

# **Regional Coordination Mechanism**

## **Annual Progress Report for Cluster 4: Environment, Population and Urbanization**

### **1 Introduction and overview**

The environment, population and urbanization Cluster is convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since mid-2009, prior to which it was convened by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHABITAT). It deals with crosscutting and sectoral issues and assists the AU Commission and other African organizations in the implementation of their environmental population and urbanization policies. In addition to the traditional individual efforts of the cluster members, there is a drive to increase joint projects and collaborative efforts in support of the African Union (AU) and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme.

The members of the Cluster are UNECA, IOM, IMO, NEPAD, UNEP, UN-HABITAT, WHO, UNESCO, UNFPA and WMO. The objectives are to address the challenges of growing populations and movement of people; rapid growth of towns; environmental degradation and pollution; and the lack of demographic statistics.

The following report outlines the activities of the Cluster over the past year, in particular highlighting efforts made to implement the decisions of the 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) meeting in November 2008. In this regard, Cluster 4 was mandated to spearhead a particular focus on climate change. The report on the Cluster's activities and their results form the basis for the development of a new Business Plan, which will be presented to the 10<sup>th</sup> RCM in November 2009.

### **2 Political premises for work of the cluster**

#### ***a) Taking stock of the RCM-9 report and recommendations***

The key decisions of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RCM, in October 2008, provide the overall framework for the work of Cluster 4. These decisions were as follows:

R.1 Increase UN coordination in addressing the food crisis challenge in Africa

R.2 UN Support to Climate-related Actions at the Regional Level

R.3 Strengthen coordination and collaboration between UN agencies and African organizations and among UN agencies at the regional and sub regional levels to ensure that the objective of delivering as one is met

R. 4 Strengthen efficiency and effectiveness of cluster system

R. 5 Institutionalize sub-regional coordination of UN support to the AU and its NEPAD Programme

R.6 Mobilize Resources and Enhance Capacity.

Meetings and joint activities of the Cluster members subsequent to RCM 9 have been guided by these recommendations.

## ***b) African Union and United Nations Policy Context***

### **i. African Union Strategic Plan**

The African Union has shifted focus from supporting liberation movements in the erstwhile African territories under colonialism and apartheid to an organization spearheading Africa's development and integration. Drawing from its mandate, stakeholder expectations and SWOT analysis, the Commission has identified four broad intervention areas or Strategic Pillars around which its priorities have emerged and its programmes for the next four years will be developed. These are Peace and Security, Integration, Development and Cooperation, Shared Values, Institution and Capacity Building.

### **ii. NEPAD STRATEGY: Environmental Action Plan for the First Decade of the 21st Century**

NEPAD calls for the development and adoption of an environment initiative - a coherent action plan and strategies - to address the region's environmental challenges while at the same time combating poverty and promoting socio-economic development. The Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD covering the first decade of the twenty-first century, is a response to the following challenges: combating land degradation and desertification, conserving Africa's wetlands, prevention, control and management of invasive alien species, conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources, combating climate change in Africa and trans boundary conservation or management of natural resources.

### **iii. UN Policy Statements**

**UN-HABITAT:** At UN-HABITAT, climate change issues are a complementary dimension of the international debates on the predominantly urbanizing world. This is due to the realization that urbanization brings about irreversible changes in our production and supply patterns. Low- and middle-income nations now have three-quarters of the world's urban population. They also have most of the urban population at greatest risk from the increased intensity and/or frequency of storms, flooding, landslides and heat waves that climate change is bringing or will bring. In response to these challenges UN-Habitat has launched two initiatives: (i) the World Urban Campaign designed as a global advocacy tool to promote sustainable urbanisation; (ii) "Cities in Climate Change Initiative", designed to support local action and promote concrete adaptation measures in collaboration local authorities.

**UNEP:** with regard to climate change UNEP is gearing efforts to ensure that African countries are able to adapt to the impacts of climate change by reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience in sectors of national priority. Ecosystem management efforts aim towards increasing the capacity of countries and regions to realign their environmental programmes and financing to address degradation of selected priority ecosystem services is strengthened. UNEP is also involved in ensuring the reduction of environmental health hazards as a result of inappropriate use and disposal of harmful substances and hazardous waste in Africa.

**UNFPA:** as the leading multilateral agency on population and reproductive health, UNFPA plays a crucial role in making sure that population-poverty linkages and the ICPD rights-based agenda are integrated into national and international development

and poverty-reduction plans. To achieve its ambitious goals, UNFPA works in alliance with governments, other development partners and civil society to marshal a broader base of resources and support for key population policies and programmes.

**WMO:** WMO is dedicated to provide leadership in developing and maintaining the WMO Quality Management Framework for meteorological, hydrological, marine and related environmental data, products and services to improve protection of life and property, increase safety on land, at sea and in the air, contribute to sustainable economic growth and protection of the environment.

**IOM:** according to IOM the Key Principles for Policy Making on Migration, Climate Change & Environmental Degradation should involve Comprehensive and Coherent Policies, cooperation and Partnerships; Proactive Policy Making and Policy Dialogue. In this regard, IOM addresses the linkages between the environment and human settlement and population movement from a human mobility perspective. To achieve this goal, IOM released a global policy brief on Migration, Climate Change and the Environment in May 2009. This policy brief presents key information and analysis on the interplay between migration, climate change and the environment. Furthermore, the policy brief outlines the complex nexus that exists between the three issues and the differing impacts they bring on the economic and social development of societies.

**IMO:** As the UN body with mandate for protection of the marine environment, IMO has been concerned on the status of preparedness for combating and mitigating marine environment disasters in Africa. Have through its Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme come with designed programmes to assist the countries on their response preparedness for marine pollution emergencies. On climate change, the Organization realises that African trade is mainly carried by ships (90%) and that the ships do contribute to greenhouse gases emission thus has undertaken initiatives for reduction of greenhouse gases by international shipping, it has made significant progress in developing measures to enhance the energy efficiency and addressing CO<sub>2</sub> emission from ships which will be culminated in its presentation at the UN conference on climate change in Copenhagen.

**WHO:** The 61<sup>st</sup> World Health Assembly adopted Resolution WHA 61.19 requesting the Director General to strengthen cooperation with relevant UN agencies in order to raise awareness on the impact of climate change including health, to engage with the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme and to consult with member states to develop a plan of action. The WHO further undertook regional consultations including for the African region and prepared the WHO plan of action for climate change. The plan of action is articulated around 4 main objectives that focus on advocacy and awareness raising, partnerships with other UN agencies, generation of scientific evidence and strengthening of health systems. The Plan of action was further considered and adopted by the 62<sup>nd</sup> World Health Assembly in May 2009.

### ***c) African common position on climate change***

African environment ministers met in Nairobi from 25 to 29 May 2009 at the special session on climate change of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to develop a common African position on the comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012. The following indicative outline covers the two implementation areas of adaptation and mitigation supported and enabled by finance, capacity-building and technology.

Adaptation

Three broad areas of work were identified:

- (a) Disaster reduction and risk management: including early warning, preparedness, emergency response and post-disaster recovery;
- (b) Sectoral planning and implementation: adaptation in key sectors including water, agriculture, coastal zones, health, infrastructure, biodiversity and ecosystems, forests, energy, urban management and tourism, taking into account the cross-sectoral implications;
- (c) Building economic and social resilience through the diversification of economies to reduce dependence on climate-sensitive sectors, including through the use of indigenous knowledge and practices and the strengthening of community organizations.

#### Mitigation

To implement sustainable development policies and mitigation measures in Africa, with special emphasis on the development of indigenous and local communities, women and children in Africa, the following key areas of mitigation work were identified: energy sector, reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, land use, land-use change and forestry and using and maximizing opportunities from the international carbon market.

#### ***d) UN Ten year capacity building programme for the AU***

The Declaration on enhancing United Nations–African Union cooperation signed in November 2006, by the then – chief executives of the two organizations established the Framework for the United Nations Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the AU. The Framework is based on AU needs and strategic priorities and provides the overall United Nations strategic framework for cooperation with AU. The Declaration calls for aligning the support of United Nations agencies and organizations for NEPAD with the Framework. With regard to human settlement and mitigation the UN proposed close collaboration on development and implementation of policies that address the nexus between migration, forced population displacement and development.

### **3 Strategic framework for regional cooperation**

The strategic framework for the Cluster is guided by the recommendations emanating from RCM-9.

Under Recommendation 1: Increase UN coordination in addressing the food crisis challenge in Africa, the Cluster should serve to link environment, population and urbanization issues, with a unique focus on the demand side of the environmental and food crisis. As a Cluster it will address issues such as how rapid urbanization in Africa is a driver of the food crisis through: reduction in percentage of population feeding themselves, need for increased agricultural productivity; reduction in available farm land, population pressures on agricultural productivity, etc.

Similarly under Recommendation 2: UN Support to Climate-related Actions at the Regional Level, the Cluster will link the relevant issues on climate pressures on food security; urbanization and climate change/adaptation; support to the African Common Position, etc.

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the RCM recognized the grave danger posed by climate change to the fragile economies of African countries in particular and to the world as a whole, and

readily embraced the call by the United Nations Secretary-General for the United Nations system to play a major and vanguard role in addressing this global challenge. The RCM was apprized of a number of initiatives and steps already developed or put forward by African political leaders and stakeholders towards meeting the challenges of climate change in Africa. The RCM was also informed of a major multi-stakeholder project, the African Climate Policy Centre, to be based at ECA, designed to provide policy, analytical and capacity-building support to African countries on climate change. The RCM took cognizance of all these planned and ongoing efforts, and resolved to mainstream climate change issues into the work and activities of all the clusters of the RCM. The cluster on environment, population and urbanization was entrusted with the responsibility of catalyzing and coordinating the RCM interventions and support in this area, in close collaboration with the African climate policy centre. ECA was also entrusted with the responsibility of reporting to the United Nations Chief Executives Board on behalf of the RCM on climate change matters.

By capitalizing on the above synergies, the Cluster will accentuate the added value of the cluster system. In order to support effect work in addressing these issues jointly, Cluster 4 will enhance its capacity and effectiveness in the process of implementing the remaining recommendations of RCM-9.

**Recommendation 3:** Strengthen coordination and collaboration between UN agencies and African organizations and among UN agencies at the regional and sub regional levels to ensure that the objective of delivering as one is met – members of the Cluster recognize that delivery has been difficult in this area, but will launch several new joint initiatives under its Business Plan that will aim to address such constraints.

**Recommendation 4:** Strengthen efficiency and effectiveness of cluster system – will be addressed through consolidation of support structures for the Cluster, including establishment of a Secretariat, and enhancing effective collaboration with regional bodies such as AMCEN, AMCOST, AMCHUD, AMCOW, and within the UN System, the RDTs.

**Recommendation 5:** Institutionalize sub-regional coordination of UN support to the AU and its NEPAD Programme – needs to be addressed in a similar manner to recommendation 4.

**Recommendation 6:** Mobilize Resources and Enhance Capacity – the Cluster recognizes the difficulty of joint resource mobilization – agencies have their own fundraising and reporting systems; mechanism are needed for joint contributions; Cluster to prepare a joint proposal in collaboration with NEPAD.

## **4 Activities of Cluster 4 in implementing recommendations of RCM-9**

### ***a) Overview of activities***

Preparation and adoption of Three-Year Business Plan: There is substantial cooperation among UN organizations and between them and relevant AUC departments, but this needs to be captured in a formalized Business Plan. For purposes of AUC participation, the DREA is a major entry-point but elements of the cluster's programme entail participation by other departments such as the Department of Social Affairs (e.g. for

population, urbanization, migration, health and environment), and the Department of Science and Technology (e.g. for bio-safety, chemical conventions, and regional seas).

***b) Meetings of Cluster 4***

<b>Meeting Details</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Follow-up</b>
28 May, 2009 Nairobi	initiate a process for streamlining Cluster-4 operations	Plan to develop roadmap on climate collaboration, and business plan	
12 <sup>th</sup> August 2009 Nairobi	Taking stock of progress made by cluster 4 members following 8 <sup>th</sup> RCM recommendations	Progress reports made available for working session for RCM agencies scheduled for 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2009	Hiring a consultant to work on draft report and business plan
28 August 2009 Teleconference Nairobi	Key issues and messages to focus on and time line for preparation of cluster 4 report	The report should include overall achievements, constraints and collaboration among various agencies	Consultant hired and briefed on areas to focus on for the draft report and business plan
27 October 2009 Teleconference Nairobi	Preparation for the next RCM meeting scheduled for 4 November 2009	Consensus by members on the final report to the RCM Secretariat and exhibition during the RCM Meeting.	Circulation of draft report on UN support to climate actions

Activities Matrix (annex I)

**5 Inter-cluster cooperation**

WHO and UNEP facilitated the first joint meeting of health and environment ministers, whose output had already been fed into the current AMCEN Special Session. The two were also working together to support the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Environment Outlook focusing on Health and Environment.

ECA in collaboration with UNDESA, UNEP and UNIDO is preparing and organizing the Africa RIM for CSD-18, the desired outcome being the Africa RIM Statement to CSD-18 that clearly articulates Africa’s priorities in regard to the implementation of commitments relative to the thematic cluster of issues under consideration.

ECA, UNEP and UNIDO are working on the production of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Issue of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA), expected outcomes being increased advocacy to accelerate progress towards sustainable development in Africa and increased awareness on the challenges of rapid urbanization and the need for well planned and systematic urban transition. The expected publication date is December 2009.

Under their joint programme on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) UNIDO and UNEP are coordinating professional development sessions in October 2009 for National Cleaner Production Centres/Programmes (NCPCs/NCPPs). The process will discuss status and achievements of pilot initiatives on good practices for organization, management and governance of NCPCs (with inputs from NCPCs in inter alia, South Africa and Tanzania) and enterprise level resource productivity and environmental performance indicators and monitoring (with inputs from inter alia Kenya). 'Open spaces' for informal thematic discussions have also been set up to enable and intensify the sharing of experiences and knowledge of participants, and identify potential joint interests and activities.

The UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) is a joint programme to provide financial and technical support to countries to build capacity for mainstreaming poverty-environment linkages into national development planning processes, such as PRSP's and MDG Achievement Strategies. The initiative has been assisting Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Based upon experience over the past few years in assisting countries in Africa and Asia to launch sustainable programmes to mainstream poverty-environment in to national development plans, budget processes and sector implementation programmes, UNDP and UNEP have launched an effort to scale-up the PEI significantly and to work closely with key donors and other partners to expand the effort to other countries and regions. An increased number of country programmes will be supported by joint UNDP-UNEP regional teams and by the headquarters of the two organizations.

## **6 Results achieved**

### ***a) Overview of achievements of Cluster 4***

The environment, population and urbanization Cluster is convened by UNEP. It deals with crosscutting and sectoral issues and assists the AU Commission and other African organizations in the implementation of their environmental population and urbanization policies. Support to AU/NEPAD is provided through individual United Nations agencies, while cluster efforts are underfoot to increase collaborative actions and joint projects and programmes. During the last meeting of the cluster organized in Nairobi, members exchanged views on progress made so far in consolidating collaboration among them. The cluster, particularly the UNEP and ECA, was instrumental during the ninth meeting of the RCM in the discussion of issues related to climate change.

### ***b) Results of joint collaboration with AU, NEPAD and RECs by Cluster 4***

Support is being provided by the Cluster to the AU on facilitating the implementation of Multi-lateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) by AU member states and regional bodies. The objective is to strengthen the capacities of AUC and RECs to execute their mandates in relation to MEA implementation on the continent. UNEP is the overall coordinator and facilitator for the MEAs project, and provides technical back-up to the project staff.

WMO is working closely with RECs in the implementation of Meteorological and Hydrological Programmes. In this regards, strategic partnerships have been established between WMO and: EAC, SADC, ECOWAS. In SADC, WMO played a key role in the establishment of Meteorological Association of Southern Africa (MASA), which is the platform of development of meteorology in SADC Region. WMO has been overseeing

and facilitating implementation of the SADC-HYCOS Project, mainly through providing technical and scientific backstopping. As the custodian of the WHYCOS, WMO has been providing critical technical service to guide the SADC Water Sector on the implementation of the Project. WMO is also implementing the Flash Flood Guidance System Project for Southern Africa, in collaboration with SADC. In East African Community, action has already commenced to establish the EAC Meteorological Society. In collaboration with ECOWAS, WMO is implementing several programmes to strengthen the capacities of Meteorological and Hydrological Services and also enhance the data base for Climate Monitoring. This includes executing and supervising implementation of the Volta-HYCOS and Niger-HYCOS respectively.

The Thirteenth Ordinary Summit of the African Union of July 2009 requested the AUC in collaboration with ECA, UNEP and other regional actors to support African RECs and member States to implement measures to address climate change. It also requested these bodies to mobilize resources to address climate change in the region.

ECA in collaboration with the Trade & Economics Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) organized a capacity building workshop for the East African Community (EAC), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and their member states, to strengthen their capacity to formulate coherent trade and environment policies.

UN-HABITAT produced the State of African Cities 2008 report in collaboration with UNECA, UNEP and IDRC. The report, sub-titled "A framework for addressing urban challenges in Africa", takes stock of trends in urban growth, including growing and shrinking cities. It discusses urban inequality and slums and the risks African cities are exposed to, as well as the new urban trends. It concludes with key policy recommendations, including those germane to promoting the role of African cities in the globalized economy.

UNFPA is currently involved with the AUC-led Report on the State of African Population: Climate Change and the Implications of Population Dynamics, to which UNEP and UN-HABITAT provided technical inputs.

In September 2009 IOM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP. The MOU pledges closer cooperation between IOM and UNEP in the field of climate change, the environment and migration. Areas of intervention include:

- Developing and enhancing policy and operational coherence and planning at the national and international levels
- Joint research and exchange of information on the links between climate change, environment and migration
- Build the capacity of governments and other relevant stakeholders to respond effectively to the challenges presented by the cross-section between climate change, environment and migration
- Develop and implement joint programmes in the area of climate change, environment and migration
- Develop and implement environmentally-sustainable migration management programmes, including in crisis migration management and long-term solutions

UNEP, IOM and OCHA have developed and are implementing a joint project on the effects of climate change on migration. They are planning to develop an initiative on migration in the IGAD Region after the issue was tabled at the IGAD Partners' Forum.

***c) Results of collaborative action with AU, NEPAD and RECs by individual Cluster Members***

UN-HABITAT has been working in close partnership with NEPAD since the latter's inception in 2001. This partnership was further strengthened through a second phase collaboration agreement for the NEPAD Cities Programme. The main areas of focus of the partnership between UN-HABITAT and NEPAD include: Advocacy and awareness building of the issues and challenges associated with rapid urbanisation; Promoting policies and strategies at the regional and national levels to face the above challenges; Implementing pilot initiatives at the country level upon the request of member States; Mobilising resources to bring pilot initiatives to scale.

WMO Collaboration with African Union in the implementation of the ClimDev initiative and African Monitoring for the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) programme will result in improved data availability and value added in climate services which will in turn contribute to socio-economic development in Africa.

The First Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology organized by WMO and the African Union will be a milestone in the recognition of Climate as a development tool.

WHO and UNEP facilitated the first joint meeting of health and environment ministers, in Libreville, Gabon. In November 2008 they established a Joint Task Team to coordinate support for the implementation of the Libreville Declaration on health and environment in Africa which resulted in a roadmap for implementation of the Libreville Declaration, including guidelines for situation analysis, needs assessment and technical support to two countries to undertake situation analyses and joint resource mobilization efforts.

UNEP and UNESCO established the Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities Partnership Programme (MESA). The first biennial International MESA Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2008. The objectives of the conference were: to consider how universities are responding to environment, development and climate change challenges; to enhance policy relevance of African university programmes; to contribute to the revitalization of African universities; and to provide a platform for collaboration on change responses and North/South, South/South dialogue on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) best practices. Some of the key outcomes from the meeting included: identifying where African universities should develop an African research agenda on environment and development challenges (including climate change adaptation and mitigation) that can inform, draw upon and mobilise African indigenous knowledge and other knowledge systems; promoting and enabling student participation where universities in Africa should provide opportunities for students to engage in sustainable development and climate change problem solving activities that are viable within their universities and communities.

The UNEP/UNESCO/BMU (The German Federal Ministry for the Environment's Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety) International Post-graduate Training Programme on Environmental Management for Developing and Emerging Countries inaugurated in 1977 continues to be one of UNEP's oldest and well-organized flagship programmes in environmental education and training.

UNFPA is working on the African continental review of progress made in implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD. The expected ministerial endorsement of the review's conclusions will influence strategic priorities for the next five years.

In May 2009 IOM developed a policy brief presenting an analysis on the interplay between migration, climate change and the environment. In particular, the document looks into:

- Information Sharing, joint initiatives, Partnerships in early warning mechanism, joint publishing of research studies.
- Raise policy and public awareness of the need for concerted action to address the challenges presented by the climate change, environmental degradation and migration nexus.
- Support further research to improve the knowledge base regarding the complex relationships between climate change, environmental degradation and migration in terms of cause and consequence, long-term as well as short-term patterns.
- Develop policy coherence at national and international levels by mainstreaming environmental and climate change considerations into migration management policies and practice, and vice-versa, and by strengthening linkages with other relevant policy domains, such as development and humanitarian action
- Displacement and facilitating the role of migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change by, for instance, developing temporary and circular labour migration schemes with environmentally-vulnerable communities.
- Minimizing forced advanced stages of environmental degradation, and seeking to strengthen the developmental benefits of such migration for areas of origin.

#### ***d) Support to development of the African Common Position on Climate Change***

A good example of concerted UN engagement of RCM in the Climate Change Agenda was their presence at the AMCEN Special Session in May 2009 in Nairobi (members present included; ECA, WHO, WMO, UNFPA, UNEP, WFP and AUC). ECA and UNEP have made substantial inputs towards the AMCEN push for an African Common Position on climate change. The Commission of the African Union (AUC) was also involved closely in the process and was instrumental in getting the outcome of the Special Session to the AU Summit in July 2009 as mandated by the January 2009 Summit.

In collaboration with AMCEN and the RECs the Cluster members facilitated the development of sub-regional climate projects and plans which were brought together at the continental level in the process of preparing the African Common Position. Capacity building support was also provided to the African negotiating team at continental and sub-regional levels. UNEP-ROA facilitated sub-regional meetings Nairobi (E. Africa), Luanda (Southern Africa), Addis Ababa (for Central and West Africa) and Tunis (N. Africa). In December, 2009, a further AMCEN special session will be convened in the lead-up to the COP15. This meeting will be facilitated by UNEP and UNECA in collaboration with AUC and ADB.

In another partnership, WHO and UNEP facilitated the first joint meeting of health and environment ministers whose output had already been fed into the AMCEN Special

Session. The two were also working together to support the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Environment Outlook focusing on Health and Environment.

The AU Commission (AUC), ECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB) developed and implemented a major plan on climate change and development in Africa the Climate for Development-Africa (Climdev-Africa) Programme. The overall goal of Climdev-Africa is to promote the sustainable attainment of the MDGs and overall sustainable development in Africa. More specifically, the programme sets out to scale up the capacities of key institutions and stakeholders with a view to improving climate-related data and observation, information services, policies, investment processes and risk-management practices in climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, water and other natural resources, energy, and health.

Within the framework of ACPC and with support from the UK Department of International Development (DFID), ECA has been supporting Africa's preparations towards Copenhagen, in partnership with UNEP. In order to ensure well-informed and targeted interventions, ECA engaged with the negotiators at various international and regional meetings with a view to better understanding the issues under negotiations and the concerns and issues at stake for Africa. The meetings include; Accra (August 2008), Algiers (November 2008), Poznan (December 2008) and Bonn (March & June 2009).

On 31 August – 4 September 2009, WMO organized the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) in Geneva attended by 10 Heads of Government/State of which two were from Africa and 3 Vice-Presidents of which two were from Africa, as well as 57 Ministers, 22 of which were from Africa. The high-level segment was co-chaired by H.E. Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of Mozambique. The outcome of the conference through a Declaration was the establishment of Global Framework on Climate Services. This will be a major input to the Copenhagen COP-15 and would also enhance the African position on Climate Change.

In order to bring Climate Services and Products in the forefront of development, WMO will be organizing a Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorological Services in Nairobi, Kenya in March 2010. African Union has accepted to co-partner with WMO in organizing the Conference whose outcomes will be considered by the African Union organs.

WHO and UNEP coordinated support for the Libreville Declaration on health and environment in Africa; cross cutting issues for the declaration included Climate change and other health and environment issues including urbanization.

In June 2009 IOM regional offices (Dakar, Nairobi, Cairo and Pretoria) participated at the IASC led discussion on climate change. The main outcome of the meeting is a general report on climate change which is being compiled by IASC.

From 2008-2009 IOM has been involved with promoting work on migration and environment through various publications and commissioning research. These include: IOM Migration Research Series No. 33 (2008) "Climate Change and Migration: Improving Methodologies to Estimate Flows"; IOM Migration Research Series No. 35 (2008) "Migration Development and Environment" and International Dialogue on Migration No. 10 (2008) "Expert Seminar: Migration and the Environment.

### ***e) Results of support to UN Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU***

The NEPAD and Regional Integration Division (NRID) organized a Symposium on “ECA’s support to the African Union (AU) and its New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) programme” in March 2008 at ECA Headquarters. The purpose was to: share views and have frank and open discussions on how the Commission can best fulfil its mandate to support African countries within the framework of the AU and its NEPAD programme; deliberate on how to strengthen the coordination of UN system-wide support to the AU and its NEPAD programme at the regional and sub regional levels; and provide guidance for a stronger, more coherent and better coordinated Commission-wide effort in support of the AU and its NEPAD programme.

The symposium stressed the need for RECs and other UN agencies to come up with optimal coordination mechanisms in those sub-regions where UN agencies are absent or their presence is minimal, ECA should use the RCM mechanism and liaise constantly with agencies to effectively monitor, follow-up and comprehensively report on progress in the implementation of the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme; the NEPAD Support Section should approach the UN agencies to obtain more information on what they are doing in support of the AU in the context of the Capacity-building programme; and the ECA Executive Secretary to address the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme with the new AUC Chairperson to find out how to implement it.

## **7 Challenges and Opportunities**

A major challenge, which is shared by all clusters, is to revitalize the general cluster system itself. Another challenge is the lack of funding to bring policy and capacity-building activities to scale. Mechanisms are not yet available to facilitate joint resource mobilization or joint budgetary contributions.

UNFPA has found it difficult to link the priorities agreed by the Cluster to the priorities of the AU-UN 10-Year Capacity Building Programme.

A structural challenge for Cluster 4 is that while human settlements and population issues are under the same department of the AUC, environment is under a different one. This means coordination with different departments has difficulties in terms of achieving optimal results through the Cluster. The AUC participation in the cluster work was also minimal.

Delivering as one at regional level is difficult. One recurrent problem is under-reporting of joint initiatives, mainly because these initiatives are not initially conceived in the context of the RCM cluster system and business plan.

## **8 The Way Forward**

Development of the Cluster 4 Business Plan is an urgent priority, as it will provide the framework for future action. The strategic objectives to be addressed in the Business Plan are the following.

***a) Strengthening synergies on environment-population-urbanization action***

The added value of the Cluster – indeed, of the entire cluster system – is to forge a new approach to development through institutionalizing an integrated approach in addressing key issues. In this case, it is to heighten the focus on environmental pressures and opportunities are affected by population and urbanization pressures and opportunities, and vice versa. In particular, this approach will highlight the demand side as a driver of climate change and food insecurity, and how the inter-linkages between these sectoral challenges need to be tackled holistically by all concerned agencies. The cluster will initiate a process to sharpen conceptual understanding of these linkages and identify specific joint initiatives/projects designed to explore promising modalities for such innovative approaches.

***b) Supporting Africa's response to climate change***

Building on the substantial success in joint UN action to support the AU in preparing for the CoP-15 of UNFCCC, the Cluster intends to continue to provide a platform for communication and consolidation of collaborative activities and dialogue to support the AU and NEPAD, as well as the RECs and individual African countries, to ensure a common voice in this highly divisive issue. In particular, the cluster is preparing a roadmap of how UN organizations could undertake a coordinated response to the climate change menace in response to the directive from the Central Executives Board (CEB). This roadmap will be clearly articulated in the Cluster Business Plan. The climate proofing of all UN programmes and coordination among climate change initiatives will be a component of this strategy.

***c) Strengthening engagement with NEPAD and RECs***

Several Cluster members have been undertaking initiatives with NEPAD and the RECs, such as UN-HABITAT's NEPAD Cities Programme and UNEP's support to AMCEN in implementing the NEPAD Initiative on the Environment. However there is a clear need for a more comprehensive and inclusive engagement with NEPAD and to strengthen engagement with the RECs.

***d) Enhancing operational arrangements for joint action***

***i. UN working as one***

This will be addressed through consolidation of support structures for the Cluster, including establishment of a Secretariat, and enhancing effective collaboration with regional bodies such as AMCEN, AMCOST, AMCHUD, AMCOW, and within the UN System, the RDTs.

***ii. Resource mobilization for joint projects under the Business Plan***

Cluster to prepare a joint proposal in collaboration with NEPAD.

***iii. Learn from other clusters on best practices for collaboration***

In implementing the above the Cluster will model its operational structures on the experience of other Clusters where work has been imbedded within existing programmatic and political frameworks under the AU-NEPAD-REC structures.



## Regional Coordination Mechanism

### Activities of Cluster 4: Environment, Population and Urbanization

[To be completed]

Activity type	Activity title	Collaboration with: AU/NEPAD/REC	Collaboration with: UN Agencies	Time frame	Budget and funding source	Cross-cutting focus	Key outcomes
<b>UNECA</b>							
Joint action with UN	Preparation and organization of the Africa RIM for CSD-18		UNDESA UNEP UNIDO	2008/9 Meeting date 27 to 30 October 2009	Agencies' regular budget		Africa RIM Statement to CSD-18 that clearly articulates Africa's priorities in regard to the implementation of commitments relative to the thematic cluster of issues under consideration
	Production of the 3rd Issue of the SDRA		UNEP UNIDO	2008/9 Expected publication date December 2009	Agencies' regular budget		Increased advocacy to accelerate progress towards sustainable development in Africa

Activity type	Activity title	Collaboration with: AU/NEPAD/REC	Collaboration with: UN Agencies	Time frame	Budget and funding source	Cross-cutting focus	Key outcomes
	Production of the Report on the State of African Cities, 2008		UN-HABITAT	2008 Published 2008	Agencies' regular budget		Increased awareness on the challenges of rapid urbanization and the need for well planned and systematic urban transition
	Support to the implementation of AMCEN decisions on climate change	AUC	UNEP	2008/9	Extra budgetary resources provided by DFID to fund interim activities of ACPC		African Common Position on Climate Change adopted and continuously being updated  Framework of subregional climate change programmes prepared
Bi-lateral action with AU	Support to the implementation of AU decisions and resolutions on climate change	NEPAD Secretariat	UNEP	2008/2009	Extra budgetary resources provided by DFID to fund interim activities of ACPC		Endorsement of the African Negotiating Position at the highest political level and the Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change to

Activity type	Activity title	Collaboration with: AU/NEPAD/REC	Collaboration with: UN Agencies	Time frame	Budget and funding source	Cross-cutting focus	Key outcomes
							lead the negotiations at Copenhagen established
<b>IOM</b>							
Joint action with UN	Building community resilience to gradual environmental change in Southern Africa (South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Mozambique)		UNEP	2 years	\$472,000 (not funded)	To contribute to regional and national approaches that aim to strengthen community resilience to gradual environmental change in Southern Africa	Baseline assessment conducted  Institutional capacity strengthened on preparedness and resilience  Knowledge enhanced on relevant climate change adaptation
	Mitigating the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable families in the district of Morrumbala, Mozambique		UN Joint program on Disaster Risk Reduction	2 years	\$1,500,000 (submitted to Donors, not funded)	Strengthening flood-prone community's resilience to natural disasters and food security through the	Beneficiary families farming yields increased  Beneficiary families' capacity to store, preserve and maximize nutritional benefits of food

Activity type	Activity title	Collaboration with: AU/NEPAD/REC	Collaboration with: UN Agencies	Time frame	Budget and funding source	Cross-cutting focus	Key outcomes
						introduction and comprehensive training in new sustainable farming techniques, as well as training on Disaster Risk Reduction.	increased Disaster preparedness and response capacity of communities in flood-prone areas is strengthened. Civil society organizations capacity are improved and strengthened to implement future actions related to livelihoods and risk reduction
Bi-lateral action with AU	The Other Migrants” Reducing Migration Pressure from Gradual Environmental Change – Environment and sustainable development in Madagascar and Mauritius	(Indian Ocean Commission)		12 months	\$ 252,000 (not funded)	Strengthening the capacity of the Governments and the resilience of communities to deal with the challenges of environmental migration	National assessment pertaining to the understanding of the link and implications of climate change and environmental degradation for migration and policy of Establishment of National Steering Committee Implementation of

Activity type	Activity title	Collaboration with: AU/NEPAD/REC	Collaboration with: UN Agencies	Time frame	Budget and funding source	Cross-cutting focus	Key outcomes
							<p>pilot project to for job creation in ecological and environmental sectors</p> <p>Creation of information sharing mechanism and regional workshop to facilitate bilateral and regional cooperation</p>
Region <b>West Africa</b>	Bilateral with the Government of Senegal and local communities						<p>Community involvement</p> <p>Policy influence on sustainable development and increase resilience of affected households</p>
With the government of Mali			UNEP				A study on the relationship between migration and environmental degradation in the Faguibine system
<b>East Africa</b>	Government of Kenya and local						<p>Food security</p> <p>Addressing food</p>

Activity type	Activity title	Collaboration with: AU/NEPAD/REC	Collaboration with: UN Agencies	Time frame	Budget and funding source	Cross-cutting focus	Key outcomes
	communities						security in the North-Western region  Conflict resolution Address small scale conflicts between pastoralist and sedentary communities.
<b>UN-Habitat</b>							
Joint action with UN	Activity #1	Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)	UNEP, UNIFEM, UNECA	June 2006 – Dec. 2011	USD 10,560,863		Tools development, training, documentation and research, country-level support
	Activity #2	Decentralisation and Integrated Local Development	UNDP, UNCDF, UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA, UNESCO, ILO, WHO, UNIFEM and UNHCR, One UN Fund	June 2008 – May 2010	USD 6,476,500		Capacity support, monitoring participatory evaluation
Bi-lateral action with AU	Activity #3	Production of the African Cities Report	UN-ECA	On-going	USD 375,000		Documenting the state of the African Cities and emerging urban development trends

Activity type	Activity title	Collaboration with: AU/NEPAD/REC	Collaboration with: UN Agencies	Time frame	Budget and funding source	Cross-cutting focus	Key outcomes
	Activity #4	Environment Mainstreaming and Adaptation to Climate	UNDP, FAO, UNEP, UNIDO and WFP	Jan. 2008 – Dec. 2010	USD 7,060,000		Local capacity building, climate proofing methodology,
Other action	Activity #5	NEPAD Cities Programme	All	Ongoing		Urbanisation, Climate change	Strengthening the capacities of local governments and municipalities in dealing with issues of the rapid urbanisation and climate change
UNEP							
Joint action with UN	Activity #1						
	Activity #2						
Bi-lateral action with AU	Abidjan Convention cooperated with AU in development of EU/ACP MEAs Programme African Hub Needs Assessment and Prioritization for	AU		July 2009			

Activity type	Activity title	Collaboration with: AU/NEPAD/REC	Collaboration with: UN Agencies	Time frame	Budget and funding source	Cross-cutting focus	Key outcomes
	Eastern, Central and Western Africa						
	Activity #4						
Other action	Collaboration with the SWIOFP and ASCLME project						
	Review programmes on integrated coastal management and management effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas		IUCN, WIOMSA				Toolkit on Marine Protected Areas launched
	Maintain Task Forces established under Nairobi Convention and WIO-LaB	Contracting Parties, Sida		From 2004			
	Forum for Academic and Research Institutions	WIOMSA		From 2004			

Activity type	Activity title	Collaboration with: AU/NEPAD/REC	Collaboration with: UN Agencies	Time frame	Budget and funding source	Cross-cutting focus	Key outcomes
	(FARI) in Eastern Africa						
	Operationalize Nairobi Convention Focal Point's office in Comoros and produce National Status Report on Marine & Coastal Environment of Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar	Comoros Ministry of Rural Development, Fisheries, Crafts and Environment (MDRPAE) Kenya National Environment Management Authority, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources; Madagascar Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests (MOEWF),		From 2005	SIDA USD 9200  USD 11400		Operational focal points office and draft national state of coast report produced
UNESCO							
Joint action with UN	Activity #1						
	Activity #2						