

A Contribution of Africa to the  
World Summit on Sustainable Development

# The African Process

for the Development and Protection  
of the Marine and Coastal Environment  
in Sub-Saharan Africa



Africa's marine and coastal environment is of great importance for the peoples of Africa in terms of food, economic security and socio-political stability. The African Process is a mechanism to address the major constraints to sustainable development along Africa's 12,000-km coastline.

ACOPS



## OBJECTIVES

The African Process is a pioneering initiative, implemented as a GEF Medium Sized Project (MSP), focused on (1) identifying the leading causes of degradation of Africa's marine and coastal resources, and (2) determining the most effective environmental, institutional, and financial projects to address them.

The African Process provides an opportunity for a wide range of regional and international partners to work with local stakeholders on projects with a high degree of national ownership. It actively engages the private sector, setting the scene for the development of public-private partnerships based on jointly developed proposals.

The African Process will contribute to the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which will define the way forward to sustainable development in Africa.

The African Process has five principal objectives:



To identify areas, sites or living resources that are either suffering measurable degradation (i.e. hot-spots) or threatened with future degradation (sensitive areas) and to determine, through root-cause analysis, the leading causes of these impacts, taking into consideration scientific, technical and socio-economic factors.

To design a programme of interventions, including demonstration projects and pre-investment studies, addressing problems of regional priority. Some projects are regional in scope, and focus on groups of countries united by geographic location or identified common problems. Site-specific projects of priority for the participating countries are also included.

To strengthen existing regional institutions, in particular the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions, and to establish synergies with relevant programmes and projects.

To provide a framework for facilitating the mobilization of resources for the sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment, given that available funds for such projects are very limited.

To produce a self-sustaining model that can be replicated in other regions or thematic areas in order to develop interventions that contribute to the goals of sustainable development.

## THE GEF MSP FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Technical implementation of the African Process was launched through a GEF Medium Sized Project (MSP) that is currently progressing from an analytical phase to the development of concrete and targeted project proposals.

**Implementing Agency:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

**Executing Agency:** Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS)

**Partner Organizations:** Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and the Co-ordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Pollution (GPA)

## METHODOLOGY

The GEF-MSP project consists of two phases that progressively identify the most feasible and tractable options for addressing key environmental issues, on the basis of a comprehensive analysis that uses existing information and data.

**PHASE I.** Eleven national multidisciplinary teams carried out assessments of the causes of degradation of the coastal and marine environment in their countries from October 2000 to September 2001. Focusing on hot spots and sensitive areas, they analysed identified impacts on the basis of their severity, taking into account environmental and socio-economic considerations.

A causal chain analysis then revealed the underlying pressures and drivers of these problems. Project proposals were made on the basis of this work, and were therefore able to identify those interventions that are most effective and sustainable. This work is contained in eleven national reports, available on ACOPS' website.

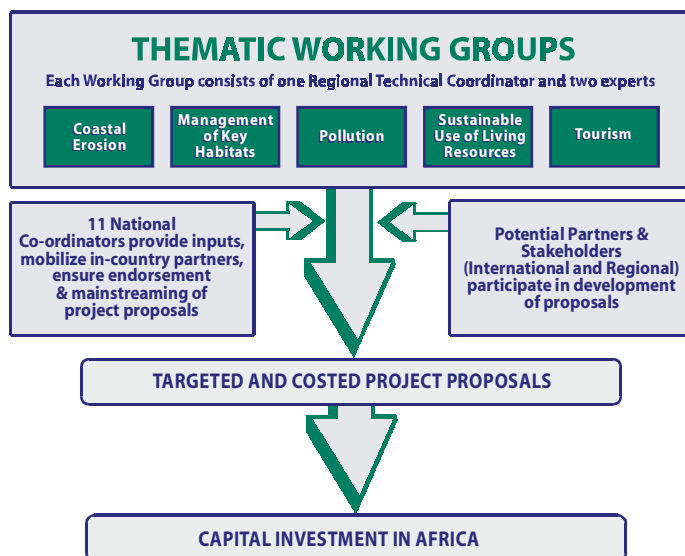
**PHASE II.** Project proposals are being developed on the basis of the results of Phase I.

Five themes were defined by the national teams as the priority areas for project development:

- coastal erosion
- management of key ecosystems and habitats
- pollution
- sustainable use of living resources
- tourism.

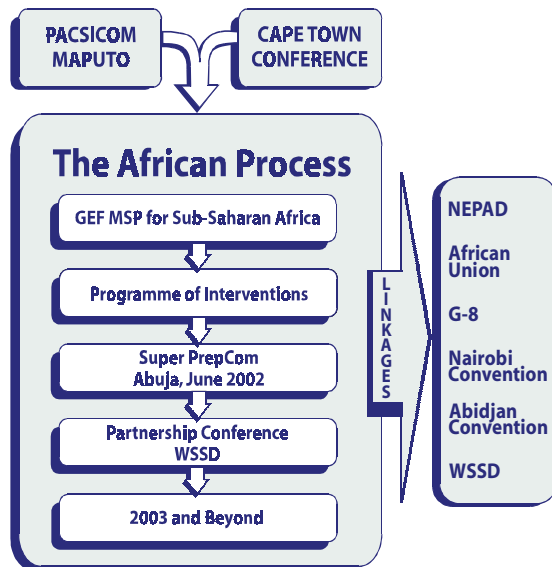
Five working groups, each led by a regional coordinator assisted by two experts with multidisciplinary backgrounds, will spearhead the development of project proposals. These teams will liaise with country coordinators in each of the eleven countries. All these experts are African.

This methodology can be applied to other thematic areas or geographical regions. It is a self-replicating process that confers greater sustainability to projects, develops strong in-country ownership, and mainstreams project results into relevant institutional, regulatory and budgetary frameworks.



## TIMELINE

- 1998 The African Process is the result of a merger of two initiatives: the Pan-African Conference on Sustainable Integrated Coastal Management (PACSIKOM) held in Maputo, Mozambique in July 1998, and the Cape Town Conference on Development and Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment in sub-Saharan Africa, held in December 1998.
- October 2001 The first generation of project development was launched in eleven sub-Saharan countries: Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Seychelles, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania, a representative group that includes countries of West and East Africa, island states, Francophone and Portuguese-speaking nations, and Parties to both the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions. It covers a diverse range of coastal landscapes, ecosystems and socio-economic conditions.
- June 2002 The Programme of Interventions, including a portfolio of projects, developed through the GEF MSP for sub-Saharan Africa will be endorsed at a final 'Super' Preparatory Committee (Super Prep Com) for the Partnership Conference, to be held in Abuja, Nigeria, 17-19 June, hosted by His Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo.
- September 2002 The Partnership Conference of the African Process will be held at the level of Heads of State during the WSSD (Johannesburg, 26 August – 6 September 2002) at which the Programme of Interventions will be presented.
- 2003 A second generation of the African Process will be launched to enable other African countries to participate and address additional priority issues.



## CONTACTS

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