



CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT ON MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS PROJECT (MEAs)

**NATIONAL TEAM POLICY ACTORS WORKSHOP-MUTUALLY
SUPPORTIVE IMPLEMENTATION ON ABS**

AUC, 19 DECEMBER 2015

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

- Objectives
- Beneficiaries and areas of Focus
- Achievements
- Challenges
- Linkage between MEAs Project and HRST activities
- Recommendations



Objectives

Overall objective

Strengthen and enhance the indigenous capacity to effectively implement MEAs and related commitments

Specific objective

Strengthen the capacities of the AUC, RECs and Member States (MS) thereby enhancing the endogenous capacities of African countries to effectively implement their obligations and commitments under global and regional environmental agreements and other international legal instruments in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

The Project covers 49 African ACP countries.

The First Phase of the project ran from March 2019 and ended in March 2013 .



Beneficiaries and areas of focus

- Member states , RECs, NGOs, private sector, local communities involved in management of land, water and other natural resources.
- The areas of Focus are related to enhancement of skills of African negotiators, awareness raising, institutional development of adequate regulatory and legislative frameworks, mainstreaming of MEAs into development policies and programmes and information exchange. Due to limited budget , the Second Phase is focusing on Biodiversity and chemicals/Waste
- Time span for the second phase started in 2014 and will run up to 2017 with almost the same objective as in PHASE I: to promote environmental sustainability and to honor commitments taken under MEAs



Achievements

1. Enhancement of negotiation skills

- Support to African Negotiators on Climate Change , Mercury, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- A total of six training and pre-COP meetings held with an average of 40 participants in each training.

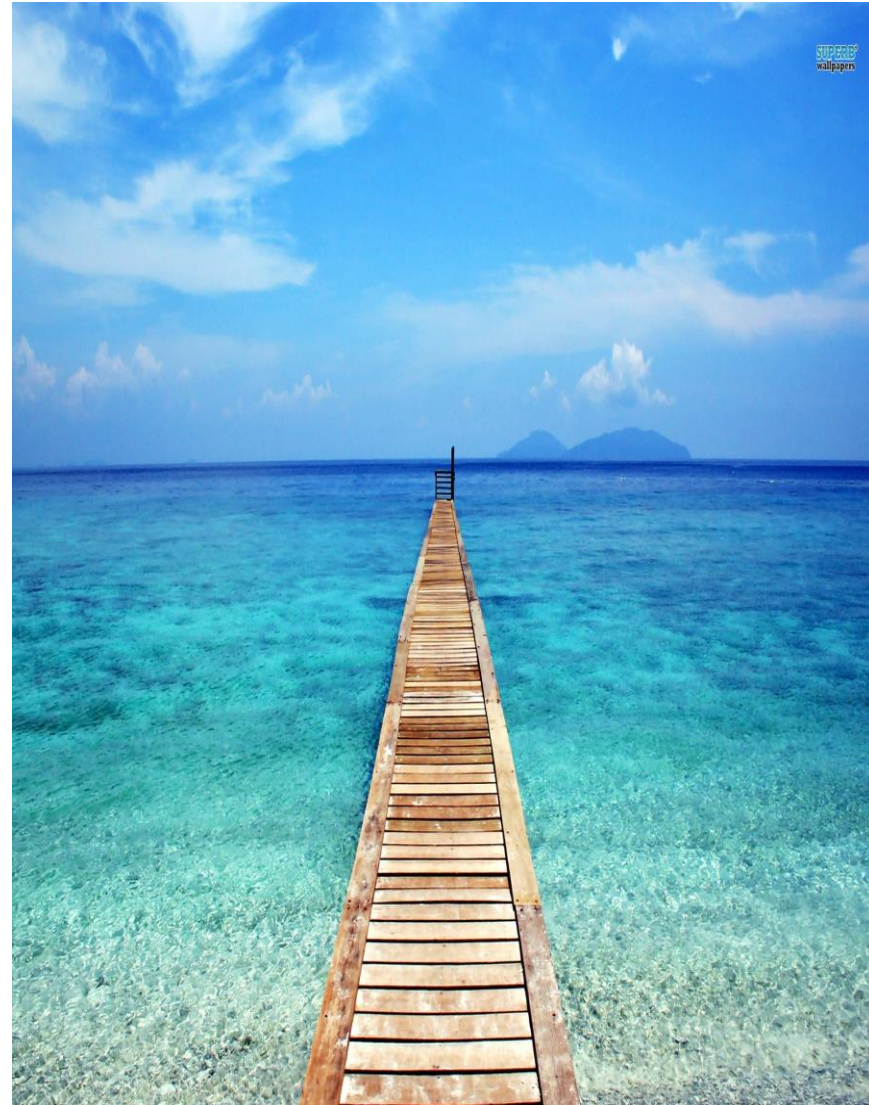
They resulted on high level interventions and refined common positions for Africa, 2 negotiators and AUC received awards of merit,



Achievements

2. Regional and sub-regional cooperation

- Information & initiatives from other hubs benefit African institutions
- Better streamlined AH work plan result from hubs exchanges
- A total of 4 experts were sent by AH to CARICOM and SPREP , AUC received 1 expert from Caribbean
- Experts participation in other hubs activities positively impacted on their work;
- e.g. development of reporting template for biodiversity, development of concept notes on Nagoya Protocol, use and application of result-based planning tools



Achievements

3. Compliance and enforcement of MEAs at national and regional levels through laws and strategy development

- AUC Strategy on ratification of Maputo Convention was adopted by AMCEN in September 2012 and endorsed by AUC Summit in January 2013, additional countries have ratified the Convention
- Thanks to co-financing of Abidjan Convention, the Protocol on Land based Sources of Pollution to the convention was adopted in Cote d'Ivoire in June 2012
- ECCAS has in place a Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management-December 2012 and EAC has a law passed in December 2011 on trans-boundary management of ecosystem



Achievements

- Two AU Member States have amended their hazardous chemicals Acts and drafted regulations for POPs
- The AUC regional guidelines on border control of GMOs/LMOs is in place and annexed to the AU Model Law on Biosafety
- Both Malawi and Mauritania have in place biosafety laws and entry of GMOs/LMOs are better managed
- Bamako convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa was held in Mali in June 2013
- Over 40 participants received 'train the trainers' training in MEAs enforcement in 2011; participants are empowered and now train others



Achievements -CONT

4. Improvement of exchange and use of Information as a result of information management

- African Hub database was established and is operational under DREA website; 51 experts registered as of February 2013; database used as roster to hire consultants and resource persons.
- The website (<http://www.au.int/SP/MEAS/>) is a reference address for many researchers and civil servants and allows the users to have updated information on MEAs



Achievements for Phase I-CONT

5. Enhancement of knowledge of policy makers, officials, youth and researchers on MEAs

- Colloquium to sensitize Parliamentarians on the importance of mainstreaming MEAs held in 2012 .
- AMCEN Decision was taken; a source book on MEAs mainstreaming developed; network of African Parliamentarians called “Green Bird-Africa launched in Ethiopia in November 2012.
- Policy makers were sensitised by AMESD and Africa Hub on the use of AMESD products and services to report on MEAs. A basis of this activity was established



Achievements -CONT

- Project activities were harmonised with those of RECs and NEPAD and RECs are engaged for collaboration;
- Ten African countries developed multi-stakeholder collaboration strategies on MEAs; coordination committees and units on MEAs created
- The 9 Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) member states have in place a pesticide post registration strategy; pesticides mismanagement and poisoning will be greatly reduced
- BCRC of Dakar held hazardous waste workshop in January 2012; guidelines on clinical waste management developed, a participant of Niger is implementing a clinical waste project and provides training to local civil servants



Achievements -CONT

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CONSTRAINTS

The following are the key constraints identified for Phase I:

- Low awareness of general public
- The limited commitment of policy makers
- The limited involvement of the Legislative in MEAs negotiations and implementation
- The high rate turn-over of focal points who in most cases detain the institutional memory
- Limited capacity (human and technical), particularly in the areas of enforcement and negotiations
- Weak collaboration between technical institutions and with other stakeholders
- Inadequate national and regional policy frameworks and mandates
- Insufficient mechanisms for reporting and information exchange



Linkage MEAs Project and HRST Activities

Laws and strategy development:

Achievements

- Strategy on ratification of Maputo Convention
- Protocol on Land based Sources of Pollution to the Abidjan Convention adopted in Cote d' Ivoire in June 2012
- ECCAS has in place a Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management and EAC a law on trans-boundary management of ecosystem
- AUC regional guidelines on border control of GMOs/LMOs in place and annexed to the AU Model Law on Biosafety
- Two AU Members States have biosafety laws regulating entry of GMOs/LMOs and over 40 participants received 'train the trainers' training in MEAs enforcement in 2011
- Ten African countries developed multi-stakeholder collaboration strategies on MEAs including CBD
- Development of reporting template for biodiversity, development of concept notes on Nagoya Protocol



Linkage MEAs Project and HRST Activities- CONT

Planned activities

- Development and updating of NBSAPs and other natural resource strategies, including a coordination mechanism for Biodiversity
- Organization of training workshops to promote ratification
- Training and sensitisation on enforcement and compliance including CBD
- Strengthening capacity of AGN on Biodiversity, including the Biodiversity Protocols
- Holding workshops on mainstreaming for target groups
- Holding workshops to promote synergistic implementation and best practices
- Development of MEAs communication strategy



Threatened Species of plants and animals (Institute of Biodiv. Conservation)



Recommendations

- ✓ Promotion of common MEAs and HRST activities
- ✓ AUC has the mandate and established structures and facilities and should endeavour to sustain MEAs Project and HRST activities
- ✓ Other sources of funding should be explored and exploited
- ✓ Sensitisation of PRC to take ownership of MEAs Project and HRST activities to facilitate their sustainability at both MS and AUC levels
- ✓ RECs and regional institutes of Excellence should be better sensitised to own the Project and HRST activities
- ✓ It would be good if consequent phases of the Project would be designed to better consolidate what was gained in the previous phases such as establishment of MEAs units by more MS, supporting the work of the Parliamentarian network (GBA), supporting other RECs to establish or strengthen their trans-boundary ecosystem laws and promotion of ratification of main MEAs

Thank you

