



AEO DATA WORKING GROUP MEETING

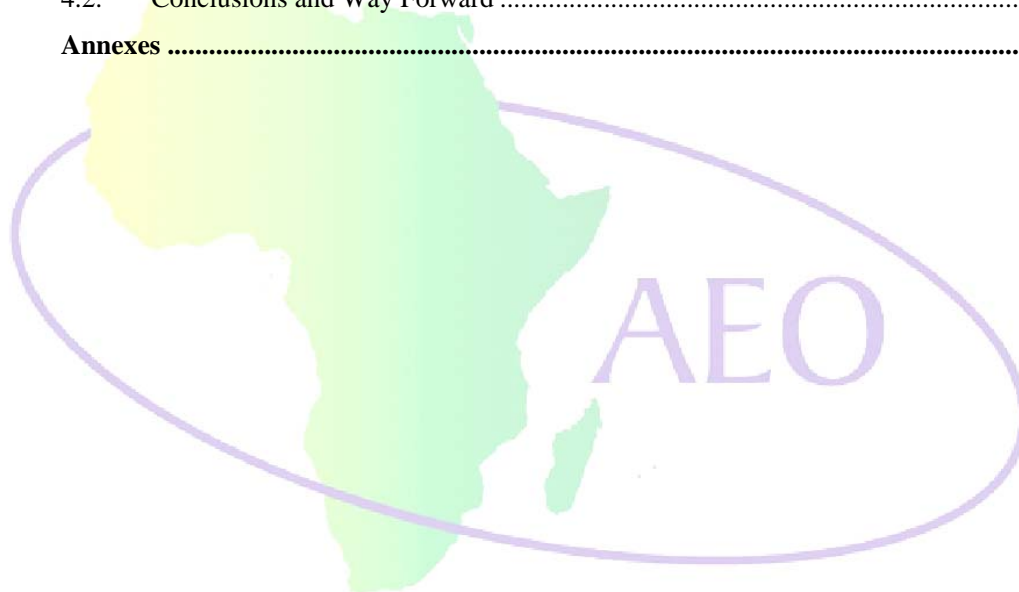
**22 to 23 APRIL 2005
HARARE, ZIMBABWE**

REPORT

AFRICA ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK

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1. Background

Africa Environment Outlook report has been adopted by AMCEN as a tool for monitoring sustainable environmental management in Africa and as the environmental reporting framework at national and sub-regional levels. The report would also be used as a tool for monitoring the implementation of the AMCEN medium-term programme and the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative NEPAD.

The integrated environmental assessment and reporting (IEA) methodology used in the AEO process answers five questions that are key to effective decision making:

1. What is happening to the environment and why (state and pressure)?
2. What is the consequence for the environment and humanity (impact)?
3. What is being done about it and how effective is it (response)?
4. What could be alternative futures of environmentally sustainable (or unsustainable) development (scenarios)?
5. What alternative action could be taken (options for action)?

2. Towards AEO-2 report

The AEO-2 report will profile Africa's environmental resources as an asset for the continent's development. It will highlight the opportunities presented by the region's natural resource base to support the development agenda of NEPAD and the cost of its misuse. The report will underscore the concept of opportunities, and the importance of the environmental initiatives in supporting them. It will in essence place the human being at the centre of sustainable development.

Emphasis will be put on *what should and can be done with existing (remaining) environmental assets*, in the context of identified *constraints* (issues), rather than focusing on what has been (already) lost.

The report will have six chapters

- Chapter 1: Environment for Development in Africa
 - Socio-economic development – drivers/pressures
- Chapter 2: Opportunities for development
 - Air
 - Land - biodiversity, forests, human settlements
 - Freshwater
 - Coastal and marine
 - Environmental governance
- Chapter 3: Emerging issues
- Chapter 4: Environment for peace and security
- Chapter 5: Outlook (+scenarios)
- Chapter 6: Environment renaissance for development

3. Objectives of the meeting

3.1 Objectives

UNEP/DEWA organized a 2-day working meeting of the AEO-DWG to discuss, select and agree on the environmental indicators for the AEO-2 report.

Specific objectives of the meeting were to:

- Select and agree on core data sets and indicators for AEO-2 report based on the AEO-2 chapter outline (chapter 1, socio-economic; chapter 2, Air, Land, Freshwater, Coastal and marine and the cross-cutting issues; chapter 5???)
- Test and classify the indicators based on the DPSIR and opportunities frameworks
- Identify the data Gaps within the current available drafts.
- Cross check data presented in the AEO-2 draft for other available data sources and updates.
- Use the AEO-EIS as a tool to provide data/graphs/maps to support the story line and argument presented in the draft AEO-2
- Identify and select data providers/sources based on the agreed core data sets and indicators
- Produce draft material for use in the production and publishing of AEO-2 indicators booklet and agree on the next steps towards production
- Agree on the nature of support that the AEO-DWG will provide to the AEO-2 process

3.2 Meeting format

A consultative work-session format was adopted. The agenda for the meeting is as indicated in Annex 1.



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Each member was responsible for the assigned thematic area, details of which are in the table below:

Member	Institution	Theme (chapter)
Amadou Moctar Dieye/ Jacques André Ndione	CSE/NESDA	Air (chapter 2)
Clever Mafuta/ Stanley Mubako	SARDC	Land (Chapter 2)
Crepin Momokama	ADIE	Forests and Biodiversity (chapter 2)
Ahmed Abdel-Rehim	CEDARE	Freshwater (chapter 2)
Sachooda Ragoonaden	IOC	Coastal and Marine (chapter 2)
Tesfaye Woldeyes	EPA/NEMA	Human settlements (chapter 2) Wetlands (chapter 2)
Etien Ndah	NESDA	Human health and environment (chapter 2) Socio-economic issues (chapter 1)
Chris Ambala	UNEP-DEWA Africa	Energy (chapter 2) Natural disasters (chapter 2) Gender (chapter 2)
Bakary Dosso	UNECA	
Jaap van Woerden	UNEP-DEWA Europe	

3.3 Participation

11 participants, representing each of the six (6) AEO sub-regions and staff from UNEP-DEWA Africa, attended the meeting. A list of participants is provided in Annex 2.

3.4 Deliberations

3.4.1 Opening session

Clever Mafuta welcomed the participants on behalf of SARDC's Executive Director. He gave an overview of SARDC operations, organisational set up and the major collaborating partners, including UNEP. Munyaradzi Chenje, UNEP-DEWA Africa, Regional coordinator welcomed the participants thanked SARDC for agreeing to host the meeting, and for all logistical arrangements. He emphasised that the meeting was supposed to make sure that data and information used in the AEO-2 report is reliable, so that the report is useful for planning. He further added that AEO-DWG was expected to agree on appropriate and relevant indicators to be used for the report.

3.4.2 Sessions 1 to 7 –Selection, testing and classification of indicators

Chris Ambala made a presentation the AEO-2 chapter outline, which highlighted the four over arching themes (Air, Land Freshwater and Coastal Marine). It was agreed that the team would consider selecting indicators for other themes (forests and woodland, biodiversity, energy, soils, wetlands) which fall under the over arching four themes and the cross cutting themes. The team agreed on the following:

- Both the DPSIR and Opportunities frameworks would be used in selecting the indicators.

- There will be a data page/sheet at the end of each thematic section of the AEO-2 report (sample, page 24 of the UNEP report titled “Africa Environment Tracking: Issues and Developments”)
- In cases where the Opportunities framework indicators show a negative trend (what has been lost), the team would select other relevant indicators that focus on the opportunities in order to minimize focus on the negatives.
- The team agreed to initially allow for 2 to 3 issues per theme.
- The team agreed to trim the indicators list to a total of 30 for all thematic areas (about, 2 or 3 indicators per theme).
- Initially the trimming process would leave each theme with approximately 3 to 4 indicators per issue, which would need another round of trimming based on data available (now or before AEO2 report launch), messages presented and relevance to the opportunity framework.
- It was agreed that where necessary, indicators would be selected for Chapter 4: Environment for peace and security. It was further clarified that chapter 4 will focus on opportunities for regional cooperation such as in River Basin Commissions and Trans-boundary Natural Resource Management initiatives.
- In cases where it would difficult to illustrate opportunities using indicators positive statement would be used to relay the same message.
- The environmental issues based on the thematic areas should not be prescriptive to allow for the opportunities to be articulated.
- The indicators must consider the link with the environment even though certain areas are inclined to economical and sustainable development.
- The “drivers” indicators may cut across many different issues though the team agreed that “population” is the major driver to change in environment.
- The team further agreed that the initial testing for data available would not be comprehensive however further testing would have to done as new data and sources are discovered.

Participants went through the major thematic areas in the NEPAD-AEO-2 matrix and narrowed down the main issues, through a consultative session, also noting the main data sources. Theme leaders from the AEO sub-regions facilitated discussion on each thematic area allocated for the rest of day 1 and the better part of day 2.

At the end of day 2 smaller team of four (Ahmed, Hossam, Chris, Clever) was set up to refine and trim the indicator list further, and reduce the core indicator list to a reasonable number (preferably 30) to be presented to the rest of the whole team group by Wednesday, 27 April 2005. It was also agreed that the proposed list should have gone through some initial testing for trend data availability using the AEO-EIS data and indicator toolkit. The final list of indicators is shown as a separate attachment (Annex 3).

4. Sessions 8 –Next steps and closure of meeting

4.1. Production of Indicator booklet

It was first clarified that the AEO will be launched in May 2006 at the AMCEN Session in Congo Brazzaville, giving about 8 months for the collation of material, (excluding 4 months production). 4 months will also be required for translation into French and Arabic if resources available. One of the outputs before launch of the AEO-2 report is the production of a core datasets-indicator booklet, a process that will be led by the Data Working Group.

The group brainstormed on what should be the production process for the proposed indicator booklet. A number of publications, including “State of the World’s Birds 2004” were circulated to assist the group in coming up with a format the report will take.

It was pointed out that there is need to agree on content and material to be included in the booklet, as well as task distribution. The booklet will be produced together with the AEO publication but it will be published before the main report. The AEO-2 a Data Compendium would be published after the main report (AEO-2) has been launched.

It was suggested that the AEO-2 indicator booklet should contain very little text. The text should include information about the indicator selection process, definitions, classifications and short descriptive text to explain graphics and pictures, photos, etc (text from the AEO-2 report). The use of the recently donated remote sensed data should be used for spatial illustrations.

The Data Working Groups then agreed on the steps below for the production of the indicator booklet and support to the AEO-2 process.

4.2. Conclusions and Way Forward

The AEO-DWG arrived at the following conclusions:

1. Structure of the booklet and content template will be distributed mid March 2005.
2. Each Collaborating Centre, lead by the members of the AEO-DWG will be responsible for their allocated theme, as well as the data sheet at the end of each thematic section of the main AEO 2 report.
3. The final sets of Data to be used in the booklet should be finalized by September 2005.
4. The booklet will mainly use graphics (graphs – bargraph, linegraph, pie charts, maps, etc) to illustrate the storylines presented in the AEO-2 report. The graphics will be generated from the AEO-EIS, GEO Africa Data portal, GEO Africa Data portal and any other relevant reliable sources.
5. Verification and sharing of the data, mainly with national governments, and other key partners will be absolutely important and necessary and will have to be done.
6. Text from the AEO-2 report will be used to support the support graphics in the AEO-2 indicator booklet.
7. The booklet should be by theme and presentation of graphics done at regional level (no country level graphs, but sub regional comparisons will be done).

8. DPSIR and Opportunities frameworks to be used.
9. Multilateral Environmental Agreements to be compared (between Africa's sub regions), since data is easily available. Regional comparisons may be used if necessary.
10. Each member responsible for following up on the regional sections to ensure that all indicators are reflected.
11. Other illustrations and sources of information will include remote sensing maps, such as the recently donated UNEP/USGS datasets, the forthcoming global atlas by UNEP/USGS/et al, and photographs with positive messages.
12. The AEO 2 indicator booklet will be on CD-ROM and will also be on the Internet.
13. Calendar to discuss specific themes or issues.



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5. Annexes

1. AEO Data Working Group Meeting, 19th & 20th November 2003 —Agenda
2. AEO Data Working Group Meeting — List of Participants
3. Proposed list of AEO-2 Indicators



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