



Role of African Union in MEAs Implementation

**Parliamentarian Colloquium
4-6 June 2012, Entebbe, Uganda**



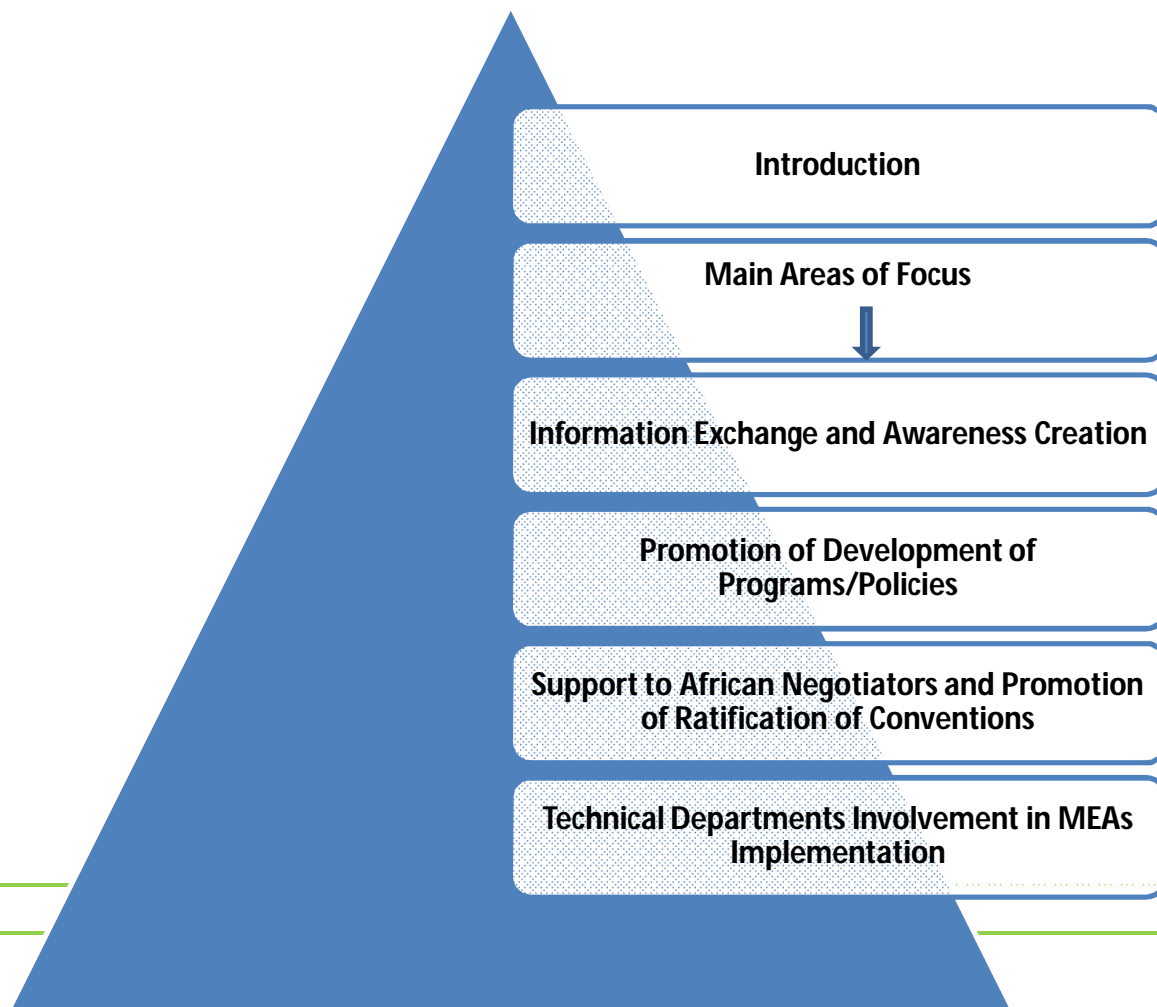
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ACP MEAs





Presentation Plan



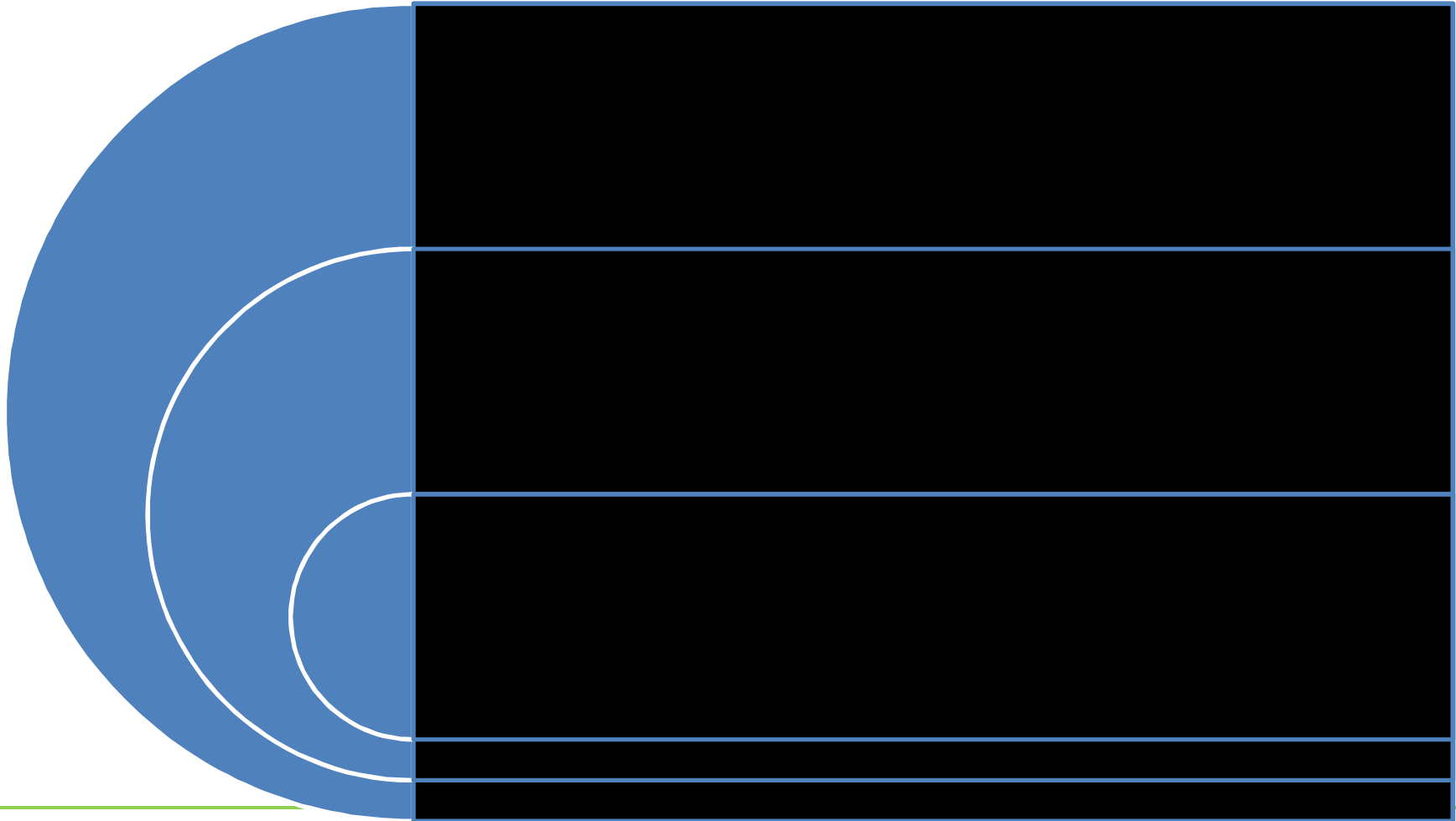
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FACTS





Introduction



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Main Areas of Focus

Promotion of awareness for natural resources and environmental management for sustainable development;

Promotion of the development of policies and programs on natural resources management;

Promotion of ratification of conventions, and establishment of common positions at international negotiations.

The major international MEAs being implemented by African countries are UNFCCC, UNCCD, Biodiversity, Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Vienna Conventions.

Key Regional MEAs:-Maputo, Nairobi, Abidjan, Bamako Conventions



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1) Information Exchange and Awareness Creation

- Environment Day**- celebrated 3rd March each year and hosted by countries on rotational basis with objective- to raise awareness at regional and national levels on the major environmental challenges facing Africa like desertification, climate change, hazardous waste management and biodiversity loss and the need for action to mitigate these threats
- African Pavilion at COP 17**-with objective to create awareness and enabling environment for discussions and debates to promote and advance a climate development agenda for the continent. Principal partners NEPAD, ECA, AfDB
- ACP Capacity Building Project on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs Project)**-main objective to strengthen and enhance the capacity of African ACP countries, the AUC and the RECs to effectively implement or coordinate implementation of MEAs



Durban, South Africa
28 November – 9 December 2011



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Information Exchange and Awareness Creation

Awareness raising- parliamentarians colloquium; training of MEAs enforcement personnel, journalists, biomedical waste personnel, focal points of RECs and MS of MEAs; production of education and sensitisation material (policy briefs ,brochures, flyers, publications to tertiary inst.)

In collaboration with the BCRC of Dakar 30 participants received training on biomedical waste and 31 African participants received training of trainers on MEAs enforcement and implementation.

Through DREA site and MEAs project intranet valuable information on environmental issues exchanged with Africa; Data base established and about 40 experts registered on Data base of Experts on MEAs

DRR Program-Most disasters are climate change related and the goal of the programme is to reduce the social, economic and environmental impacts of disasters in Africa.

With partners established regional platforms: the capacity building program on disaster risk reduction(DRR)-various workshops for the RECs; African Strategy on disaster risk reduction and its Program of Action calling for the integration of DRR into climate change adaptation plans, strategies, and planning processes, the Africa Risk Capacity to provide a kind of insurance against vagaries of weather

POLICY BRIEF ON AFRICAN WOMEN AND ENVIRONMENT

- Women and Biodiversity
- Women and Climate Change
- Women and desertification
- Women and pollution

➤POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Policies, Plans, Laws
- Capacity Building
- Economic Empowerment



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2) Promotion of Development of Programs and Policies

- The African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) project has objective- to provide to decision and policy makers in the Member States, RECs and the AUC full access to the environmental (meteorological) data and products they need to improve national and regional policy and decision making processes.
- Operating at RECs level AMESD focuses on thematic areas for each of the regions by providing earth observation technologies to them
- Clim/Dev program- AUC is involved in this tripartite initiative, with AfDB and UNECA. The objective is to guide Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) decision makers to effectively integrate climate information into development planning through awareness, climate risk management, and climate services provision
- Both initiatives contribute to implementation of UNFCCC, Maputo and other Biodiversity cluster of Conventions



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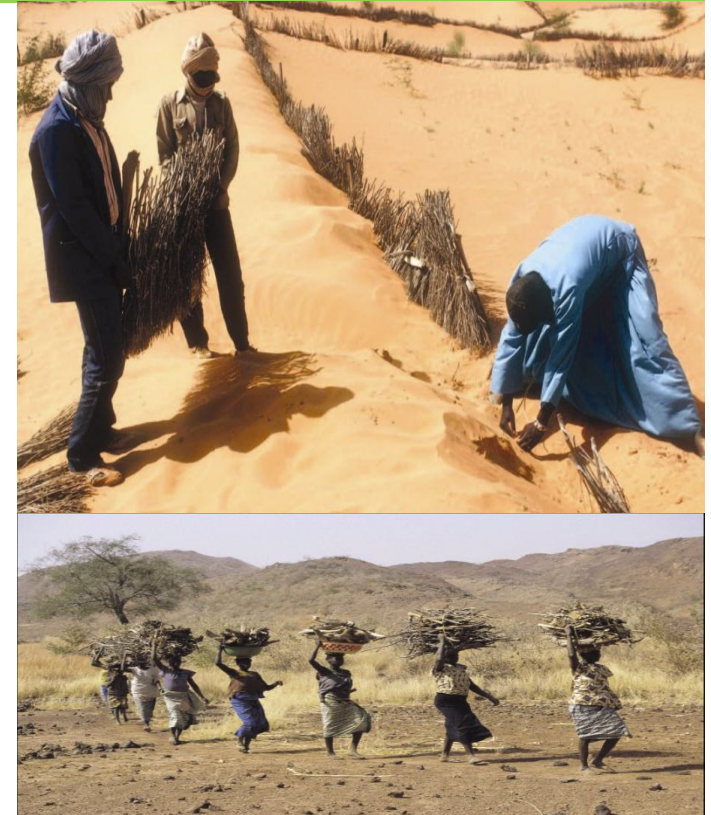
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2) Promotion of development of Programs & Policies

- The Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative-Pan-African programme on integrated natural resource management with objective to address the challenges of land degradation and desertification in the arid and semiarid zones of Africa.
- The Initiative will also strengthen the implementation of national action plans under the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- AUC engaged in development of trans-boundary forest management programs in the ECCAS region within the framework of revitalizing the forest and other biological resources
- AUC also provided financial support to the Mano River Union countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ivory Coast to validate their natural resources management program with the aim of enhancing regional collaboration in forest resources management
- Membership of the inter-agency committee of the Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP), which has as objective to garner international funding and technical support to rid the continent of the existing stockpiles of obsolete pesticides



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2) Promotion of development of programs and policies

- **Through the MEAs Project:**
 - -EAC updated its trans-boundary ecosystem bill with the view of harmonization; ECCAS has mapped out areas of natural resources management and is developing a Protocol for the harmonization of their management; Malawi and Mauritania updated and developed their bio-safety laws, respectively
- **Through the Department of Science and Technology:**
 - Development of African Strategy and African Model Law on Bio-safety to ensure protection of biological diversity, human and animal health and AU Executive Council called MS to use the African Model Law in the development of their national bio-safety instruments; With DREA-developing regional guidelines on border control of GMOs within the context of bio-safety
- **In collaboration with UNEP-DTIE and through the MEAs Project-** development of POPs regulatory frameworks for 2 African countries
 - With Sahel Institute-developing pesticide post registration strategies
 - Supporting African countries to develop multi-stakeholder collaboration strategies to better enforce and implement MEAs



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3) Support to Negotiators, Promotion of Ratification of Conventions



- AUC is the Secretariat of the Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC)-established by a Decision of the 13th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in July 2009 to lead Africa's negotiation strategies and processes, and the Kampala Summit of July 2010 endorsed a coordination mechanism for CAHOSCC at Experts' and Ministerial levels
- Objective-Ensure the highest political representation of Africa's interests in the global negotiation process on climate change.
- With partners facilitated the establishment of a common position on climate change and strategy for Africa and established Africa Pavilion at COP 17 in Durban
- Through MEAs Project, AUC is developing negotiation skills (25 negotiators on UNCCD and 41 on Mercury INC trained in 2011). Also supported them to develop common positions through provision of scientific and technical back-up



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3) Support to Negotiators and Promotion of ratification of Conventions

- **Enhancement of compliance and enforcement of regional MEAs:**
 - **Development of strategy to ratify Maputo convention**
 - **Development of strategy to ratify LBSA Protocol of Nairobi Convention**
 - **Support to Abidjan Convention Secretariat to organise 9th COP**
 - **Support to organise 1st COP of Bamako Convention**
 - **Legal Counsel Office (OLC) undertakes the following activities to promote speedy ratification of treaties including those on MEAs:**
 - **Institutionalisation of the OAU/AU treaties signing week in December every year, and on the margins of every AU Summit, posting the status of signature and ratification of treaties on the AU website, submitting report on the same at every session of the Executive Council, receiving and informing MS of deposits of instruments, organizing workshops to sensitive Member States and encourage them to speed up ratification of OAU/AU Treaties**



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Technical Departments involvement in MEAs Implementation

- Semi-arid Food Grain Research and Development (SAFGRAD)-designated focal point in promotion of sustainable agricultural farming to combat desertification launched in 2004 within the framework of the African regional program of the UNCCD
- IASPC-The Inter-African Phyto-sanitary Council in Yaounde, Cameroon –deals with among others, control of plant protection products, including those products regulated under the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
- IASPC works towards harmonizing the different regional phytosanitary laws and works in close collaboration with RECs
- Links to Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions



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THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MERCI BEAUCOUP

Ms. Fatoumata Jallow Ndoye
Coordinator

ACP-MEAs Project, AUC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

[Tel:00251911898006](tel:00251911898006); [Email:fnjallow@yahoo.com/NdoyeF@africa-union.org](mailto:fnjallow@yahoo.com/NdoyeF@africa-union.org)

Project website: <http://www.au.int/SP/MEAS/>

Expert registration from:

<http://www.au.int/SP/MEAS/content/expert-registration>



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