

PEAA Partnership for Environmental Assessment in Africa

The Partnership for Environmental Assessment in Africa (PEAA) is a collaboration between donors, CLEAA and other partners.

CLEAA, or Capacity Development and Linkages for Environmental Assessment in Africa, is a Pan African network of EA institutions and associations facilitating development of capacity for and promoting the use of EA in Africa. CLEAA's program of work was endorsed by AMCEN 2006, and incorporated in the AMCEN work plan for the 2007–2008 biennium.

Objective: The objective of the PEAA is to “harmonize, scale up and raise the visibility of support for EA and environmental management capacity-building in Africa, and in particular of initiatives to strengthen CLEAA and its nodes,” with the goal that “African governments, regional organizations, civil society and the private sector will effectively use EA and other environmental management tools for sustainable development in Africa.”

Development & Status: Development of the PEAA concept was initiated by the World Bank and carried forward by consultations between the World Bank, CLEAA and other donors and partners.

The PEAA is being launched over June–October 2007. During this period the PEAA “Partnership Framework Memorandum” is being finalized by the interested parties (see box, page 2). This Memorandum is the PEAA's organizing document, establishing the PEAA's objectives and structure.

The PEAA Work Program &

Funding: The PEAA's work program for the coming year will be formally adopted by the PEAA Coordinating Committee at its first meeting.

The meeting will be held in Nov. 2007, concurrent with the [First Regional Southern African Impact Assessment conference](#).

Why support Environmental Assessment in Africa?

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is an essential policy instrument for achieving sustainability in development. Commitments to the application and institutionalization of EIA are enshrined in: the Rio Principles, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Action, the AMCEN ministerial declarations of 1995 and 2006, the Environment Initiative and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)), and in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

In the past decade, African governments have made significant efforts to implement EIA requirements in policy, law and environmental governance structures. These systems are particularly important in Africa, where EIA systems often take on many of the roles and responsibilities fulfilled by media-based pollution control systems in wealthier economies.

However, the effectiveness of EIA as a planning and regulatory tool requires a combination of expertise, sufficient and sustained financial capacity, and well-performing institutional and regulatory mechanisms. Meeting these needs has been a challenge in the context of many African countries, with significant adverse impacts on the effectiveness of EIA systems.

Key recommendations to improve EIA effectiveness in Africa were developed by the April 2007 [African Experts' Workshop on the Effectiveness of Environmental Impact Assessment Systems](#), jointly sponsored by CLEAA and the [UN Economic Commission for Africa](#).

The CLEAA Network

The CLEAA network is anchored and governed by its regional nodes, each an independently chartered organization with its own program of work. These are:

The Eastern Africa Association for Impact Assessment ([EAAIA](#)) ■ the West African Association for Environmental Assessment ([WAAEA](#)) ■ the Indian Ocean Islands Association for Environmental Assessment ([IOAEA](#)) ■ the Secretariat for Environmental Assessment in Central Africa ([SEACA](#)) ■ the Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment ([SAIEA](#)).

The Tunis International Center for Environmental Technologies ([CITET](#)) currently supports the North Africa sub-region pending formal constitution of a North African node.

The coordinating committee is composed of a representative from each CLEAA Node, representatives of organizations committed to financing elements of the annual work plans prepared by CLEAA nodes, and a representative of the International Association for Impact Assessment.

Committed funding for and elements of this work program are indicated in the box at right.

Secretariat: The CLEAA secretariat serves as the PEAA Secretariat. The CLEAA Secretariat is currently hosted by IUCN's East Africa Regional Office, in its role as host to CLEAA's East African Node.

The PEAA is intended to maximize the benefits of coordination, not to restrict the activities of its members. Donor members continue to use the financial fiduciary of their choice and may fund EA-related activities outside the PEAA umbrella.

For more information:



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More information about CLEAA is available at:
www.encapafrika.org/cleaa.html

Other institutional contact points are available from the Secretariat.



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Interested Parties

The PEAA is in the midst of its launch process and the PEAA "Partnership Framework Memorandum" is currently being finalized for signature. PEAA "Members" will exist only after this initial accession process.

Appropriate offices and divisions of the following organizations have been significantly involved in the development of the PEAA or have expressed strong support in principle:

All CLEAA Nodes ■ CIDA ■ Netherlands Development Cooperation/NCEIA ■ NORAD ■ SIDA ■ USAID ■ World Bank ■ ECA ■ IAIA ■ IUCN ■ UNEP/AMCEN Secretariat..

PEAA welcomes all interested donors and partners. Please contact the Secretariat.

Confirmed funding & elements of the PEAA workprogram, 2007–08.

While the PEAA work program will be formally adopted at the PEAA coordinating committee meeting in November 2007, it will include the following activities for which funding is already committed:

CLEAA Secretariat

Operational support & in-kind technical assistance (USAID) US\$ 40K

Eastern Africa Node/CLEAA Secretariat

CLEAA Professional Development Fellowship Programme for African EIA Professionals:

SIDA 2-year funding US\$ 300K

USAID 1-year funding US\$ 50K

Central Africa Node

Netherlands Development Cooperation and the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment have confirmed support to this node. The proposal is for long term support and is now being finalized.

Southern Africa Node

NORAD is supporting 20 participants from SADC countries to attend the IAIA 2007 conference.

All nodes/TBD

The coordinating committee will allocate approx. \$150K in World Bank Development Facility Grant support to Node activity proposals.