of 6 years experience, particularly, in project co-ordination at the national and international level; familiarity with the United Nations System an asset; fluency in English language required; working knowledge of any other UN language an added advantage; conversant with use of microcomputers necessary.

ANNEX II

Itinerary of Interview visits:

Conakry, GUINEA	03 August 2005
Dakar, SENEGAL	05 August 2005
Bissau, GUINEA BISSAU	06 August 2005
Dakar, SENEGAL	09 August 2005
Freetown, SIERRA LEONE	10 August 2005
Accra, GHANA	15 – 19 August 2005
Accra, GHANA	24 – 28 September 2005
Accra, GHANA	03 – 07 October 2005

ANNEX III

List of agencies visited and persons met for consultations/discussions

- (1) SINEPAD
Dr. David Njiki Njiki
Executive Secretary
Immeuble Fahd
3 Bld Djily Mbaye
Dakar, Senegal.
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- (2) Monsieur Elimane BA
Chef du Bureau Etudes d'Impact Environnement
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- (3) Mme Mariene Diagne Talla
Juriste des Droits de la Mer
Chef du Bureau Legislation
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- (4) Ministere de l'Environnement
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- (5) Ministere de l'Environnement
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- (6) Mr. Theophile Richard
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- (7) Ministro
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- (8) Directeur General de l'Environnement
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- (9) Mr. Stephen Syril James Jusu
Focal Point for Abidjan/GCLME Project
Chief Environment Officer
Environment Protection Department
Youyi Building, Brookfields
Ministry of Lands, Housing, Country Planning and the Environment,
Freetown, Sierra-Leone
Tel: (232) 22 240 367
- (10) Mr. Nkwanyuo Victor Mbai
Point Focal Convention d'Abidjan
Ministere de l'Environnement et des Forets
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- (11) Dr. Jean Folack
MINREST-IRAD
Chief of IRAD Polyvalent Research Station
Kribi, Cameroun

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- (12) Mr. Daniel Amlalo
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- (13) Ministry of Building, Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Environment
Direcco Servicos Geograficos and Cadastrais
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- (17) Dr. A. K. ARMAH
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- (18) Ms. Georgina Tackie
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- (19) Mme Nassere KABA
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Interim Coordinator, RCU
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ANNEX IV

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE FUTURE ORIENTATION OF THE ABIDJAN CONVENTION

- A. MANDATE
- B. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION
- C. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM
- D. IMPLEMENTATION
- E. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

1. Name & Address of respondent

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.....

2. Is there any other stakeholder/donor/partner apart from your country that is party to the Convention in your country?

Yes..... No.....

2b. If Yes, what is their names and address?

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3.

4. Is your country a party to the Convention? Y/N

5. Year joined/ratified.....

6. Is the Convention widely known in your country? Y/N

7. What are the motivations for joining the Convention?.....

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7. Is your Institution/Organization/Agency country aware of the original mandate of the Convention? Y/N

8. Are you satisfied with the original mandate? Y/N

9. If No, what suggestions do you have to improve the mandate in view of current realities?

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10. Do you think the level of Expertise/Capacity presently available to the Convention is adequate to mobilize Contracting Parties resources for necessary action? Y/N

11. Are you conversant with the objectives of the Convention? Y/N

12. Are the objectives in line with current realities? Y/N

13. If No, what modification(s) will you suggest?

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14. Are the objectives realizable? Y/N

15. What other modifications do you suggest in order to meet current challenges?

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16. Is the structure in place capable of achieving the stated mandate and objectives of the Convention? Y/N

17. If No, what structure should be put in place especially to mobilize political commitment and sustainable funding?

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18. Are the National Focal Points properly constituted? Y/N

19. What do you suggest should be the major role of Focal points in each country?

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20. What are the current impacts of the National Focal Point in your country?

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Does the present mechanism put in place to implement the Convention's work programme sufficient/adequate/ Y/N

22. What other mechanism(s) would you suggest to be in place to actualize the work programme?

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23. Can the operational modalities of the Convention fit into the NEPAD environment initiatives? Y/N

24. If No, what improvements do you propose for the operational modalities?

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.....

25. Which area(s) of the operational guideline do you think is not necessary?

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.....

26. Institutional Framework: Are the various organs /body (ies) set up by the Convention capable of achieving the target objectives, and mandate? Y/N

27. What other Organ/Agency/Body currently not a stakeholder do you think can contribute effectively to the Convention Objectives? (Please list names & addresses)

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28. Which other body/organization/agency do you suggest the Convention can collaborate with to better realize her ideals?

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29. Do you think the present synergy between the Convention and partners are working? Y/N

30. If No, what are the reasons undermining the necessary synergy?

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31. If yes, what other suggestions can you proffer to improve the synergy to sustain the RCU?

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32. What opportunities/potentials (locally, nationally and globally) do you think are available to the Abidjan Convention?

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.....

33. What should be the short, medium and long-term plan of the Convention?

Short-term plan.....

Medium-term plan.....

Long-term plan.....

Please kindly return completed forms to E. A. Ajao by Thursday afternoon and not later than Friday morning. Many thanks.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to appreciate the opportunity offered by UNEP to review the Abidjan Convention. The exercise was made easy by a long-standing association with most of the principal players, experts and colleagues in the region with whom I have had the opportunities to work closely on sub regional and regional programmes/projects and sea cruises in the last twenty years. I thank all of you for your continuous contribution to the progress made so far and hope that our expectations will bear fruits for sustainable development and sound management of our coastal environment.

I am particularly grateful to Ms. Georgina Tackie (IMO), Dr. Njiki Njiki (SINEPAD), Prof. Chidi Ibe (GCLME), Mme Nassere Kaba (RCU, Abidjan), and the several Senior Government officials who granted audience at very short notice, and expressed strong support for the Abidjan Convention inspite of its slow implementation. I am indeed confident that a revamped Convention will satisfy the yearnings and aspirations for attaining its impressive objectives.