PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES
AMCEN/15/INF/6: Progress Report on implementation of the Regional Flagship Programmes

1. The 14th session of AMCEN, held from 10-14 September 2012 in Arusha Tanzania, adopted a decision on Africa’s post Rio+20 strategy for sustainable development. The AMCEN decision was subsequently endorsed by the Executive Committee of the African Union (AU) at the January 2013 AU Summit. The flagship programmes are:
   i. African Green Economy Partnership (AGEP)
   ii. Sustainable Land Management, Desertification, Biodiversity and Ecosystems-based Adaptation to Climate Change (LDBA)
   iii. Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Africa
   iv. African Programme on Sustainable Energy Development
   v. Africa Integrated Environmental Assessment for Sustainable Development

2. Draft concept notes for the respective flagship programmes were therefore developed and subsequently reviewed and updated during the AMCEN meeting of experts that took place in April 2013 in Dar es salaam, Tanzania. The overall objective of the meeting of experts was to discuss and provide inputs for updating the concept notes of the respective regional flagship programmes covering background, objectives, expected outcomes, key actions and modalities of implementation. A draft regional flagship framework document for the regional flagship programmes was also developed.

3. The draft concept notes for the above five flagship regional programmes were presented, reviewed and later endorsed by the 5th special session of AMCEN that took place in Botswana in October 2013. The AMCEN Special session re-affirmed commitment to implement the Regional Flagship Programmes (RFPs) as one of the means of implementing the outcomes of Rio+20 in Africa. Towards achieving this AMCEN called for the establishment of a Steering Committee within the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to guide the overall coherent development and implementation of the Regional flagship programmes. The Steering Committee is composed of representatives from the African Union Commission, UNECA, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, African Development Bank, AMCEN Bureau members and its Secretariat.

4. The Steering Committee of the Regional Flagship Programme held its first meeting in Magaliesburg, South Africa in 2014 to draw up a road map and decided on organizational mechanisms to support the work of the Committee and implementation of the RFPs. Some of the core responsibilities of the steering committee would be monitoring and evaluation of progress of implementation of RFPs as well as regular reporting to AMCEN sessions.

Resource mobilization for the Regional Flagship Programmes

5. The Steering Committee also discussed extensively various means and mechanisms for raising resources to implement the regional flagship programmes. Specifically, the Committee noted that coordination support should be provided with resources to run an effective secretariat. In addition the committee recommended that financing for individual programme activities be financed through resources that are available within existing and on-going programmes and initiatives that are managed by the partners involved.
6. The Steering Committee also requested NEPAD Agency and the AMCEN Secretariat to carry out a detailed resource mobilization strategy for the RFPs. In addition, the Committee recommended that the AMCEN President officially communicates with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) 6 and other financing windows to inform them about the RFPs and explore funding opportunities for the regional programmes. The Steering Committee also emphasized the importance of domestic resources and requested all members, particularly of the AMCEN members to advocate and ensure that the RFPs are integral components of national development programmes.

7. Institutional buy-in and involvement of the steering committee and working group facilitating institutions was obtained through official commitment by the head of the respective institutions. The institutions therefore nominated institutional focal points for the RFPs.

8. A number of specific Regional Flagship Programme Activities have been undertaken by various institutions who constitute the working group of the RFPs. NEPAD Agency as the coordinating institution of the Flagship Programme on on Land Management, Desertification, Biodiversity and Ecosystem based Adaptation to Climate Change (LDBA) in consultation with member states developed a programme document on the flagship which is used in resource mobilization. NEPAD Agency also convened a consultative meeting in Cameroon in October, 2013 to develop further the programme document. The meeting was attended by experts from selected African countries, representatives of UN agencies, international and regional organizations as well as development partners.

9. The flagship on African Green Economy Partnership (AGEP) which aims at providing coordinated and consolidated capacity building and technology support to African countries to implement the Rio+20 outcomes on Green Economy has also collaborated with the ECA in the development of an Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa.

10. The Steering Committee will soon engage facilitating agencies and working towards the consolidation of all individual flagship documents into a continental programme document.