

## Policy Brief



CO-OPERATION THAT COUNTS

ACP MEAs



# The use of AMESD services to report on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

## Scope of the Brief

The Policy Brief presents the main activities of the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) Program and the EC-ACP Capacity Building Program on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs Program) and determines how AMESD services and products can be used to report on MEAs. The ultimate objective is to strengthen the capacities of policy makers in the Regional Economic Communities and Member States of the African Union to implement more adequately and effectively their obligations and commitments under global and regional environmental agreements. Two specific AMESD Services - BDMS<sup>1</sup> “Drought” Service and ICPAC<sup>2</sup> “Natural Habitat Monitoring” Service and two related Conventions - UNFCCC<sup>3</sup> and the Maputo Convention<sup>4</sup> – are showcased for such Brief.

## Introduction to AMESD Program

The African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (**AMESD**) is a **Partnership** between the African Union Commission, the 5 African Regional Economic Communities, RECs (CEMAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, IOC, SADC) and the European Union. The main purpose of the program is to increase the information management capacity of African regional and national Institutions in support of decision and policy makers at national and regional level and to facilitate sustainable access to Africa –wide environmental information derived from Earth Information Technologies and data.



AMESD was launched in 2007 and is scheduled to run until mid-2013. The program is **supported by the European Commission** through the European Development Fund and covers the 48 ACP African Countries in the five RECs. AMESD is coordinated by the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa.

<sup>1</sup> Botswana Department for Meteorological Services

<sup>2</sup> Institute for Climate Prediction and Application

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change

<sup>4</sup> The Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Each REC designated an Institution in its area of jurisdiction called Regional Implementation Center (RIC). **Five Regional Thematic Actions** (THEMA) have been established by the RICs to develop appropriate information services. Each RIC develops AMESD products and services, based on Earth Observation data, insitu data and other ancillary data and puts in place regional networks for the dissemination and use of these services at regional and national level. So far, 111 **receiving stations** have been deployed in the five Economic Communities. Furthermore 4 African training centers have been equipped with receiving stations.