

Sustainable Consumption and Production



The JPOI states that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development. The Plan calls for the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns by all countries, with developed countries taking the lead, while ensuring that all countries benefit from the process. To that end, the Plan calls on countries to take into account the Rio principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Further, it enjoins governments, relevant international organizations, the private sector and all major groups to play an active role in changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns.

4.1 Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP

WSSD called on countries to encourage and promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production. In this context, the International Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) was held in Marrakech, Morocco, in June 2003. As a follow-up to the Marrakech meeting, the African region held several consultations with a view to domesticating the Marrakech process.

4.1.1 Concrete actions taken and progress made

The African 10-YFP

The African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) was established as a non-governmental, not-for-profit regional coordinating institution during the Third African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production held in Casablanca, Morocco. Subsequently, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), in close consultation with the Secretariats of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) and the ARSCP, facilitated the development of the African 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (African 10-YFP). The strategic focus of the Programme is linking SCP with the challenges of meeting basic needs.

The First African Expert Meeting on SCP was held in Casablanca, Morocco, in May 2004. The meeting deliberated on the key issues that needed to be addressed under the framework programme and identified four thematic areas of focus. These are: improvement of water services; energy access and efficiency; urban

environment; and industrial development. The second meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 2005, further deliberated on the four thematic areas and proposed key activities that needed to be undertaken under each area. The outcome was presented to the technical segment of AMCEN in February 2005, which endorsed it for submission to AMCEN's Ministerial Session. AMCEN, through its Dakar declaration, approved the African 10 YFP, in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2005, and called upon its development partners to provide concrete support to follow-up activities and programmes based on the approved African 10-YFP.

Coordination and collaboration

In response to this call, Germany took the lead in announcing the initiative for the 'Task Force on Cooperation with Africa' during the Second International Expert Meeting of the Marrakech Process (San José, Costa Rica, September 2005). This provided the basis for the establishment of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for the African 10-YFP, whose overall objective is to facilitate the required coordination of efforts and support to the further development and implementation of the African 10 YFP. Members of the Committee are AMCEN, ARSCP, AU Commission, ECA, UNIDO, UNEP and the Federal Ministry of Environment, Germany. Membership is also open to other bilateral and multilateral development partners (ARSCP and UNEP, 2006; UNEP 2006).

In May 2006, his Excellency Girma Woldeghiorgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia launched the African 10-YFP in Addis Ababa at a high-level session jointly organized by the AU Commission, ECA and UNEP. The launch was immediately followed by the Fourth Meeting of the ARSCP (ARSCP-4), which identified five focal areas for the follow-up, namely: production and use of bio-fuel; water efficiency and provision; labeling of African products; waste management; and knowledge and information sharing (UNEP, 2006). Based on the outcomes of the ARSCP-4 and the conclusion of the first meeting of the RSC, the taskforce on cooperation with Africa identified the following as the key focal areas for its activities: development of a eco-label for Africa; support for the development and implementation of SCP action plans at national and local level, contribution to UNEP-UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs manual on SCP strategies; collection of best practices on SCP projects by development agencies; development of new project proposals for cooperation; and support to the development of networks and knowledge-based information tools in the selected fields of action (e.g. waste management and recycling, bio-fuels, drinking water) (UNEP/ECA, 2006). In May 2007, the Taskforce published the findings of a project on best practice in SCP in African countries (German Federal Ministry of Environment, 2007).

The eco-labeling initiative

The implementation of the eco-labeling project commenced in 2007. The overall objective of the project is to expand the market access of African Products in regional and international markets by improving the environmental profiles of African products and establishing a mechanism that promotes their marketability, thereby contributing to the NEPAD objective of promoting African exports. The first phase entails an overview of the ongoing activities on eco-labeling in Africa in order to develop an appropriate strategy that can harness the synergies, identify the main opportunities and challenges, bring together the key partners and set up a work plan. In this context, two studies on eco-labeling activities at regional and international levels were commissioned. The draft study reports were reviewed at a regional expert group meeting jointly facilitated by UNEP, ECA and AU Commission in collaboration with the Marrakech Taskforce on Cooperation with Africa, held in June 2007 (UNEP, ECA, AU Commission, 2007).

The conclusions of the meeting were that the development of an African eco-labeling scheme would make significant contributions to expanding market access to African products in a global market, which has increasingly become conscious of environmental considerations, while also enhancing the region's ability to achieve the MDGs. In this regard, the meeting called for a regional consultative process under the leadership

and guidance of AU Commission, UNEP and ECA in the further development and implementation of the mechanism. As a follow-up to the meeting, discussions and consultations were held between AU Commission, ECA UNEP and the Taskforce. Agreements were reached on securing political endorsement, substantive development, coordination and mobilizing resources. The findings of the consultations will be presented as an information note to the Council of African Ministers of Industries (CAMI) in September 2007. A ministerial decision on the proposed regional eco-labeling programme will be sought from the Council of African Ministers of Trade (CAMT) that would be held before the end of 2007 (AU Commission, ECA, UNEP, 2007).

The constraints, challenges and lessons learned highlighted below are culled from the second regional assessment report on SCP in Africa (2004 to 2006), jointly prepared by ARSCP and UNEP.

4.1.2 Challenges and constraints

Sustainable Production (SP) is gradually being recognized in Africa, but the region has a long way to go before SP becomes adopted and fully integrated into everyday practice. Francophone African countries in West and Central Africa show virtually little institutional capacity in SP, due to the absence of National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPCs). So far in Africa, SP has primarily addressed production efficiency, with only limited attention given to product design and use efficiency.

The regional capacity for promoting Sustainable Consumption (SC) is far less developed than for Sustainable Production (SP). There are no strategies or policy frameworks to promote SC at the national level, in accordance with the UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection. This is due to the wide range of different consumption styles and patterns that exist alongside each other, including within countries. The region is still dominated by people living in poverty and the priority of governments is empowering people to meet their basic needs. Furthermore, SC is a relatively new concept, and where it exists, consumer activism is still focused on prices, quality and consumer safety and SC still remains to be mainstreamed in the consumer movement.

Lack of awareness, weak legislation and policies, poor education, inadequate research and development capacities and consumer traditions, are important constraints to SCP in Africa. Awareness is needed to support new policies, legislation, education, research, and consumer life styles. Several NCPCs have stressed that weak enforcement of environmental laws leads to a weak demand for the services of Centers, which is a key factor to the financial sustainability of NCPCs.

Lack of stakeholder cooperation and poor relations with authorities are also constraints to SCP. The vast majority of companies in the region pay little or no attention to improving their sustainability records. On the other hand, government agencies are often reluctant or incapable of engaging in partnership with industry to promote SCP. There is probably a need for more integration of NCPC activities with those of appropriate government agencies.

4.1.3 Lessons learned and the way forward

Despite much effort and resources spent by the NCPCs, only a small part of industry has nationally adopted SP. It will be impossible to assist individually each company to realize the benefits of sustainable production. It therefore seems necessary to focus on the demand side, creating demand for SCP, rather than focusing on the supply side. Such demand is created when enforcement of legislation is practiced, suitable economic incentives are established and efficiency improvements offered by SCP provide a competitive edge.

Strategies to enable NCPCs to play a greater role towards scaling up small, localized impacts are desirable. Few partnerships tend to exist between NCPCs and national bodies and other stakeholders are not taking the

lead to promote SCP activities. Important stakeholders such as financing institutions, industry associations and government industry departments need to be more actively involved. NCPC's areas of focus need to expand beyond industries into regional development programmes.

Tools to support or promote sustainable consumption need to be strengthened and integrated with production activities. Systemic approach such as Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) and green procurement are either non-existent or still at infancy stage and need to be further developed. Public procurement, by both central and local governments, constitutes a large proportion of national expenditure, and this purchasing power can influence the market. By implementing sustainable procurement- procurement that is environmentally and socially responsible- the public sector could encourage the production of sustainable products and enhance corporate social responsibility.

SCP requires an effort to create a strategic-level coordination mechanism in which issues and challenges related to both consumption and production and their interaction with the environment can be addressed in a more holistic manner. Tools such as cleaner production, LCA, product-service systems, eco-design, sustainable procurement, UN Guidelines for consumer protection, eco-labels, advertising for sustainable consumption, education and awareness raising activities etc., must all be adopted and coordinated to support SCP.

Political will and commitment is essential to the effective implementation of the African 10-YFP. The high-level launch of the Programme is indeed commendable. In this regard, the leadership and guidance being provided by the AU Commission, ECA and UNEP in the further development and implementation of the Programme should be maintained, if not enhanced. In addition to regional cooperation, international cooperation is important in ensuring Programme implementation and the leapfrog towards SCP. In this regard, the region's cooperation with development agencies, such as the Government of Germany should be fostered.

4.2 Corporate social responsibility

It is now recognized that poverty reduction and sustainable development will not be achieved through government action alone. Policy makers are paying increasing attention to the potential contribution of the private sector to such policy objectives. The concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is sometimes used as shorthand for businesses' contribution to sustainable development. A number of core development issues are already central to the international CSR agenda. They include labor standards, human rights, education, health, child labor, poverty reduction, conflict and environmental impacts (IIED, 2005).

WSSD called for the enhancement of corporate social and environmental responsibility and accountability. And the JPOI emphasizes the contribution of the industrial sector to the sustainable development of Africa by supporting broad-based participation, social and environmental responsibility. Corporate social responsibility is an important criterion of the corporate governance objective of NEPAD's APRM.

4.2.1 Concrete actions taken and progress made

Regional initiatives

NEPAD sets the tone for corporate sustainability in Africa. It highlights the need to create conditions for private-sector growth in order to generate social development benefits. The NEPAD Business Group (NBG) acts as a medium between NEPAD and private companies that support its aims, functions as an information hub on trade and investment opportunities in Africa and encourages private-sector involvement in sustainable

development projects. The South African chapter of the NBG was re-invigorated in November 2004 as the NEPAD Business Foundation (NBF) to assist in realizing the objectives of NEPAD (Agbazue, T., 2005).

The African Institute of Corporate Citizenship (AICC) was officially established in 2001. It is a non-governmental organization (NGO) committed to being a center of excellence in Africa promoting the role of business in building sustainable communities. It strives to facilitate the competitiveness of countries, companies and communities through responsible business practice. The AICC also aims to raise awareness and mobilize constructive action and collaboration between communities who, collectively, can make a difference to Africa's development. The Institute has established various forums and centers aimed at ensuring the adoption of sustainable practices by African and foreign companies operating in Africa. The Africa Corporate Sustainability Forum (ACSF), one of the bodies of AICC is a member of the NBG (AICC, 2006).

National actions

In many African countries, the practice and concept of CSR is relatively recent. Emerging CSR organizations in Kenya and Zambia complement many other civil society groups working on certain aspects of CSR (albeit not called 'CSR' in most cases). These include trade unions, business support agencies, community development NGOs, and human rights and environmental organizations. Although these organizations are firmly rooted in their national contexts, and tend to focus their efforts on sensitizing local stakeholders on CSR, they also have some links to international CSR debates (IIED, 2005). Given its developmental context, the application of CSR in Africa mainly contributes to addressing those issues affecting the daily lives of Africans.

In Nigeria, it was found that indigenous firms perceive and practise CSR as corporate philanthropy aimed at addressing socio-economic development challenges (Amaeshi et. al., 2006). Similarly, in Kenya and Zambia, CSR activities could broadly be described as philanthropy. In Kenya, surveys suggest that the cause receiving the highest proportion of corporate donations is health and medical provision, and donations are also directed towards education and training; HIV/AIDS; agriculture and food security; and underprivileged children. The picture in Zambia is similar, with surveys highlighting donations to orphanages as the most common activity identified as CSR, followed by sponsorship of sporting events; cultural ceremonies; education and health provision; and donations to religious and arts organizations (IIED, 2005).

CSR is an increasingly prominent discourse in Southern Africa, particularly among mining companies. The conclusion of case studies conducted in the mining sector in South Africa and Zambia is that companies' CSR-related claims, and particularly the reference to a business case for voluntary CSR, need to be treated with caution. However, CSR is not necessarily only greenwash, as many CSR-related activities do represent important development contributions (Hamann R., and Kapelus P., 2004). For example, the African sugar industry provides social amenities and services such as housing, education and health to its communities and is making attempts to mitigate environmental impacts associated with its operations (www.ethical-sugar.org, 27-06-07).

Participation in global initiatives

Launched in July 2000 by the then United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the Global Compact is an international initiative bringing companies together with UN agencies, labor and civil society to support ten principles in the areas of human rights, working conditions, the environment, and anti-corruption. Through the power of collective action, the Global Compact seeks to advance responsible corporate citizenship, so that business can be part of the solution to the challenges of globalization. In this way, the private sector, in partnership with other social actors, can help realize the Secretary General's vision: a more stable and inclusive global economy (UN/SFDDFA, 2004). Participating organizations from Africa include 17 business associations and several stakeholders from civil society and academia:

<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/ParticipantsAndStakeholders/public sector.html>, 26-06-07

Kenya and Zambia were among the countries selected for the introduction of the UN Global Compact/UNDP 'Growing Sustainable Business for Poverty Reduction' initiative (IIED, 2005). As Africa's third largest export commodity, the substitution of conventional cotton growing by sustainable methods is of particular importance, considering the predictable depletion of soil and water resources in countries such as Benin, Mali, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Tanzania. In this context, a market-driven project was launched under the auspices of the Global Compact to establish "Cotton - Made in Africa" as a competitive quality label for cotton exclusively produced by sustainability standards.

The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI) is a global public private partnership between UNEP and 239 firms from across the global financial services sector. Its mission is to collaboratively integrate relevant environmental, social and corporate governance criteria into financial sector operations and services (UN/SFDFA, 2004). UNEP-FI activity areas include investment, banking, financing, social security, insurance and reporting. The African Task Force (ATF) was launched in 2002 to support and expand sustainable financial practice in Africa, with AICC as its secretariat. The ATF has released the Sustainability Banking in Africa Report, which was produced by the AICC Center for Sustainability Investing. The Equator Principles provide a framework for financial institutions to manage environmental and social issues in project financing. The Principles have so far been adopted by 30 of the world's major financial institutions (AICC, 2004, Agbazue, T., 2005). The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) is one of the most widely recognized and important initiatives for corporate social responsibility. South Africa is a leading country in terms of its companies' sustainability reporting.

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is a CEO-led, global association of some 200 companies dealing exclusively with business and sustainable development. Its mission is to provide business leadership as a catalyst for change toward sustainable development, and to support the business license to operate, innovate and grow in a world increasingly shaped by sustainable development issues. The council has member companies in South Africa and partner organizations in Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa (<http://www.wbcd.ch>, 27-06-07).

4.2.2 Challenges and constraints

Some of the issues hampering effective CSR practice in Africa include poor enforcement of legislation, largely absent civil society scrutiny, relatively weak consumer activism for responsibly produced products. The immediate pressure on businesses to effect change voluntarily is also largely absent. Few consumers are sufficiently informed or able to pay a premium for "responsibly" produced goods. Furthermore, given that financial margins are generally very thin, companies are unlikely to adopt higher standards voluntarily unless there is a clear business case. In effect, there are relatively few incentives for businesses to adopt responsible or "pro-development" practices.

CSR is often associated with large companies, and particularly with multinational enterprises. The international CSR agenda is dominated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)-based NGOs, investors, consumers, businesses and business associations. CSR has even on occasions attracted criticism for being insensitive to local priorities and the basic livelihood needs of people in developing countries, particularly where CSR codes of conduct are perceived as barriers to market access for some producers. Furthermore, inherent inequalities characterize many partnerships, particularly those between large corporations and local level governments, organizations and communities. There are no easy answers to this imbalance; too often a top-down approach produces mistrust and a lack of ownership, responsibility and accountability, hamper meaningful engagement in CSR.

4.2.3 Lessons learned and the way forward

Sound corporate governance and risk management systems are crucial pre-requisites to successfully implementing policies and measures to address environmental and social challenges. At the same time, successful investment depends on a vibrant economy, which depends on a healthy civil society, which is ultimately dependent on a sustainable planet. In the long-term, therefore, investment markets have a clear self-interest in contributing to better management of environmental and social impacts in a way that contributes to the sustainable development of global society. A better inclusion of environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) factors in investment decisions will ultimately contribute to more stable and predictable markets, which is in the interest of all market actors.

There is clear divergence between the key content of the global CSR agenda and that which is emerging in Africa. In the North, a 'do no harm' tenet typically characterizes good citizenship. But in Africa, more fundamental sustainable development challenges face large sections of the population. Companies investing in Africa need to root their CSR practice in African realities: poverty is widespread, there is growing inequality between rich and poor, healthcare and education are deficient, HIV/AIDS is widespread, and governance standards are patchy. Additionally, they need to assess country strengths and weaknesses when engaging governments, taking account of considerations such as: human and institutional capacity, the degree to which the business case can be articulated, the types of business activities being addressed and the international tools that exist.

The CSR agenda needs to be locally owned if it is to make a significant contribution to local development priorities – and it must be relevant to local enterprises, whether large or small. This means creating space to explore the relationship between business and society at the regional, national or local level and finding appropriate language for these discussions. Large corporations entering local markets need to work at creating an enabling environment, through which they build effective partnerships based on mutual gain and reciprocity. The notion of 'business linkages' should be encouraged. This relates to links between large and small companies, and the use of local suppliers and outsourcing designed to maximize the transfer of assets and skills to local communities and to create a multiplier effect in which investment generates local business activity, employment and income.

4.3 Sustainable tourism development

Tourism constitutes an important economic activity in Africa. Since 1990, Africa's share in the world total rose one percentage point, from 3.4 to 4.4 percent in 2004. With slightly over 33 million international tourist arrivals estimated in 2004, Africa recorded an increase of eight percent over 2003. This positive result is in line with the 10 percent growth registered in world arrivals in the same year. In spite of the recent unfavorable conditions for tourism in the world, Africa fared comparatively well in the past few years. It was the only United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) region that succeeded to close both difficult years 2001 and 2003, with positive growth and the only region to record successive tourist arrival increases since 1990. In 2004, receipts recorded by African destinations are estimated to have reached almost US\$ 19 billion, corresponding to an increase of US\$3 billion over 2003 values (UNWTO, 2006).

WSSD called on countries to promote sustainable tourism development, including non-consumptive and eco-tourism, taking into account the spirit of the International Year of Eco-tourism 2002, the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage in 2002, the World Eco-tourism Summit 2002 and its Quebec Declaration, as well as the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism as adopted by UNWTO. The goal is to increase the benefits from tourism resources for the population in host communities while maintaining the cultural and environmental

integrity of the host communities and enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and natural heritages. NEPAD also calls for capacitating African communities to actively engage in sustainable tourism, including adventure tourism, ecotourism and cultural tourism. The Africa chapter of the JPOI supports this call. The chapter recognizes the need to support Africa's efforts to attain sustainable tourism that contributes to social, economic and infrastructure development.

4.3.1 Concrete actions taken and progress made

NEPAD has identified tourism as an important vehicle to address the current development challenges facing the African continent. The 41st meeting of UNWTO's Commission for Africa (CAF), in 2004, approved the NEPAD Tourism Action Plan. A main objective of the Plan is to provide an engine for growth and integration, and to contribute to poverty eradication. Most African governments have now included tourism in their national development strategies. (UNWTO, 2006).

The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism was adopted on 1 October 1999 at the General Assembly of the UNWTO. The Code is a set of basic principles whose purpose is to guide tourism development and to serve as a frame of reference for the different stakeholders in the tourism sector, with the objective of minimizing the negative impact of tourism on the environment and on cultural heritage, while maximizing the benefits of tourism in promoting sustainable development. In 2001, the UNWTO General Assembly adopted Part I of its Protocol of Implementation, which created the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, a body responsible for interpreting, applying and evaluating the provisions of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (UNGA, 2005). Many African countries have adopted the Code and are reporting on implementation progress. In a 2004-2005 UNWTO survey on the implementation of the Code, Africa recorded the second highest number of respondents (27 countries compared to Europe's 28) (UNWTO, 2005).

Sustainable and pro-poor tourism as a niche market

Sustainable tourism is an important niche market in the global tourism industry, which can play a very important role in sustainable development. In this regard, UNWTO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) launched the Sustainable Tourism-Eliminating Poverty (ST-EP) initiative at WSSD, aimed at linking the development of sustainable tourism to the cause of eliminating poverty. The ST-EP Programme targets least developed countries, especially those in Africa. Its main objective is to contribute to poverty reduction through the establishment of community-based tourism development projects that respect the environment and benefit the most disadvantaged populations. It is closely linked to the MDGs. UNWTO has organized seven regional training seminars on tourism and poverty reduction during 2004 and 2005, in order to build capacities among public officials in developing countries, three of which took place in Africa; Benin, Tanzania and Mali. Project identification missions have been conducted in Ethiopia, Cameroon, Zambia and Mali. Effective project implementation has started in Cameroon and Ethiopia (UNWTO, 2006a). Furthermore, WTO together with UNEP has produced a set of policy guidelines and tools aiding governments particularly at local level to promote sustainable tourism (UNWTO, 2006b).

In 2002, stakeholders in the tourism industry including 20 countries in Africa, made a declaration on responsible tourism in Cape Town with reference to major sustainable development milestones, NEPAD and the UNWTO/UNCTAD ST-EP initiative: <http://www.responsibletourismpartnership.org/declaration.html>, 28-06-07. UNWTO launched the specific programme for the promotion of tourism development in SSA in 2003. The programme is structured around six major axes, namely: economic knowledge of African tourism; application of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism; development of ecotourism and nature parks; mastery and application of new information technologies; adaptation of air transport conditions to the needs of African tourism; and enhancement of the image of African destinations (UNWTO, 2006).

One issue that emerged prominently from the World Eco-tourism Summit of 2002 was that the natural and cultural heritage comprises an enormously rich and valuable resource for countries and communities throughout the world; but it is a fragile resource, which could easily be damaged or lost without careful planning and management. The Summit recognized the essential need for capacity building for those implicated in ecotourism and protected area management, and in providing technical advice and support in the field. In an effort to meeting this need, UNWTO organized seminars on Ecotourism in National Parks and Protected areas in Rwanda (2003) and Guinea (2004), within the framework of UNWTO's Special Programme for Africa (UNWTO, 2006). The third regional workshop was held in Gabon in January 2007 (UNWTO, 2007).

Benefits, enabling factors and support to pro-poor tourism

Many efforts are under way to increase understanding of how tourism can contribute to poverty reduction and of how to translate this understanding into concrete actions. The objectives of these efforts include increased tourism arrivals, more out-of-pocket spending, and a bigger share of the tourist economy benefiting the poor (SNV and ODI, 2006). Realizing the benefits of Pro-Poor Tourism (PPT), countries have started adopting policies that unlock opportunities for the poor within tourism. A case study conducted in The Gambia demonstrates how partnerships at the local level between the private sector, government and poor producers can significantly raise incomes for the informal sector in resorts. Another case study conducted in South Africa demonstrates how government policy can encourage the private sector to adopt poverty reduction practices and to monitor and report the results. Community Based Tourism Associations have also been formed in major tourist destinations in Africa, such as Namibia and Uganda:
<http://www.icrtourism.org/propoor.html>, 28-06-07.

However, other case studies conducted in Ethiopia, Lao PDR, The Gambia, and Tunisia, demonstrate that pro-poor benefits accruing from tourism ventures depend on how the tourism economy is structured. Ethiopia and Luang Prabang in South East Asia are primarily cultural destinations, but while Luang Prabang has high spending in the local economy, Ethiopia does not. Tunisia and The Gambia are beach package destinations of very different sizes. Tunisia's tourism creates many jobs and a market for local food, but little revenue for artisans and vendors, while the tiny Gambian economy has strong linkages with food supply and shopping. A recent World Bank study of tourism in Ethiopia concluded that the supply chains throughout the sector afford very little opportunity for benefits from tourism to disperse into the broader economy. Aside from the employment generated in the formal sector (hotels, transport, tour operations), there are few opportunities for poorer Ethiopians to be involved. In Lalibela (the main cultural site visited by 90 percent of tourists), craft sellers earn only one percent of tourist revenue (SNV and ODI, 2006).

In order to assist tourism companies implement local linkages and partnerships and enhance local impact, a Pro Poor Tourism Tools and Tips Project has been launched in Southern Africa <http://www.responsibletourismpartnership.org/>, 19-08-05. The International Center for Responsible Tourism, which is a post-graduate training and research center based at the University of Greenwich, is one of the organizations promoting sustainable tourism in Africa. The Center now has sister organizations in The Gambia and South Africa <http://www.icrtourism.org/>, 28-06-07. Development Assistance Agencies (DAA) have also been involved in bottom-up approaches to tourism development. For example, SNV has been involved in tourism projects since mid 1990s, including Tanzania's Cultural Tourism Programme, Botswana's Community Based Tourism, Uganda's Community Based Tourism Association, and Ghana's Ecotourism development programme. SNV has recently moved from supporting community-based tourism to mainstreaming pro-poor tourism principles in the tourism sector to enhance the impacts in the field (UNWTO 2006b).

4.3.2 Challenges and constraints

Political instability, wars and terrorist attacks are threats that have impacted on tourism arrivals. Reducing leakages and maximizing linkages to the local economy and to national development priorities are also major challenges.

Many countries face a number of constraints related to low skill levels, limited entrepreneurial culture, little investment in infrastructure, facilities and quality provision, and limited benefits spreading to the wider economy. There is need to ensure effective market place value, quality of products development and meaningful community-private-public partnerships.

Mass tourism is yet to be genuinely involved in poverty reduction and sustainability initiatives. More often than not, involvement is more as a result of brand and risk management, led by investor and stakeholder agendas, usually acting on eco-saving, social actions, and the result of formalized company-wide standards and audits, rather than genuine belief in sustainability.

The tourism industry is still very fragmented, and coordination is required, particularly for small and micro tourism firms. Traditionally, the focus of national governments has been at macro level (international promotion, attracting investors for major hotel and resort developments, national and regional master planning). Regulations, economic incentives, fiscal measures, resources and institutions to promote and disseminate good practices and in general, the policy space for tourism to respond to sustainability issues is inadequate, if not lacking in most cases.

Many pilot projects aimed at demonstrating the benefits of sustainable tourism are donor funded. The challenge is to institute appropriate financing mechanisms that ensure the sustainability and replicability of projects.

4.3.3 Lessons learned and the way forward

There are no fixed rules about how different types of tourism generate benefits to the poor. The little quantitative data that exists already illustrates quite clearly that what matters is not the type or size of tourism, but how the tourism economy is structured, how supply chains work, how far linkages extend into different parts of the local economy, and how tourists spend their money when they arrive. In other words, there is a great deal that Governments can do to influence flows to the poor, whatever type of tourism they have. All types of tourism can and must be used to alleviate poverty. In other words, it is not only community-based tourism and small firms that can contribute to poverty alleviation, but also and particularly, mass tourism operations can have a great impact. In other words, sustainable tourism is not a discrete or special form of tourism. Rather, all forms of tourism should strive to be more sustainable.

Community tourism is most successful when the wider policy framework in the country is conducive. Participation of key stakeholders from public, private and voluntary sectors with interests in tourism are critical. The criteria for selection of sites should be developed in consultation with stakeholders. On-site training in local languages maximizes participation, particularly amongst marginalized groups. Adequate time should be allowed for the product to meet standards before launching it to the public.

Often, small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) learn a lot from their clients and competitors, and a good way to support SMMEs, is linking them with clients (to obtain feedback and advice), and to establish a network of SMMEs (to exchange experiences and jointly market their products). SMMEs have a tendency to sell more of an existing product to an existing market. This is a low risk strategy, but also a strategy that often

has low profit margins. SMMEs that are more innovative by selling a new product to an existing market can become far more successful.

The demonstration of PPT Pilots is significant to current discussions about how exactly the private sector can make a greater contribution to the MDGs. It reinforces arguments that companies need to move beyond philanthropic CSR and find ways to harness their core competencies for development gain. In the tourism sector, sharing 'business DNA' with local enterprises, increasing local entrepreneur access to the tourism market, and using their procurement power to support local suppliers are invaluable ways for businesses to utilize their core competencies.

Because tourism companies and operations are smaller (than, say mining companies), the initial transaction costs of setting up linkages are proportionately higher. Therefore, a destination-wide approach becomes important to achieve economies of scale, and/or there is a need for subsidized provision of public goods and reduction of market failures that reduce the transaction costs for companies of engaging with SMMEs.

Bringing SMMEs into the supply chain is a key area of potential in tourism, as in other sectors, particularly in provision of services. However, other kinds of linkages also have high potential in the tourism sector, particularly, legal partnerships with local people to share equity or generate commercial returns to their natural assets, and downstream linkages that stimulate local tourism services, such as cultural and heritage products.

4.4 Sustainable industrial development

Africa lags behind other regions in almost all its industry-related indices. The World Bank (World Development Indicators, 2004) indicate that with a few exceptions (Botswana, Cape Verde, Madagascar, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, South Africa and Tunisia), industrial output per capita as measured by the dollar value of Manufacturing Value Added (MVA) per population, has been stagnant over the past three decades or has declined.

The contribution of manufacturing output to total national income remains low, with the share of MVA in GDP in 2004, ranging from a high of about 20 percent in Mauritius to as low as 0.5 percent in Djibouti. Countries with significant manufacturing sectors (i.e. exceeding \$US250 per capita per year) are few. Only Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa and Tunisia have a significant manufacturing sector. Africa's share of world manufacturing output declined slightly from 0.9 percent to 0.8 percent over two decades-- 1980 to 2001, (UNCTAD, 2004). However, from 1990 to 2004, manufactured exports from Africa have seen significant growth (World Bank, 2004). Countries such as Kenya, Cameroon, Egypt, Madagascar, Morocco, Seychelles, Zambia, and Mauritius have seen quite significant growth in their manufactured exports, with an increasing share of manufactured goods out of total exports. However, high technology exports account for only four percent of manufactured exports from Africa as compared with 32 percent in East Asia.

WSSD called for strengthening the contribution of industrial development to poverty eradication and sustainable natural resource management. In its Africa chapter, the JPOI enjoins the international community to enhance the industrial productivity, diversity and competitiveness of African countries through a combination of financial and technological support for the development of key infrastructure, access to technology, networking of research centers, adding value to export products, skills development and enhancing market access in support of sustainable development. These support the NEPAD objectives on manufacturing, which include, to increase the production and improve the competitiveness and diversification of the domestic private sector, especially in the agro-industrial, mining and manufacturing sub-sectors, with potential for exports and employment creation.

4.4.1 Concrete actions taken and progress made

Regional initiatives

In July 2004, the Assembly of the AU endorsed the Africa Productive Capacity Initiative (APCI) as the NEPAD Sustainable Industrial Development Strategy. In particular, it requested that the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat provide assistance to member States in their implementation of the strategy through the development of concrete action plans. The implementation phase of APCI commenced with the convening of a subregional meeting for the West African region in November 2004. An action plan has been developed for the subregion in line with the priority sectors elicited in APCI. Planning for other subregions has been ongoing with the objective to ensure that all industrial road maps for subregions are developed (UN, 2005).

UNIDO is providing technical assistance through the APCI, which aims to increase MVA in selected industrial sectors identified in Africa's five subregions. In December 2006, expert group meetings were convened in South Africa and Cameroon under the auspices of UNIDO, NEPAD, the AU Commission and ECA to facilitate regional integration and to identify a strategy for improving industrial performance among members of SADC and CEMAC.

The African Productive Capacity Facility (APCF) has been established as a financial mechanism to support the APCI. UNIDO has provided seed money to the Facility to start implementation. Cameroon and Nigeria contributed to the Facility and Egypt offered to provide technical expertise. UNIDO also facilitated the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and selected West African countries in order to open credit facilities for specific sectors (UN, 2007).

National actions

Since 1998, UNIDO has been using the concept of integrated programmes as a means of strengthening its response to sustainable industrial development needs and focusing its assistance at the country level. In 1999 and 2000, Governments confirmed that their comparative advantages lay in diversifying their economies by processing agricultural products, primarily textiles/garments, leather/leather products and food. This has become the core of the UNIDO strategy in each country, emphasizing the need to improve quality standards, identify new market channels and increase product range.

UNIDO has assisted many countries in Africa in developing and implementing programmes aimed at improving the competitiveness of selected industries and, wherever possible, identify new market opportunities, thus opening the door to the global economy. In the leather industry, UNIDO has assisted countries in tackling critical environmental problems by assisting companies in installing or upgrading effluent treatment plants and providing operator training at the Nairobi Leather Development Center. Rural industry has been supported by focusing on improving technologies through the introduction of modern shop-floor management systems, with an emphasis on minimizing waste and improving hygienic conditions in plants. In addition, to ensure sustainability, appropriate technical staffs have been trained.

UNIDO activities in the development of small- and medium-scale enterprises are carried out for the three main economic levels, which are policy formulation and implementation; institutional capacity building; and improving entrepreneurial skills at the enterprise level. Countries have developed policies for investment promotion and for attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), including the launching of UNIDO-Africa Investment Promotion Network and various other national and subregional investment promotion efforts. Activities in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Senegal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania address the gender imbalance by including assistance to women entrepreneurs.

UNIDO and UNEP supported by UNDP or bilateral donors are the agencies most actively promoting cleaner production in Africa. Since 1994, 27 National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPCs) globally have been established, out of which 10 are in Africa. These are Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Additional centers are in the process of being established and many countries, including countries in Africa, have requested to have NCPCs established (ECA, 2005).

Metrology, standards, testing and quality institutions provide complementary support to the introduction of such standards by allowing for proper control of product, health and environmental quality, and by providing the means for certification against the standards. Such institutions also promote best practices and encourage the development of new products through Research and Development (R&D). Projects to strengthen such institutions in Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria and Burundi among others are underway. Promotion of linkages between R&D institutions and industry (e.g., the Leather and Leather Product Training Institute in Ethiopia), have also helped the testing, promotion and skills development related to cleaner and more productive production.

Countries have also established agro-processing and micro and small-scale enterprises (MSMEs), and are gradually facilitating access to finance, technology transfer and capacity building for growth-oriented and competitive MSMEs, with increased focus on women.

4.4.2 Challenges and constraints

African countries face many challenges related to a weak policy environment, limited access to the latest technologies, inadequate local awareness of environmental issues, a predominantly unskilled labor force, whereas sustainable industrialization tends to require higher levels of skill.

African countries are latecomers to industry and, as such, face additional challenges including those that emanate from the pattern of economic transformation and an increasingly competitive environment that does not allow the opportunity for learning. Africa lacks capacity, a conducive business and policy environment, financial and other support systems for growth, structural change and economic diversification. Small-scale and informal enterprises dominate the private sector in Africa and the quality and standards of local products are rather low. There is limited research and development, innovation, diversification and technology diffusion. Limited skills hamper the exploitation of the potential of knowledge-based industries. Infrastructure, energy and water bottlenecks make the transition to sustainable industrialization more difficult.

Much of Africa has also failed to take advantage of the opportunities provided by globalization such as greater trade liberalization, easier transfer of capital, technology and labor, as well as greater attention to environmental issues in world trade. Rather, there have been capital flight and net outflows in skilled labor.

Africa lacks appropriate industrial development strategies to facilitate and maximize the integration of large-scale industries, mainly concentrated in the extractive sector (e.g. oil, gas and minerals) with other sectors of local economies. Inadequate harmonization of laws, regulations, codes and standards at national and subregional levels limits factor flows (financial, human and technical resources), which could help realize economies of scale, establish intra-regional synergies and enhance competitiveness. Africa also lacks a critical mass of companies and institutions willing to cooperate, network and share industrial development knowledge and information in pursuit of sustainable development, worsened by weak industrial associations.

4.4.3 Lessons learned and the way forward

Africa's industry has been stagnant or even in decline over the past two decades. Industrial productivity, moreover, is low and the gap in productivity between African industrial firms and those of the rest of the world has steadily widened. Nevertheless, there is potential for growth as can be seen from few successful countries. The first step towards sustainable industrialization is to improve productivity and investment. Any strategy to revive industrial growth in Africa must focus on structural issues, prominent amongst which relate to domestic capacity building, the strengthening of domestic factor markets and the supply of public goods.

Exposing firms to international competition and increasing domestic competition, as well as improving access to new technologies and investments in human capital should improve efficiency and thus productivity within Africa's industry. However, this must be supported by necessary public goods (particularly investments in infrastructure), support institutions (trade facilitation, credit, technology, establishment of standards and certification schemes), as well as incentive structures that are conducive to industrial growth. These should be strategic taking into consideration the promotion of industries that have high growth potential, strong linkages within national economies, can absorb increasing amount of labor and also promote the adoption of environmentally sustainable practices.

To encourage greater investment, particularly private investment and FDI, certain constraints ranging from high investor risk to high taxes and tariffs on investment goods, to corruption, macro-economic instability and over-valued exchange rates need to be addressed. Capital market development should also be accorded serious attention.

Sustainability will require not only a focus on accelerating industrialization, but also initiating a shift from current production processes to less highly polluting, resource-wasting industries and production processes. It requires investment in rapidly evolving technology that saves on input and is more efficient in energy use, is based on renewable resources and generates less wastes along the life cycle of a product.

There is need to ensure that chemicals are produced, transported, used and disposed in their entire life cycle, within a sustainable development context that is protective of human health and the environment and including, inter alia, compliance with the provisions of relevant international environmental conventions and national environmental laws and policy instruments. There is also need to promote global cooperation and partnerships for the development and implementation of cleaner production processes and adoption of new and safer technologies.

There is need for broader adoption and implementation by industry, of values consistent with corporate social and environmental responsibility, such as those embodied in the Global Compact, and to explore an ISO standard on corporate-social responsibility.

4.5 Energy for sustainable development

Africa is relatively well endowed with energy resources. In 2004, its proven oil, gas and coal reserves were 9.4, 7.9 and 5.54 percent, respectively, of world total¹. The hydropower potential of the continent amounts to 13 percent of the world. However, with a population of 13.1 percent of the world total, Africa consumes only 5.5 percent of world energy, and it generates only 3.1 percent of world electricity. The per capita energy consumption of 0.5 Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (TOE), far lower than the world average of 1.2 TOE per capita, makes the continent lag behind all others in energy use.

1 BP energy statistics 2005, www.bp.com

NEPAD recognizes the critical role that energy plays in the development process, first as a domestic necessity, but also as a factor of production, whose cost directly affects prices of other goods and services. Therefore, the limited modern energy production and consumption critically impairs socio-economic development in Africa. According to UNIDO, high levels of income per capita tend to be associated with higher levels of industrialization², and the World Bank has established a link between energy consumption and Gross National Product (GNP), thus economic development³.

WSSD called on countries to: diversify energy supply and substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources; improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally-sound energy services and resources; remove market distortions; establish domestic programmes for energy efficiency and accelerate the development and dissemination of energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies. In its Africa chapter, the JPOI enjoins the international community to inter alia, establish and promote programmes, partnerships and initiatives to support Africa's efforts to implement NEPAD objectives on energy, which seek to secure access for at least 35 percent of the African population within 20 years, especially in rural areas. It also calls for support to implement energy initiatives, including the promotion of clean and renewable energy, and to improve energy efficiency and access to advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies.

4.5.1 Concrete actions taken and progress made

Actions

A multi-donor NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility has been established at the African Development Bank (AfDB). The facility has provided funding for the preparation of several regional projects, which include, the Kenya-Uganda oil pipeline; Benin-Togo-Ghana power interconnection project; and Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya electricity interconnection project. Additionally, the Bank has approved financing for the Ethiopia-Djibouti Power Interconnection project and for a hydropower project and transmission feasibility study in the Organization pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Gambie (OMVG).

The West Africa Gas pipeline, which is expected to supply clean and affordable energy from Nigeria to Benin, Togo and Ghana, is well under way. In December 2004, Chevron Texaco, Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation, Shell and Takoradi Power Company (Volta River Authority) committed more than \$500 million towards the construction of the pipeline. The NEPAD Secretariat and the AfDB are holding regular consultations with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to expedite the Greater Inga Integrator Study, which aims to assess the feasibility of developing the hydropower potential at Grand Inga to supply the subregions of Africa and transmit the surplus power to neighboring continents. The African Development Bank has earmarked \$10 million for this study.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) focuses on promoting sustainable use of natural resources and increasing access to affordable energy. A project in energy assessment has been launched under the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA). Project activities will be implemented by IAEA in partnership with the NEPAD Secretariat, the African Energy Commission (AEC) and UNIDO. The project aims to support AFRA members in elaborating national energy strategies and strengthening institutional capability for energy planning. In the framework of UN-Energy/Africa, ECA and IAEA conducted a regional workshop in Ethiopia in December 2006 on integrated resource planning for energy/electricity in Africa. The objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of energy planners to effectively use integrated resource planning

² UNIDO Industrial Development Report, 2004, p.31

³ Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators database

for mainstreaming sustainable development in the planning of investments in the electricity supply industry at the regional and national levels.

Other initiatives and actions include: the UN-Habitat “energy scale up initiative aimed at increasing energy access in poor rural and urban areas; the UNDP/ Institut de l’énergie et de l’environnement de la Francophonie programme for “capacity building and investment in mini/micro hydro power” being implemented in partnership with ECA, UNIDO and UNEP in 11 African countries; the UNIDO energy productive use programme; the UNEP “African rural energy development project”; and regional rural electrification strategies developed in different forms by various RECs, such as ECOWAS, SADC and EAC; the development of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency by UNEP, UNESCO and UNIDO, to name a few.

Progress

Energy accessibility for poverty alleviation: In recognition of the fact that the problem of access to energy in rural Africa requires much more attention, means and renewed commitments by all stakeholders, increased country-to-country and city-to-city dialogue and cooperation are taking place on the issue of clean energy access for the urban poor. Energy access scale-up initiatives led to the design of new energy supply schemes integrating energy services to the development of productive and income generating activities, entrepreneurship, and the promotion of indigenous energy resources. Off-grid systems, based on renewable energy have been developed in rural areas of many countries, and validated as an important option to increase energy access. Progress has been made in capacity development and investments in mini-hydro power systems, with the identification of a large number of mini/micro hydropower potential sites. A sub-regional rural energy programme is well advanced in ECOWAS and SADC countries, with plans to harmonize national policies. Institutional and other barriers to the development of small and medium-scale energy enterprises were identified and approaches for their removal were implemented in some countries.

Changing patterns of energy consumption and production: In many countries, national capabilities on forestry services and energy agencies for wood energy planning and policy development have been enhanced. Wood energy statistics and information have been improved and promoted as tools for the promotion of sustainable wood energy systems. Furthermore, various practical actions, ranging from geographical mapping of renewable energy resources, development of energy and energy efficient service enterprises for activities aimed at identifying and removing barriers have been undertaken to increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix.

Information sharing on cleaner energy technologies: Many network initiatives (e.g. The Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development, The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, The Global Village Energy Partnership) have contributed to enhancing knowledge and capacity in many countries on cleaner energy technology options for energy production. Additionally, functional networks for sharing information and knowledge on sustainable transport infrastructure investment, cleaner technologies and air quality management, have been established between individuals, institutions and government representatives in many countries.

4.5.2 Challenges and constraints

The challenges and implementation constraints could be summarized as follows: inadequate policy, legal, regulatory and institutional framework and limited financial flow for the development and provision of sustainable energy, especially for the poor; low energy production due to largely untapped energy resource potential, particularly renewable; uneven regional availability and distribution of energy resources; underdeveloped transportation, production, transmission and distribution infrastructure, and high up-front energy investment and use costs are barriers to energy access by the urban and rural poor; low private sector

participation and investment in the energy sector; inadequate access to energy in rural Africa as a result of high cost in production, transmission, distribution and depletion of energy resources; high dependence on, and inefficient use of, biomass energy sources and the associated environmental, economic and social impacts, especially on women and children; and inadequate skills and education of the rural population, which holds back their participation in the implementation of energy programmes and projects.

4.5.3 Lessons learned and the way forward

There is a need for increased awareness and knowledge of African policy and decision makers on emerging and sustainable energy issues. Governments should establish policies, strategies, legal and regulatory frameworks that are conducive to an attractive national investments climate for domestic and foreign investors, as well as integrate the specificities of the African energy context, especially in rural areas in order to promote adequate and affordable sustainable energy services.

Governments, international development partners, regional, and subregional decision makers should view the problem of access to modern energy in rural and peri-urban areas as inseparable from poverty reduction efforts and strategies and take urgent measures to address this in the PRSPs and National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs), in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

There is a need to build capacity that is responsive and inclusive of social and environmental factors in investment decisions related to energy projects. There is also need to build institutional capacity for energy planning, analysis and modeling, using specific national and regional data to inform decision-making and policy development.

Governments should intensify efforts to decentralize the decision-making process for energy investments and projects, and promote more participation by local governments, regional, communal, and community based organizations.

More actions should be undertaken in the area of interregional cooperation. Frameworks and incentives should be encouraged, developed and strengthened to promote regional integration of energy projects, programmes and systems. With the support of the international community, RECs should promote sub-regional and regional energy trade as a catalyst for development in Africa, in order to improve the share of renewable energy in the African energy mix. African governments should promote energy diversification, and remove barriers for a fairer competition of all energy resources.

International development partners, including the UN, should enhance their financial and technical support to enhance implementation of the NEPAD energy initiative.

4.6 Chemicals management

Chemicals are essential requirements of modern society that need to be managed properly in order to achieve a sustainable level of agricultural and industrial development, and a high level of environmental and human health protection. While a substantial use of chemicals is essential for social and economic development, chemical exposures may also threaten sustainable development through negative effects on health and the environment. The potential socioeconomic impacts and costs of toxics are large and are borne disproportionately by poor communities.

Hazards caused by toxic chemicals through handling and releases into the environment are worst for the African populace that have little chance of avoiding risk exposure and protecting themselves. In addition, due to poor education and lack of information, Africans are generally unaware of existing hazards and have little access to timely and proper medical care. This situation would be exacerbated by rapid population growth, which has implications for infrastructure requirements in Africa, including sound chemicals management.

WSSD called for renewed commitment to sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle for sustainable development, as well as for the protection of human health and the environment. The JPOI states that countries should aim to achieve, by 2020, sound management of chemicals to ensure the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. Countries are also to take actions at all levels to promote the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments on chemicals.

Additionally, countries are to work on further developing a strategic approach to international chemicals management based on the Bahia Declaration and Priorities for Action, of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS,) and to implementing the new Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for the classification and labeling of chemicals, with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008. Specifically, the Plan calls on development partners to support African countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and through the provision of technical and financial assistance. The NEPAD Environmental Action Plan (NEPAD-EAP) sets an Africa-wide approach to environmental management. Although chemicals management is not one of the programme areas, it is identified as a key crosscutting issue.

4.6.1 Concrete actions taken and progress made

Since the late 1980s, several international policy instruments on the sound management of chemicals have been adopted. The Rotterdam Convention was adopted in 1998 to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts in international trade in chemicals, with a view to: protecting human health and the environment from potential harm; and contributing to the environmentally sound use of chemicals. The Convention entered into force in 2004 and so far, 37 African countries are Parties. The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). POPs are chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms and are toxic to humans and wildlife. The Convention was adopted in 2001 and entered into force in 2004. To date, 44 African countries have either ratified or acceded to the Convention <http://www.pops.int/reports/StatusOfRatification.aspx>, 21-09-07.

The most recent instrument is the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in 2006. SAICM's adoption confirmed the determination of the international community to meet the challenges of chemical safety and effective management of chemicals. The African region played an active and leading role during the process of SAICM development. In May 2004, at a regional meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, African governments committed themselves to promote synergies and coordination among chemical regulatory instruments and agencies. Subsequent to the adoption of SAICM, AMCEN at its eleventh regular session, held in Brazzaville, Congo, in May 2006, adopted a decision on the implementation of SAICM in Africa, in recognition of the essential role of sound chemicals management in promoting environmental sustainability and protecting human health.

During the African regional meeting on SAICM implementation held in Cairo, Egypt, in September 2006, African countries completed and endorsed a regional action plan for the implementation of SAICM. The plan includes guidance for regional, subregional and national implementation, and notes potential subregional and regional activities. The plan provides for the adoption of a multi-stakeholder approach, which is to make use of existing regional, subregional and national institutions to facilitate implementation.

In February 2006, ICCM established the Quick Start Programme (QSP) to implement the objectives of SAICM. The QSP includes a trust fund, multilateral, bilateral and other forms of cooperation. African countries in realizing the enormous importance of sound chemicals management, have demonstrated commitment to SAICM implementation through the contribution in 2006, of \$100,000 and \$50,000, by the Governments of South African and Nigeria respectively. Currently a number of chemicals management projects are being undertaken in the region under the SAICM-QSP in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Chad, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Tanzania and Uganda.

The Basel Convention Regional Centre in Pretoria (BCRC) and the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI) are currently undertaking a regional cooperation project in Anglophone Africa in order to contribute towards developing a regional needs assessment to promote SAICM in African countries. The project will establish key baseline data on national chemicals and waste. This will include an assessment of capacity needs of national institutions, including the private sector and civil society, to manage chemicals and waste.

In response to growing requests from countries for capacity building to support GHS implementation, The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) initiated in 2001, the "UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme". In order to meet the target of having an operational GHS by 2008, ECOSOC endorsed the Initiative in July 2003 (ECOSOC, 2004). The Programme is supporting national GHS implementation and capacity building projects in Nigeria, Senegal, The Gambia, South Africa and Zambia. Regional activities have also been carried out in the SADC subregion <http://www.unitar.org/cwg/ghs/index.html>, 21-09-07.

International community support

The international community has continually lent support to Africa's chemicals management efforts through bilateral and multilateral cooperation and also through the various UN organizations responsible for chemicals management training and capacity building. This is consistent with the specific call by the eleventh session of AMCEN urging the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) (a cooperative agreement among UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO, UNITAR and OECD), UNDP and the World Bank to give priority to the needs of African countries when developing activities to support implementation of the Strategic Approach. Additionally, UNITAR has been assisting African countries to implement SAICM through its training and capacity building activities.

A number of the OECD member States have been actively supporting African countries through provision of technical and financial resources for meeting obligations under the various chemicals-related MEAs and currently through the implementation of priority and enabling activities under the SAICM QSP. The EU-Slovenian presidency has recently, initiated an EU-Africa Cooperation targeted at a regional approach in the effective implementation of SAICM and sound chemicals and wastes management in Africa. Some of the priority areas that will be addressed by this Cooperation through an Umbrella Programme for the region will include: the establishments of coordination and cooperation mechanisms among stakeholders; training and equipment with communication facilities; training of politicians and decision makers in African countries on chemicals-related MEAs and other non-legally binding instruments on chemicals; professional trainings on specific areas such as the GHS; and public awareness raising activities and priority setting .

4.6.2 Challenges and constraints

A major challenge relates to inadequate awareness of policy makers on the link between sound chemicals management, poverty reduction and sustainable development, to engender the political will and support at

regional and national levels. This results in the lack of integration of chemicals management priorities into sustainable development strategies and efforts and poor synergies with priority sectors such as health and agriculture. Another important constraint is limited resources and capacity to ensure appropriate government action in effective chemicals management, facilitation of necessary regulatory reforms, effective enforcement of legislation and monitoring the use of chemicals. The gross lack of practical guidance and data on the economic impacts of chemicals management are also major constraints. Others include: lack of and access to cleaner production systems and technologies for chemicals and waste management; poor capacity to deal with poisoning and contamination; and poor management of obsolete chemicals, stockpiles and waste.

4.6.3 Lessons learned and the way forward

Sound management of chemicals is essential to achieving sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living of people in all countries and at all levels of development.

Developing an effective chemicals management system requires addressing the specific challenges of Africa. However, an extensive global system for chemicals management already exists. It is important not to duplicate efforts, but to harness synergies and to develop appropriate systems for implementation.

Given the cross cutting nature and developmental impacts of chemicals, analysis should be targeted at understanding the concrete impacts of chemicals on key development issues. This would help in effectively mainstreaming chemicals management into national development strategies, including PRSPs.

As chemical use and production increases, Africa's chemical management institutions, which already have limited resources and capacity, will be further constrained and overburdened. Measures and systems need to be developed to reduce exposure to negative impacts and to reduce human vulnerability, while examining the significant gaps in policy integration and institutional coordination related to implementation of chemicals-related MEAs at the regional, national and local levels.

At the national and regional level, environmental action programmes will need to respond to the challenges of chemicals management. Some of the actions that could be included are emergency response plans and prevention of illegal transboundary movement of chemicals.

Capacity building/enhancement is needed for development and enforcement of legislation, information gathering and dissemination, risk assessment and interpretation, establishment of risk management policy, implementation and enforcement, rehabilitation of contaminated sites, treating poisoned persons and implementing effective education programmes.

4.7 Hazardous wastes management

Hazardous wastes are undesirable, yet inevitable by-product of industrial development and several manufacturing processes. If not properly managed, these wastes may result in substantial adverse human health and environmental effects. However, as hazardous wastes are being generated in increasingly large quantities, and as environmental laws become more stringent in industrialized countries, waste-generating industries tend to frantically search for a "path of least resistance" for the disposal of these wastes. This search has led industries and the governments of developed and industrialized nations to focus on exporting these wastes to developing countries especially sub-Saharan African countries (Olurominiyi, I., 2006).

This trend serves to compound Africa's problems with regard to hazardous wastes management. Africa also produces hazardous wastes, but does not have adequate technical, technological and institutional capacities to manage them in an environmentally sound manner. The priority hazardous waste streams in Africa include healthcare wastes, industrial /petroleum/petrochemical, mining wastes, stock of obsolete pesticides and other chemicals already banned internationally, used oil, used automotive and dry cell batteries, and electronic wastes or e-waste which is a fast emerging issue and a chemical time bomb if not effectively addressed in time. Africa is littered with non-engineered landfill sites and other inefficient means of waste disposal strategies e.g. incinerators with inappropriate air pollution control devices. This has resulted in yearly deaths, estimated at around 20,000. Africa is also littered with contaminated sites. These include dumpsite areas, thermal power plants, polluted rivers, streams and drinking water wells, oil spill sites, oil refineries etc (Basel Secretariat, 2004).

WSSD called for renewal of the Agenda 21 commitment to sound management of hazardous wastes for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment. The JPOI states that countries can achieve this by promoting the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments on hazardous waste. The Plan also calls for the promotion of efforts to prevent international illegal trafficking of hazardous wastes and to prevent damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes in a manner consistent with obligations under relevant international instruments.

4.7.1 Concrete actions taken and progress made

The Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted on the 22 March 1989 in Basel, Switzerland. It aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, management, transboundary movements and disposal of hazardous and other wastes. To date, 47 African countries have acceded to the Convention <http://www.basel.int/ratif/convention.htm>, 21-09-07. Significant progress has been realized in the implementation of the Convention, due to an enlarged scope that now includes patterns of production, product design, technological innovation, and consumer behavior. The Convention has made further progress through consolidation of its control system, legal framework, and operation through improved classification of wastes and refined hazard classification. A regulatory system for the monitoring and control of hazardous wastes has been set up and is displayed in the full text of the Convention.

The Bamako Convention on ban of the import into Africa and the control of transboundary movement and management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, was adopted in 1991, due to concerns that certain provisions of the Basel Convention failed to adequately address their major concerns, notably the absence of a ban provision. This was the reason why African countries did not sign the Basel Convention at the time of adoption. The Bamako Convention recognizes the sovereignty of States to ban the importation and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes into their territories and considers nuclear wastes as hazardous. The Convention came into force on the 22 April 1998. To date, it has either been ratified or acceded to by 23 countries http://www.africa-union.org/Official_documents/Treaties_%20Conventions, 21-09-07. In spite of its significance for African countries in regulating the hazardous waste trade, it has been noted that the ratification and implementation of the Convention has been very slow. The first COP is yet to be held.

An amendment to the Basel Convention was introduced in 1995. This amendment states that Parties which are members of OECD, EC, Liechtenstein are to prohibit immediately all transboundary movements of hazardous wastes destined for final disposal to other States. These States should phase out by 31 December 1997 and prohibit as of that date all transboundary movements of hazardous wastes. A critical factor acknowledged by the Conference of the parties was that transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, especially to developing countries, have a high risk of not constituting environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes as required by the Convention. The Amendment brings the objectives of the Basel

Convention closer to those of the Bamako Convention. This complementarity is one of the main reasons that prompted the OAU to encourage African countries to ratify the Basel Convention after ratifying the Bamako Convention. The amendment is yet to enter into force, but 11 African countries have so far acceded to it <http://www.basel.int/ratif/ban-alpha.htm>, 21-09-07.

The Protocol on Liability and Compensation was adopted in Basel in 1999, during the 10th Anniversary of the Basel Convention. The aim of the Protocol is to provide for a comprehensive regime for adequate and prompt compensation, including reinstatement of the environment, for damage resulting from the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal. The Protocol is yet to enter into force. To date, only eight countries have acceded to the Protocol, seven of which are African countries <http://www.basel.int/ratif/protocol.htm>, 21-09-07.

Other regional initiatives include the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) and the European Union (EU) Treaty on hazardous wastes. The treaty bans the export of hazardous and nuclear waste from the EU countries to the member countries of ACP. The treaty also prohibits the ACP countries from importing these wastes from any other non-EU countries. Also, the ECOWAS resolution calls for specific penalties for those involved in dumping toxic wastes in member countries. Subsequently, member countries such as Ivory Coast adopted a law that specifies up to 20 years in jail and fines up to \$1.6 million for anyone convicted of hazardous waste dumping (Olurominiyi, I., 2006). However, in August 2006, an illegal shipment of toxic waste, which originated from Estonia and carrying 581 tonnes of gasoline cargo residue contaminated with hydrogen sulphide and organochlorines was illegally dumped in Abidjan. The shipment has been linked to several deaths and over 10,000 poisonings (SAICM, 2006).

Parties to the Basel Convention established Basel Convention Regional and sub-regional Centers (BCRCs) to address specific regional or sub-regional needs. The BCRCs deliver training, dissemination of information, consulting, awareness raising activities and technology transfer on matters relevant to the implementation of the Basel Convention and to the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes in the countries they serve. African countries are served by four Centers: Cairo, Egypt for Arab States; Dakar, Senegal, for French-speaking countries in Africa; Pretoria, South Africa for English-speaking countries in Africa and Ibadan, Nigeria which hosts the coordinating center for the Africa Region:

<http://www.basel.int/centers/centers.html>, 21-09-07. The Centers have organized several capacity building activities for on hazardous wastes and chemicals management. NEPAD and the AMCEN have endorsed the use of the BCRCs in Africa for capacity building and the execution of projects on wastes and chemicals, with a view to enhancing the competencies of governments to implement the various Conventions on wastes and chemicals. The supports UNEP-led initiatives aimed at improving synergies among chemicals and wastes related Conventions.

Parties to the Basel Convention recognize the importance of developing strategic partnerships with business and industry and NGOs to support the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management. In this regard, the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention to 2010 was adopted. Activities carried out in Africa in the framework of this Plan include, demonstration of a regional approach for environmentally sound management of PCBS, used oil partnership, biomedical and health care wastes.

The African obsolete pesticide Stockpile Project (ASP) has been established to clean up stockpiled obsolete, catalyze development of prevention measures and build capacity for chemicals-related issues. The project started in 2001 and is supported by FAO, WWF, PAN-UK, the World Bank, the Basel Convention, UNEP Chemicals, UNIDO, UNECA, AU and Crop Life International. The project is envisioned to span between 12 to 15 years and is estimated to cost \$250 million. The implementation began in 2002 with seven African countries, including Ethiopia, Mali, Morocco, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia and Nigeria (ASP, 2002).

International community support

International development partners such as the World Bank, UN Agencies, particularly UNEP and developed countries through bilateral arrangements, have lent support to Africa's waste management initiatives and efforts. The World Bank and the AfDB have funded urban solid waste management projects in many African cities aimed at improving sanitation and primary health care. The four BCRCs in Africa were established with support from UNEP through the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. The Governments of Norway and Sweden are currently funding projects at the BCRCs in Egypt and South Africa. GEF is also funding a project at the BCRC in Senegal. The EU pledged EU 1 million at the Eighth Conference of Parties (COP) of the Basel Convention, held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2006 to support projects on e-waste.

4.7.2 Challenges and constraints

Countries lack adequate institutional, technical and technological capacities to effectively deal with hazardous wastes generated in Africa and to monitor their illegal importation. Countries also lack adequate environmental regulations and standards for the proper design of hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities, thus resulting in the disposal of wastes in environmentally unsound manner. Additionally, there is a general lack of the awareness of the effects of hazardous wastes and their residue. There is also a lack of adequate health care facilities and personnel for adequate diagnosis and treatment of hazardous waste-related health problems.

Poverty is a major constraint to the success of African efforts in the area of Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Waste. Other constraints identified towards achieving environmentally sound management of hazardous waste in Africa countries include: lack of adequate information on the volume, location and sources of hazardous wastes generated; lack of knowledge and skill to identify technologies affordable by African countries for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes; lack of public awareness of the nature of hazardous waste and the danger they pose to their health and environment; lack of political will to put in place appropriate legislation to deal precisely with the issue of hazardous waste management; inability to measure and quantify the level of degradation that has occurred as a result of unsound management of hazardous wastes; and insufficient financial and human resources.

As regards transboundary movements and illegal disposal of hazardous wastes, poverty is a motivating factor. Most African countries have relatively high levels of poverty, low Gross National Product (GNP) and high foreign debt, hence importing hazardous waste as a source of foreign exchange, can be highly tempting. Second, lack of stringency of environmental regulations such as requirement for high performance and health-based standards for the design, siting, and closure of toxic waste disposal facilities, and the low level of implementation of existing policies mean that toxic waste treatment and disposal facilities can be built cheaply and without considerations for adverse human health and environmental effects. Third, the level of corruption in some countries encourages government officials to receive bribes and to surreptitiously import toxic waste into their countries. Fourth, most sub-Saharan African countries lack the technical expertise necessary for the proper identification of both the elements of the imported hazardous waste and its human health and environmental impacts. The exporting companies are aware of this lack of technical expertise on the part of these destination countries; hence they often disguise the hazardous wastes as useful commodities that are relatively harmless (Olurominiyi, I., 2006).

4.7.3 Lessons learned and the way forward

Given the relationship between poverty, community health and hazardous waste disposal, the establishment of hazardous wastes management programmes should aim at reducing poverty, while at the same time protecting the environment.

Additionally, there is need to: obtain adequate finance for the management of hazardous wastes at national and international level; raise public awareness on the existence of hazardous wastes and the effects on human health and the environment to all stakeholders; conduct inventory of sources and volume of hazardous wastes, as well as waste characterization surveys; promote integrated management of hazardous wastes through use of waste minimization and cleaner production technologies; use of efficient, sound and affordable technologies adaptable to African environment; review of relevant legislations and regulation in order to promote efficient management of hazardous waste; ensure that hazardous waste management follow proper management strategy of municipal/ domestic waste; invest in research and development for new technology and waste minimization options for industries through the BCRCs; strengthen BCRCs to improve their service delivery; and domesticate Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) on Wastes and Chemicals.

There is need to develop policies on environmentally sound management of wastes at national, subregional and regional levels under the auspices of NEPAD. These should be supported by national master plans for integrated waste management and for mainstreaming waste management into national development strategies and plans. Environmentally sound management of wastes should include: waste minimization, focusing on the promotion of the “3Rs” – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle; waste to wealth initiatives for poverty reduction; corporate social responsibility; public-private partnerships; and waste stock exchange.

The issue of unregulated and illegal export of hazardous wastes to Africa should receive greater international concern and action. Industrialized countries should implement illegal trafficking controls in their countries in order to assist the different levels of governments to develop and implement strategies that would counter the export of toxic and hazardous wastes and technologies to Africa. Africa should explore the eventual establishment of a regional monitoring and information network, which could be used to alert countries about companies that have a record of previous illegal dumping activities. The network could also be used as a clearinghouse to be consulted by countries before issuing import permits for hazardous wastes, thereby minimizing the illegal export of hazardous wastes to Africa.

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