

**LAUNCH OF THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT
ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES BY PROFESSOR JAMES
OLE KIYAPI, HEAD OF THE KENYAN DELEGATION
AND PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON 7TH
NOVEMBER 2007.**

Chairperson

Hon Ministers

Excellencies

Distinguished Participants

It is a great pleasure to officiate at the launch of this Great tool for environmental management.

EIA is a gaining momentum in most of the countries of the region as the desire to balance ecological concerns with developmental needs becomes ever more critical important.

Coastal and marine resources and environment are often and by definition transboundary with actions in country like to go beyond with the borders.

It is therefore imperative that experts involved in addressing possible impacts of coastal and marine are informed about the sensitivities of these environments and options for mitigation.

We commend the UNEP-GEF WIO-LaB project, now in its third year of implementation for coming up with this most useful tool.

The guidelines will provide a vital framework within which Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention employ national EIA tools and processes.

We urge Parties to use the tool and continue improving it as information and understanding of ecosystems dynamics develop.

As we struggle with development concerns of the region - it is increasingly important that development actions are solidly underpinned by sound environmental management and considerations.

With these few remarks I have the pleasure on your behalf to declare the Regional Guidelines for IA officially launched.

THANK YOU.