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Policy issues: state of the environment

Support to Africa in environmental management and protection

Report by the Executive Director

Summary

The present report is being submitted to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fifth session pursuant to paragraph 10 of decision 24/8 of 9 February 2007. It summarizes the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the context of the implementation of that decision.

* UNEP/GC.25/1.

Implementation of decision 24/8 on support to Africa in environmental management and protection

Report by the Executive Director

I. Suggested action by the Governing Council

1. The Governing Council may wish to consider the adoption of a decision along the lines suggested below:

The Governing Council,

Recalling decision 24/8 (Support to Africa in environmental management and protection) of 9 February 2007,

Recalling also the United Nations Environment Programme medium-term strategy for 2010–2013, as welcomed by decision SS.X/3 (Medium-term Strategy for the period 2010–2013) of 22 February 2008,

Takes note of the report by the Executive Director summarizing the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the implementation of decision 24/8 in each of the cross-cutting priorities and objectives.

II. Introduction

2. The special needs of Africa were accorded significant attention at the twenty-fourth session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum through decision 24/8. President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya, on behalf of the African region, called upon the Council/Forum and the UNEP secretariat to make the forthcoming years (2007–2009) key years for Africa. The Council responded to the request by affirming that “support to Africa, as identified in decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, should be further enhanced taking into account the current situation and needs of the region”. The Council/Forum accordingly invited “the Executive Director to work closely with the African Union Commission, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the African Ministers’ Council on Water, the Forum for African Ministers on Energy, the African Energy Commission, regional economic communities and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development secretariat in their efforts to implement policy-oriented assessments”.

3. The agreements reached at numerous international gatherings, such as the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1994 United Nations International Conference on Population and Development, the 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the 2000 Millennium Summit of the United Nations, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2005 World Summit, routinely singled out the problems of Africa for special attention. The 2008 United Nations high-level meeting on the special needs of Africa, recent African Union summit decisions on Africa’s vulnerability to global environmental changes and the decisions taken at the joint Group of Eight/European Union summit on support to Africa have all accorded a high degree of urgency to the need to add momentum to relevant pan-African processes and to step up current support to the work of the above pan-African institutions to promote regional cooperation on environmental matters.

4. Within the framework of its medium-term strategy, UNEP is focusing its efforts on six cross-cutting thematic priorities: climate change; disasters and conflicts; ecosystem management; environmental governance; harmful substances and hazardous waste; and resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production. The present report has been prepared in the context of these six thematic priorities.

III. Overall UNEP activities in Africa

A. Climate change

5. In the area of climate change, the objective of UNEP has been to assist countries in adapting to the impacts of climate change by reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience in sectors of national priority. It has also contributed to efforts aimed at mitigating climate change by supporting a transition towards cleaner and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency, and by tackling deforestation and land degradation. In view of these efforts, among others, Africa is now working on a climate road map based on the continent's shared vision on adaptation and mitigation. It is envisaged that the road map will include an African common position and a comprehensive framework for African climate change programmes. The comprehensive framework is intended to consolidate existing African climate change initiatives and programmes to ensure coordination and coherence in the implementation and review of climate change initiatives and sustainable development plans in Africa at all levels.

1. Summary of activities

6. Assisting Africa to assess the growing carbon markets and to protect its economies from climatic vagaries was a key part of UNEP initiatives in the region during the reporting period.

7. Under the project on capacity development for the Clean Development Mechanism, UNEP, in partnership with others, worked towards building the skills and know-how of countries and companies to design, submit and secure cleaner and greener energy schemes. The initial phase (2002–2006) targeted Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Mozambique and Uganda. The second phase (2007–2009) includes Algeria, Mauritius and the United Republic of Tanzania.

8. The project on carbon finance for sustainable energy in Africa is supporting the development of Clean Development Mechanism proposals from Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique and Zambia, while the project on carbon finance for agriculture, silviculture, conservation and action against deforestation promotes the use of carbon finance in the agricultural and forestry sectors. Countries involved include Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Madagascar, Mali and Senegal.

9. UNEP has been supporting the development of an environmentally sound energy sector through various initiatives, including the Forum for Energy Ministers of Africa. In addition, a project on African rural energy enterprise development is supporting the establishment of sustainable energy enterprises and businesses in Ghana, Senegal, Mali, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. At the same time, the network of national Cleaner Production Centres established under the United Nations Industrial Development Organization is involved in mainstreaming energy efficiency. Such centres have been established in Kenya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco, Mozambique, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

10. UNEP is also supporting the development of sustainability criteria for the production of biofuels aimed at ensuring that these criteria meet acceptable environmental and social standards. At the same time, a UNEP-Global Environment Facility (GEF) project is working to reduce emissions from the transport sector in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, by designing and implementing a bus rapid transit system and improved cycling facilities. Another UNEP-GEF project is seeking to establish a sustainable supply chain of solar photovoltaic systems in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. In the southern Mediterranean region, a solar loan facility has helped thousands of Tunisian households to acquire solar water heaters. A similar programme is being expanded to Morocco and other countries.

11. In East Africa, technical and financial resources are being provided to enable exploitation of the geothermal potential of the Rift Valley, involving countries ranging from Kenya to Djibouti. A new UNEP-GEF initiative has been launched to assist the tea industry across East Africa to use small-scale hydroelectric power and to supply national grids. The cogeneration for Africa programme aims to install at least 60 MW of cogeneration in Eastern and Southern Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania).

12. UNEP has also developed a project to build the capacity and improve the resilience of African countries to cope with water stress and adapt to climate change. The project, supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, has four components: rainwater harvesting; reuse of wastewater for forest plantation irrigation; drought early warning system and adaptation to drought; and sustainable transboundary ecosystem management for Lake Tanganyika. The geographical coverage of the project

includes Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

13. UNEP has also been involved in developing joint programmes on environment and climate change under the joint United Nations Development Programme-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund thematic window for environment and climate change in Egypt, Ethiopia and Mozambique.

14. UNEP provided facilitation and technical input during the African Ministers' round table on climate change, held in Kampala on the margins of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. UNEP also facilitated the preparatory meeting of the African Group of negotiators held in Abuja in 2007 ahead of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The African Group of negotiators was also given a briefing on the outcomes, with special emphasis on climate change, of the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Johannesburg in June 2008.

15. UNEP provided support to and substantive inputs into that twelfth session, which was highly successful. One of its main outcomes was its two-part decision on climate change, covering both the preparations by Africa for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012 and a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes. In furtherance of this decision, preliminary discussions on the development of Africa's common position on climate change have been held with various stakeholders. UNEP is helping to facilitate the implementation of this decision, among others, and is supporting the implementation of the Conference's work programme.

16. As international efforts to craft a new legal instrument to succeed the Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012 gather momentum, the need for accurate, consistent and internationally comparable data on national greenhouse gas emissions and efforts to adapt adequately to the adverse impacts of climate change are becoming apparent to all. Although UNEP previously supported only 14 African countries in preparing the first round of national reports, its current African portfolio involves 24 countries and is likely to grow in the future owing largely to the increasing number of requests. The key vulnerable economic sectors tackled within the national reporting framework include agriculture and food security, water resources, energy security, human health and coastal zones and tourism. UNEP continues to support actively these countries in seizing the opportunity to prepare national climate reports with a view to building institutional and systemic capacities to begin integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation into development planning frameworks, programmes and budgeting.

B. Disasters and conflicts

17. The objective of UNEP work in this area is to build national capacities to minimize threats to human well-being from the environmental causes and consequences of conflicts and disasters by adopting an integrated approach involving vulnerabilities and risk reduction, emergency response and recovery and peacebuilding. The work of UNEP has contributed to strengthening national environmental management capacities through institution-building, promoting regional cooperation, technical legal assistance, environmental information management and integrating environmental concerns and risk reduction measures into reconstruction programmes.

1. Summary of activities

18. A major event during this reporting period was the publication and launch of the Sudan post-conflict environmental assessment report in June 2007, marking the successful completion of the largest post-conflict assessment ever conducted by UNEP. As a follow-up to the report, UNEP was requested to implement a national-level environmental programme in the Sudan, in Southern Sudan and in Darfur. The programme aims to build the capacity of national authorities and United Nations staff in the sustainable use of natural resources and the rehabilitation of degraded areas.

19. A wide range of successful awareness-raising and capacity-building activities have also been carried out by UNEP in Liberia. UNEP has continued to provide practical capacity-building and training support to the Environmental Protection Authority, by offering training workshops on the basics of environmental inspection techniques. UNEP supported the development of environmental legislation and the implementation of environmental impact assessment provisions. Consultations were also initiated with the United Nations Development Programme-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative

on the provision of technical support for the development of Liberia's first poverty reduction strategy. In addition, the UNEP programme office in Monrovia worked to build capacity on environmental monitoring, biodiversity conservation and waste management.

20. Following a request by Nigeria, UNEP developed a project to assess more than 300 oil-impacted sites in the Ogoni region of the Niger Delta. The Ogoniland environmental assessment project is the first of its kind for UNEP. The project aims to assess the environmental damage caused by oil exploration and extraction in Ogoniland and to make detailed site-specific recommendations for clean-up and environmental rehabilitation. Intervention by UNEP will consist of conducting a holistic environmental study to establish the necessary baseline information on the state of the problem. The assessment report will make specific recommendations and proposals for the remediation work.

21. A series of planning missions were conducted during this period to discuss and develop environmental assessments and other early recovery activities to be carried out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. UNEP launched activities on environmental legislation, post-conflict assessment and capacity-building for the conservation and management of environmental resources in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2008. The activities will also provide environmental support to the United Nations country team and the United Nations peacekeeping mission (United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo). In Rwanda, a forward-looking environmental assessment will facilitate an analysis of land-use patterns, urbanization and the sustainable management of natural resources in the country. In Rwanda, the project will also contribute to what is known as the "One United Nations" process and help to ensure that environmental needs are fully integrated into the development agenda.

22. Responding to the need of the Central African subregion, UNEP continued to provide support to the Central Africa Disaster Management Centre in the Congo. The centre aims to build the capacity of the countries of the subregion in the area of disaster management. A number of activities were also undertaken in follow-up to the dumping of toxic waste in Côte d'Ivoire in 2006 and the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal at its eighth meeting requesting Parties to provide technical and financial assistance to Côte d'Ivoire to help it to implement its emergency plan.

23. A training course on disaster risk reduction, organized as part of an environmental leadership programme for young people from African countries, was organized in Shanghai, China, from 18 to 30 May 2008, with the objective of providing specialized leadership training to build the capacity of young environmental scientists from developing countries in selected environmental fields.

C. Ecosystem management

24. UNEP has been working to promote a cross-sectoral, integrated approach to ecosystem management to reverse the decline in ecosystem services and improve ecosystem resilience to external impacts such as habitat degradation, invasive species, climate change, pollution and overexploitation. The related activities are summarized in the following paragraphs.

1. Payments for ecosystem services

25. In Kenya, UNEP initiated a project to reduce emissions from deforestation in developing countries. In addition to reducing emissions, the project aims to alleviate poverty and maintain water supplies in rivers leading into the Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya and the Serengeti National Park in the United Republic of Tanzania. It will provide a management plan and alternative livelihoods and income sources for communities from payment for ecosystem services from carbon trade and tourism. UNEP has also been involved in developing the joint programmes on ecosystem taxation in Senegal under the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund.

2. Declining flamingo populations and densities in the Eastern African Rift Valley lakes

26. A project was launched aimed at developing strategies to tackle the declining flamingo populations and densities in the saline lakes to ensure the sustainable environmental management of the flamingo lakes based on a catchment basin approach. The project also sought to tackle issues around the mass deaths of flamingos in the Rift Valley lakes. This initiative focused on Lakes Nakuru and Elementaita in Kenya. As a result, a report reviewing literature on the mortality of lesser flamingos in the Kenyan Rift Valley Lakes and a national action plan for the conservation of the lesser flamingo, *Phoeniconaias minor*, in Kenya were developed.

3. Biodiversity, trade and environment

27. A four-year initiative was launched in 2005 in conjunction with the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat to assess agricultural trade liberalization and biodiversity impacts in Cameroon, Madagascar, Mauritius and Uganda. A reference manual on incorporating biodiversity considerations into agriculture trade policy assessments was developed by UNEP in 2007. Another two-year initiative is being jointly implemented by the capacity-building task force on trade, environment and development (under UNEP and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Geneva-based Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. The initiative to review national wildlife trade policies was launched in January 2006 to support efforts by Parties to the Convention to review their national policies regarding the use of and trade in specimens of species listed under the Convention. A draft wildlife trade policy review framework was developed during the first phase of the initiative. In 2007, the initiative entered its second phase with the launch of pilot projects in Madagascar and Uganda.

4. Water

28. Challenges facing African water policies and programmes have been accorded increasing attention during the reporting period by African Governments and UNEP and significant progress has been made, particularly through institutional support by UNEP to the African Ministers' Council on Water. Implementation support was also extended to its regional and subregional initiatives including the African Water Facility, which provides additional funding for selected water projects; the initiative on rural water supply and sanitation; the Water for African Cities programme under the United Nations Human Settlements Programme; initiatives on transboundary water resources and hydropolitical vulnerabilities of Africa.

29. During this period, UNEP, as chair of the Africa group of the United Nations mechanism for inter-agency coordination on water resources, played a leading role in encouraging other members of the United Nations system to pay more attention to the water sector. UNEP also serves on the Governing Council of the African Water Facility, which is hosted by the African Development Bank. In this capacity UNEP participated in the African Water Facility stakeholder workshop in Addis Ababa and the sixth and seventh meetings of the Governing Council of the Facility in Tunis and Maseru, respectively. A significant achievement by the Facility during this period has been to review its activities and results to date, and to develop, through a consultative process, a new two-year programme of work to take up challenges identified.

30. To demonstrate the potential of rainwater harvesting for increasing water resources, UNEP and the World Agroforestry Centre have developed geographic information system maps for Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. An analysis of the maps demonstrated that rainwater has an enormous potential to augment freshwater. An Africa-wide rainwater harvesting programme was developed and presented for peer review at the first African Water Week in Tunis in March 2008. At the same time, UNEP has continued to support a pilot project on rainwater harvesting in Kajiado, Kenya, in the context of implementing the ecosystems management programme aimed at reducing poverty and enhancing livelihoods.

31. UNEP initiated the implementation of a \$2.3 million project on improving water management and governance in African countries through support for developing and implementing integrated water resource management plans partially funded by the European Union. Implementation began in early 2008 and will continue for three years. Activities are currently continuing in the target countries Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone (development of road maps for integrated water resource management planning) and Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Togo (integrated water resource management planning).

32. In addition, UNEP has initiated projects on rehabilitating ecosystems in the Lake Faguibine system in Mali; adapting to climate change in Chicualacuala catchment in Mozambique; and improving the resilience of ecosystems in the Tana River basin in Kenya.

5. Sustainable agriculture

33. In Ethiopia, Kenya and Mali, a UNEP-GEF project on the conservation of Gramineae and associated arthropods for sustainable agricultural development in Africa focuses on increasing understanding of the relationships between specific grasses and insects and promoting the practical

application of this knowledge. The immediate objective of the project is to identify and implement conservation and management measures necessary to prevent loss of biodiversity of specific Gramineae and their associated insects and to conserve these valuable genetic resources in and around agroecosystems in Ethiopia, Kenya and Mali for self-regulatory pest management and sustainable agriculture.

34. Another project, implemented in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Uganda and Zimbabwe, looked at ways to improve the effectiveness of traditional farming systems to conserve biodiversity of local and global importance. Among the immediate results of the project on community-based management of on-farm plant genetic resources in arid and semi-arid areas of sub-Saharan Africa are the readiness of farmers to maintain best practices or even to adopt or adapt new practices to improve traditional farming systems and their understanding of the important role that they play in the survival of the landraces.

6. Biosafety

35. Demonstration projects for the implementation of national biosafety frameworks were initiated, aimed at assisting countries to comply with their obligations as Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and to address biosafety according to national needs and priorities in an inclusive and consultative manner. UNEP-GEF currently manages such projects in Cameroon, Kenya, Namibia and Uganda, which help the countries to develop national biosafety strategies and to plan new projects on building capacity for the safe management of, among other things, genetically modified organisms and living modified organisms.

7. Conserving great apes

36. During this reporting period a new agreement was finalized for the conservation of gorillas in Central and West Africa with an action plan covering education, research and forest protection. This legally-binding agreement will support an urgent conservation and sustainable development programme under the Great Apes Survival Project Partnership, an alliance of over 30 Governments, United Nations agencies and numerous voluntary bodies. The action plan covers education, research and forest protection. At the request of the range States, the new agreement also links gorilla conservation explicitly to the objectives of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership.

8. Reversing dryland degradation

37. To help to promote further good land care and ecosystem management in drylands, UNEP continued implementation of the project on an ecosystem approach to restoring West African drylands and improving rural livelihoods through agroforestry-based land management interventions, funded by Norway and conducted in cooperation with the World Agroforestry Centre, the University of Florida and the Governments of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. The project seeks to build the capacity of national scientists, development workers and farmers' organizations in targeting, implementing and monitoring sustainable land management practices.

38. Also in Africa, the UNEP-GEF dryland livestock wildlife environment interface project is working to mainstream biodiversity conservation and management of livestock resources at the interface between mixed production ecosystems and protected areas in Africa. In Burkina Faso and Kenya, the project has been supporting community members and leaders of conservancies through a series of workshops and training on community-based resource management plans, settlement and grazing, community-based by-laws, reseeding of degraded land, financial management, understanding root causes of existing conflicts in the project area, developing and implementing conflict resolution mechanisms, beekeeping and poultry production and networking and lobbying.

39. In addition, a project for the afforestation of degraded bare hills in Ruhaama county, Ntungamo district, Uganda, was initiated with a view to protecting hilly areas from further degradation through afforestation and the implementation of community action plans for the sustainable use of natural resources.

D. Environmental governance

40. The objective of UNEP is to strengthen environmental governance at the country and regional levels to address agreed environmental priorities in the African region. As a result, a number of activities were undertaken with a view to fulfilling this objective.

1. Contribution to the New Partnership for Africa's Development

41. During this period, ministerial-level consultative meetings on the subregional environmental action plans for Eastern, Central, Southern, North and West Africa were held. The main objectives of the meetings were to review the finalized plans with a view to their endorsement by the ministers of environment in the respective subregions and to discuss the modalities, where appropriate, for submitting the plans to the respective councils of the regional economic communities. All the plans were endorsed by the ministers of the various subregions.

42. In addition, UNEP, with financial support from Norway, continued to provide assistance to five pilot countries to develop their national action plans under the Partnership: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Mozambique.

43. UNEP continued to provide support (technical and policy advisory services) to the secretariat of the Partnership to build human and institutional capacity for coordinating the implementation of the overall action plan and subregional action plans. Support was also provided in undertaking policy analysis to formulate African positions and to develop policy briefs on key emerging issues such as climate change. The regional economic communities were assisted in developing policies and programmes to integrate and implement the action plans, for example, the South African Development Community received support to develop the environment protocol and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa programme for the establishment of a climate change facility to support the preparation and development of carbon-eligible projects for the Clean Development Mechanism. UNEP also provided support to facilitate improved coordination of Partnership sectoral programmes, particularly in the areas of the environment, agriculture, infrastructure and science and technology, by encouraging joint programmes.

2. Support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

44. UNEP is hosting the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on an interim basis. In this regard, UNEP provides secretariat services for its meetings, including intersessional meetings and meetings of its inter-agency technical committee and expert group. UNEP also provides technical and substantive support to the implementation of some of its decisions and biennial work programme.

45. The implementation of the decisions taken by the Conference at its eleventh regular session and other related activities were the focus during this reporting period. UNEP assistance included support towards the implementation of its work programme for the biennium 2007–2008. In addition, a Conference session on the TerrAfrica/Global Environment Facility strategic investment programme for sustainable land management in sub-Saharan Africa was held on 24 and 25 April 2007 in Ouagadougou. The outcome of the meeting was a ministerial declaration that was submitted to and approved by the GEF Council in June 2007. It is envisaged that this approval will enable its implementation, marking a major step towards securing adequate investment in sustainable land management activities in Africa.

46. The twelfth session of the Conference took place from 7 to 12 June 2008 in Johannesburg and its outputs included the Johannesburg Declaration on Environment for Sustainable Development; a president's summary on the ministerial policy dialogue; eight decisions; an indicative work programme for the biennium 2009–2010 and the report of the session. Decisions were taken on such matters as the implementation of the action plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; climate change; the constitution of the Conference; the status and use of the general trust fund for the Conference; chemicals and hazardous waste management; environmental education and technology-supported learning; Africa Environment Day and *Africa Environment Outlook*. The decision on climate change was in two parts, covering both preparations by Africa for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012 and a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes.

3. Support to the African Ministers' Council on Water

47. UNEP continues to provide technical and financial support to the Bureau of the Council (otherwise known as the Steering Committee) and the consultative processes of its Technical Advisory Committee. To this end, UNEP supported the organization of the sixth ordinary session of the African Ministers' Council on Water, held in Brazzaville in May 2007. This included supporting preparatory meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee and Executive Committee, in addition to hosting the Trust Fund, which provided a substantial portion of the costs for these meetings. UNEP also hosted the November 2007 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council and supported the convening of its 2008 meeting.

4. Environment and health

48. The first inter-ministerial conference on health and environment in Africa was held in Libreville from 26 to 29 August 2008, focusing on health security through healthy environments. The conference was intended to secure political commitment for an integrated approach to policy and the institutional and investment changes required to reduce environmental threats to health. Jointly organized by the World Health Organization and UNEP, it was hosted by the Government of Gabon.

49. Participants called upon the World Health Organization and UNEP to support, together with other partners and donors, the implementation of the Libreville Declaration, and to increase their efforts in advocacy, in resource mobilization and in obtaining new and additional investments to strengthen the strategic alliance between health and environment. The World Health Organization and UNEP were also expected to assist African countries in sharing experiences, building capacity and establishing a mechanism to monitor progress towards the fulfillment of the commitments made at the conference, through peer review, and to organize a second conference before the end of 2010. Their support was also needed to implement health and environment conventions and agreements and establish an African network for the surveillance of communicable and non-communicable diseases, in particular those with environment determinants.

5. Integration of the work of UNEP into African Union activities

50. UNEP has maintained regular contact with the African Union through the office of the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture. The UNEP liaison office in Addis Ababa continues to facilitate this process. The two institutions have participated in each other's statutory meetings and worked jointly to support ministerial forums and specific regional projects and processes. The Executive Director of UNEP visited the headquarters of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa and secured high-level African Union and UNEP commitment to close cooperation with regard to policy development and strategic approaches to key environmental challenges requiring subregional, regional and international cooperation.

6. Working with other United Nations agencies and subregional economic communities

51. Under the leadership of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, clusters of United Nations agencies in Africa have been working in the context of a coordinated approach of the entire United Nations system in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. UNEP coordinates environmental issues within cluster 4, on environment, population and urbanization, which is led by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

7. Africa Environment Outlook

52. During this reporting period UNEP prepared the publication *Atlas of Africa's Changing Environment*, which provides a graphical presentation of environmental change in each of the 53 countries in Africa using satellite images of selected sites supported by photographs taken on the ground and text. The atlas complements the *Africa Environment Outlook* report and was launched during the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in June 2008.

53. An inception meeting for the third *Africa Environment Outlook* report was held in August 2007 in Cairo to establish the principal focus for the report, taking into account the current environment and development debate in the African region and other global processes. The process incorporates the Africa Environment Information Network and early warning activities. The network is an African Ministerial Conference initiative being implemented with the support of UNEP to strengthen

information exchange and data infrastructure at the national and subregional levels to support the *Africa Environment Outlook* process. Implementation has been extended to an additional 22 countries with special emphasis on the “One United Nations” countries in Africa (Cape Verde, Mozambique, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania). The network supports the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the Poverty and Environment Initiative processes in the “One United Nations” countries.

54. A meeting was also held to develop a university module and curricula for using the *Africa Environment Outlook* as part of the programme on mainstreaming environment and sustainability into African universities.

8. Poverty and Environment Initiative

55. The Poverty and Environment Initiative, jointly run by the United Nations Development Programme and UNEP, is a global United Nations partnership to mainstream the environment into country development processes. It is active in nine African countries – Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. During the reporting period, the Initiative made considerable progress. For example, in Rwanda, a “One United Nations” pilot country, the strategy for economic development and poverty reduction includes the environment as a priority issue. Consequently, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Rwanda also includes the environment as one of the priority areas. The Initiative team is providing strong support for Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania, which are also “One United Nations” pilot countries. UNEP has also been involved in the development of the joint programmes on Poverty and Environment activities in Mauritania under the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund.

9. “One United Nations” pilot process

56. Cape Verde, Mozambique, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania are the African countries involved in the pilot phase of the “One United Nations” initiative. The countries have already made significant strides in translating an overall vision for greater coherence, as laid out by the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence, into country-specific realities. UNEP is involved in implementing this initiative in the four countries by ensuring that environmental issues are incorporated into the joint country programmes.

57. UNEP, as a member of the United Nations country team in Kenya, was engaged in the process of developing the third United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Kenya. As a result, the environment and related issues were integrated into Kenya’s development plan for 2009–2013.

10. Supporting the multilateral environmental agreements

58. UNEP continues to provide legal advisory services in the context of processes to develop legal environmental instruments. Several workshops for the judiciary were held at the national and subregional levels. For example, a UNEP-sponsored subregional workshop was held in November 2007 in Dakar to develop a common understanding of the concepts and methodologies of environmental law among the judges and magistrates of the Sahel subregion.

59. A regional workshop on chemicals and waste legislation and conventions was held in Nairobi in September 2007. Organized in cooperation with the secretariats of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the main agenda was to identify the requirements for national legislation and regulatory frameworks for the implementation of the chemicals and hazardous wastes agreements. UNEP also continues to provide environmental law advisory services to Governments, upon request, for developing, strengthening and harmonizing legislation in various areas of environmental law. During the reporting period, needs assessment missions were undertaken to Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Guinea to discuss the status of environmental legislation and its application and to assess technical assistance needs in the field of environmental law in the light of the environmental problems affecting those countries. In October 2007, a second UNEP mission to Kinshasa contributed to the drafting of framework legislation for environmental protection in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

60. Also in Africa, all activities foreseen under the framework of the second phase of the Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law in Africa were carried out. The Partnership continued working with African Governments, in particular, the 13 project countries – Botswana, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Swaziland, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania – and, among others, government officials, lawyers, judges, lecturers, non-governmental organizations, financiers, enforcement officials, police, industrialists and environment managers, to build and strengthen capacities for the development and harmonization of environmental legislation and institutions at the national, subregional and regional levels.

61. Through the Compliance Assistance Programme of the OzonAction branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP provided capacity-building and specialized technical support (through training and policy development at the national and regional levels) to African countries to comply with their obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. There are two regional networks of ozone-depleting substance officers for English- and French-speaking African countries that provide regular forums for national ozone officers to exchange experiences, develop skills and share ideas with their counterparts from both developing and developed countries. Special assistance was also provided to Portuguese-speaking African countries, mainly through special sessions, meetings and group discussions, in addition to missions to those countries.

62. Building the capacity of African countries to implement multilateral environmental agreements has been recognized as one of the priority challenges to meet sustainable development in the region. In this regard, UNEP provided technical support for the preparation of the European Union-funded project on capacity-building for multilateral environmental agreement implementation in Africa. The project will entail providing technical assistance, training, policy and advisory support services to enhance countries' capacities to meet their obligations under such agreements.

63. The joint meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and the Convention for the Protection, Management, and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions) took place in Johannesburg on 8 November 2007. The objective of the meeting was to provide a platform for contracting Parties and other stakeholders to discuss and propose appropriate measures to prevent and deal with coastal and marine pollution from land-based and other sources of pollution. In addition, an extraordinary experts meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention was held back-to-back with the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in Johannesburg in June 2008 to consider and decide on the recommendations for revitalizing the Abidjan Convention.

64. A training workshop under the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds was held to build and enhance the capacity of Agreement negotiators from English-speaking Africa on conservation issues of specific interest to their countries. It was also intended to meet the members' needs and prepare them for the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Agreement, held in Antananarivo in September 2008.

65. Various tools and handbooks were developed to complement the multilateral environmental negotiation courses and other capacity-building initiatives, including *Constitutional Environmental Law: Giving Force to Fundamental Principles in Africa*, now in its second edition with a CD-ROM containing texts of national constitutions from African countries, developed in partnership with the Environmental Law Institute.

11. Environmental education

66. UNEP is working to support the goals of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005–2014. At the World Environmental Education Congress, held in June 2007 in Durban, South Africa, UNEP played a major role and also supported the participation of 13 professors from Africa active in the Partnership to mainstream environment and sustainability in African universities. Earlier in the year, 35 university professors and lecturers in various fields from 12 African countries had attended an expert group meeting in Nairobi to review and finalize the project document for use in fund-raising.

67. The Partnership is an initiative by UNEP and its partners to mainstream environment and sustainability concerns into the teaching, research, community engagement and management of

universities in Africa. Since its inception in 2006, the Partnership has been implemented actively in 80 universities in 29 African countries. In addition, UNEP representatives have lectured on topical issues around the six thematic priority areas with the aim of raising awareness and influencing curricula towards environment and sustainability concerns.

68. In collaboration with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and Ramboll Natura, UNEP hosted an international training programme in Stockholm from 7 to 24 May 2008 on education for sustainable development in higher education institutions. The programme currently has 45 participants from 31 African countries. The participants are in the process of implementing projects for change ranging from curricula (Mbarara University of Science and Technology), new courses (University of Cape Town and Nairobi University), establishing new universities (Seychelles University Foundation) and using students as agents of change (Obafemi Awolowo University).

69. UNEP environmental education training tools and kits have been used to influence policy change in academic programmes. In partnership with Environic Foundation International, UNEP developed a course entitled “Sustainable Societies – Africa”, an interdisciplinary course designed to help individuals to understand linkages between diverse human and natural resource issues.

70. Since February 2008, UNEP has been engaged in establishing the Kenyan e-Learning Centre and its environment component. The Centre builds synergies between stakeholders to promote consensus and cooperation on issues of concern in e-learning by developing partnerships with relevant national, regional and international organizations.

71. In October 2007, UNEP and Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung (Capacity Building International, Germany) organized the first e-learning in practice course for 20 Kenyan institutions, including the National Environment Management Authority. Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung is a non-profit organization with worldwide operations dedicated to human resource development, advanced training and dialogue.

72. The “youth encounter for sustainability” course is an intensive two-week course for upper-level undergraduates and postgraduates to deliberate on their role as future leaders in the search for sound sustainable development solutions. This course is especially designed for African students to discuss, exchange ideas and experiences and to develop change projects targeting sustainable development issues facing the continent. The 2007 course was held at Egerton University, Kenya.

73. In a policy shift, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its twelfth session endorsed environmental education and technology-supported learning in Africa through its decision calling upon UNEP to provide strategic guidance and technical advisory services in building the capacity of African countries to carry out an assessment of existing environmental education strategies, to develop a strategy to mainstream environmental education into governmental institutions and to develop further an action plan for technology-supported learning.

12. Engaging civil society, including parliamentarians, journalists, children and young people

74. Engagement with the major civil society groups is essential in generating global and regional consensus and in building processes for policy deliberations. During the reporting period, UNEP organized the traditional regional civil society consultation meetings as part of its Global Civil Society Forum cycle.

75. A parliamentary and private sector dialogue on economic development and agriculture in East Africa and the Great Lakes region was held on 27 and 28 September 2007 in Nairobi by the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa and was supported by UNEP. UNEP also extended substantive support to the August 2008 session, held in Nairobi, of the Association’s parliamentary forum on climate change and food security. The major outcome of this meeting was a declaration on Africa and climate change and aid effectiveness. The Association is an international non-governmental organization that supports parliaments in Africa and works to maintain Africa high on the political agenda in Europe.

76. UNEP continued to support the African Network of Environmental Journalists as a way of building partnerships and a strong strategic alliance with the media, in support of its public awareness programme in the African region. Several workshops for journalists were held, including high-profile workshops in Kigali in June 2007, in Nouakchott in February 2008 and in Bamako in May 2008. Other media workshops were organized in the context of the Green Customs Initiative and during the launch of the *Global Environment Outlook: Environment for Development* report in Yaounde and in the context

of the joint meeting of English and French-speaking ozone networks in Africa in September 2008 in Cotonou.

77. Children's and young people's organizations are key partners in UNEP environmental outreach efforts. In this regard, a Tunza Youth Network preparatory conference was organized on 23 and 24 August 2007 in Nairobi as a precursor to the Tunza International Youth Conference. Participants agreed on a common position from the perspective of young people on issues of climate change, renewable energy and environmental entrepreneurship. A similar meeting was organized in September 2008 in Nairobi. A Tunza Regional Children's Conference for the Environment, attended by more than 300 children from African countries, was held in Cameroon from 30 July to 2 August 2007. Participants discussed issues of concern to Africa, namely forests and biodiversity, water, climate change and food security, deserts and drylands.

13. International conference on the Great Lakes region

78. UNEP continued providing support to planning workshops of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region concerning mainstreaming cross-cutting issues into the projects and protocols of the Conference. The role of UNEP was to provide technical inputs aimed at mainstreaming the environment as a cross-cutting issue at cluster meetings of the Conference; helping Conference countries to ensure that environmental imperatives were incorporated at the projects' implementation phase, including at the national level; and providing technical support at the regional inter-ministerial meeting of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region.

E. Harmful substances and hazardous waste

79. As part of wider United Nations efforts to alleviate the environmental and health impacts of harmful substances and hazardous waste, the objective of UNEP in this area is to enhance strategic alliances with all stakeholders to promote chemical safety within a coherent life-cycle approach and in accordance with the objectives of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. As a result of these efforts, several African countries have been active in the initial capacity-building activities for implementing the Strategic Approach by nominating national focal points, developing an African regional plan of action and submission of project funding requests under the Quick Start Programme and other related activities.

1. Summary of activities

80. UNEP developed a partnership programme with the United Nations Development Programme on integrating the sound management of chemicals into the development plans of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The programme began in November 2007 in Uganda and Zambia. Other countries may be included at a later stage subject to availability of funds.

2. Waste management

81. With support from the Norwegian Government, supplemented with funding from the Japanese Trust Fund and the Environment Fund, UNEP continued to implement pilot demonstration project on integrated solid waste management in Maseru. Integrated solid waste management plans cover all waste sources, including municipal and industrial wastes, and all stages of the waste management chain including minimization, segregation for reuse and recycling, collection and transportation, sorting for material recovery, treatment and energy recovery and final disposal with landfill gas use. In line with the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, the emphasis is on capacity-building for local partners, so that they may undertake similar projects for other cities in their countries and regions.

82. In 2007, UNEP commissioned a study on the environmental and public health impacts of the Dandora dumpsite in Nairobi. The study examined 328 children and young people living close to the dumpsite and found high levels of contamination with heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and mercury, often exceeding internationally accepted levels. At the launch of the report, UNEP pledged support to Nairobi City Council in developing an integrated solid waste management system in conjunction with other United Nations agencies. UNEP is now working with Nairobi City Council officials on the next steps for the Dandora dumpsite and, more broadly, an improved waste management system in Nairobi, which should take into account environmental, social and economic concerns.

3. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

83. Twenty African countries are developing national Strategic Approach action plans and related activities under the Quick Start Programme, with support from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. Two other African countries are participating in projects to mainstream chemicals management within national development planning, with support from the United Nations Development Programme and UNEP. Non-governmental organizations are undertaking Quick Start Programme-funded projects in two African countries. An African core group has been formed to facilitate the implementation by the region of the Strategic Approach and includes representation by regional organizations.

84. An African regional meeting on implementation of the Strategic Approach was held from 14 to 19 July 2008 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, in preparation for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in 2009.

F. Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production

85. The objective of UNEP in this thematic area is to ensure that natural resources are produced, processed and consumed in a more environmentally sustainable way. As a result of these efforts, sustainable consumption and production is gradually being recognized in Africa, but the region has a long way to go before the concept becomes adopted and fully integrated into everyday practice.

1. Summary of activities

86. The framework for promoting sustainable consumption and production is the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production, a global effort called for by the 2002 Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to elaborate a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production. The African Programme has been developed to facilitate the active participation of Africa as a region in the Marrakech Process. Set out below are some of the key activities undertaken during the reporting period under the African Programme.

2. National and city sustainable consumption and production programme development

87. A pilot activity on the development of a sustainable consumption and production programme at the national and local levels was developed and assistance was provided to four pilot African countries. The pilot cities and countries are Cairo and Maputo at the city level and Mauritius and the United Republic of Tanzania at the national level. A regional workshop on developing national and city sustainable consumption and production programmes was held in Nairobi in October 2007, at which time two projects on action plans on sustainable consumption and production in Egypt and Mozambique were launched.

3. Development of an African ecolabelling mechanism

88. The Marrakech Process Task Force on Cooperation with Africa, under the auspices of the German Government, in close cooperation with UNEP, initiated a project on ecolabelling for Africa. A detailed assessment of existing eco-labelling initiatives relevant to the region was conducted and a summary report produced and circulated to regional policy forums including the Council of African Ministers of Industries and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. A strategy document describing the key functions and institutional structures of the mechanism was also developed through consultations with stakeholders including the African Union Commission and the African Organization for Standardization.

89. The East African Organic Products Standard, developed with the technical and financial support of UNEP and its partners, was adopted by the East African Community Council of Ministers as the official East African Community voluntary standard. It is expected to boost organic trade and market development in the region, raise awareness of organic agriculture among farmers and consumers and create a unified negotiating position that should help East African organic farmers to gain access to export markets and influence international organic standard-setting processes.

4. Fifth African round table on sustainable consumption and production

90. The fifth African round table on sustainable consumption and production was organized as a pre-sessional event to the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in June 2008. Participants reviewed the progress made on the African programme and identified the key follow-ups and future directions, which were endorsed by the Conference at its twelfth session.

5. Preparation for the Commission on Sustainable Development

91. The process of producing a regional review report on sustainable consumption and production was initiated as an input to the regional preparatory process for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The regional review report was prepared by the secretariat of the African round table on sustainable consumption and production under the guidance of UNEP and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

6. Cleaner production

92. Integrating preventive environmental approaches remains a priority for UNEP sustainable consumption and production programme. The Danish-supported project on African water savings in the brewery sector produced the first ever pan-African assessment of water use and opportunities for water use reduction in the brewery sector. This project is now underpinning a new African public-private partnership aimed at building capacity in industry and local authorities to save water in the sector.

7. Sustainable procurement

93. UNEP finalized the joint UNEP-International Labour Organization training programme on sustainable procurement aimed at building capacity among procurement officials, primarily in Governments and development agencies, to understand and implement sustainable procurement practices. UNEP also organized an event in Tunis in December 2007 to raise awareness among African countries of the need to initiate sustainable procurement practices to promote approaches among African businesses. Furthermore, in conjunction with the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement, a two-day training event was organized for African participants on the margins of the fifth African round table on sustainable consumption and production, held in June 2008 in Johannesburg.

8. Sustainable tourism

94. The activities of UNEP on sustainable tourism during this reporting period focused on tackling climate change. A UNEP-GEF project in Africa on demonstrating and capturing best practices and technologies for the reduction of land-sourced impacts resulting from coastal tourism is responding to the issues identified during the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the thematic group on coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The project seeks to demonstrate best practice strategies to reduce the degradation of marine and coastal environments of transboundary significance resulting from pollution and contaminants and associated impacts. Another GEF-funded project, on reducing environmental impact from coastal tourism by introducing policy changes and strengthening public-private partnerships, was launched at the joint meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions, held in November 2007. As part of the implementation of the sustainable consumption and production programme for Maputo, a one-week intensive training course was given to tourism businesses and operators in Maputo in December 2008 and participating industries have been assisted to develop and implement their respective sustainable business management plans.

9. Sustainable cities

95. UNEP and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme have developed a joint framework for long-term cooperation based on the two organizations' respective mandates, expertise and activities. In 2008, they, in conjunction with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, worked to produce the 2008 report on the state of African cities. By taking stock of the state of African cities, the report looks at trends in urban growth, productivity, governance and environmental sustainability.

96. In Nairobi, home of UNEP headquarters, implementation of the Nairobi River Basin Programme has continued. It focuses on restoring the environmental integrity of Nairobi's water catchments and its

main rivers to provide improved livelihoods and health (especially for the poor), enhance biodiversity and ensure a sustainable supply of water for domestic, industrial, recreational and emergency use. The programme has defined four main objectives: to demonstrate how industrial and social and economic factors contribute to polluting Nairobi's rivers; to increase access to information and awareness to tackle pollution and its causes; to build capacity among stakeholders to tackle environmental challenges; and to improve water and environmental quality in the river basin.

10. Finance and Africa

97. The UNEP Finance Initiative African Task Force members range from commercial and development banks to asset managers, united by a common objective of defining approaches to sustainability for the finance sector in Africa. The report entitled "Banking on value: a new approach to credit risk in Africa" was launched at the World Economic Forum in June 2007. In addition, in October 2007, the UNEP Finance Initiative African Task Force held its inaugural East African round table on sustainable finance in Nairobi. Discussions focused on concepts of sustainable finance and enabled participants to have a better understanding of possible responses by the finance sector.

98. Work is also under way to provide guidance to overcome barriers and increase commercial microfinance and sustainable microenterprise investment in Africa. In September 2007, the UNEP Finance Initiative and the Sustainable Finance team at the World Wide Fund for Nature co-hosted an international workshop in Geneva on innovative financing for sustainable microenterprises in Africa.

G. Challenges

99. Notwithstanding the above achievements, the UNEP programme in Africa continues to face a number of challenges in its delivery, primarily limited financial and human resources capacity. The lack of funding support from the UNEP Environment Fund poses a serious threat in achieving the expected results and, more importantly, to fulfilling the expectations of Governments and other key stakeholders.

100. Another major challenge is fragmentation and lack of coherence in delivery. The lack of clear rules of engagement at the regional, subregional and national levels contributes to the programme of work being delivered in a less coordinated manner. In addition, the programme in Africa is project-based, with a catalogue of several activities. There is need for a programmatic approach with sufficient resources for its implementation. The coherent implementation of the UNEP programme of work also requires both a "bottom-up" identification of country and regional priorities, and feeding these into overall UNEP planning processes, and "top-down" support for and monitoring of the implementation.

H. Lessons learned

101. It has been important for UNEP to engage with regional ministerial forums. UNEP has worked closely with, and in some cases actively supported as a secretariat, the establishment and work of regional forums of ministers of environment, water and energy, thus facilitating increased policy dialogue and cooperation at the regional level. This has also contributed to the integration of global environmental policy concerns with emerging priorities and issues at the regional and subregional levels, harmonization of targets, a joint approach in international forums and a common programme of action, among other efforts.

102. Interdivisional coordination and collaboration, including with multilateral environmental agreement secretariats is critical in the delivery of the UNEP programme in the region. Closer integration of the work of the UNEP divisions and the regional offices has to be enhanced, so as to tailor programme delivery closer to regional priorities.

103. Another lesson learned is the crucial importance of developing and strengthening partnerships, which can be instrumental in the delivery of UNEP programmes in the region, given the organization's limited resources and lack of presence at the subregional and national levels.

I. Way forward

104. The engagement of UNEP in the current “Delivering as one” approach process, which is aimed at fostering coherent and coordinated delivery, the alignment of the UNEP programme of work with the six cross-cutting thematic priorities of the medium-term strategy and the anticipated strengthening of the regional offices serve as excellent opportunities for the realignment of the delivery of the UNEP programme in Africa. It envisaged that, as a way forward, there is need to formulate a coherent programme of work for Africa, which is results-based and can have a stronger impact in the region.
