



Environmental Change through Capacity Building:

Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific

Capacity-building related to
multilateral environmental
agreements (MEAs) in African,
Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries



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ACP MEAs 2

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ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING: Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific

Capacity-building related to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries

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Contents

Acknowledgement	3
Foreword	5
Programme at a glance	7
Clean-up of obsolete pesticides, pesticides management and sustainable pest management	11
Developing integrated financing strategies for sustainable land management	19
Improving the sound management of chemicals	25
Supporting access to the Clean Development Mechanism and the carbon market	31
Regional hubs	37
Africa hub	37
Caribbean hub	45
Pacific hub	51

Foreword



In order to address some of the world's most complex environmental challenges, countries have built an architecture of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and environmental laws over the past few decades. These international treaties have played and continue to play a critical role in mobilising global efforts to tackle protracted environmental issues that affect us all.

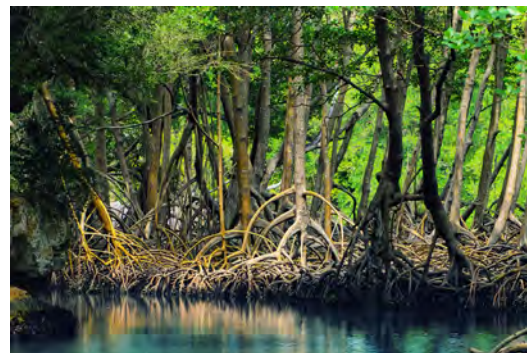
The Montreal Protocol, for example, has been crucial in phasing out 98 percent – about 2.5 million metric tonnes – of ozone depleting substances, which has resulted in the contraction of the Antarctic ozone hole. Such positive news is not only an endorsement of the work of UN Environment but also an example of what can be achieved at the global scale when countries unite to pursue a common goal.

However, the sheer number of MEAs (around 500), with their varying mandates, obligations and expected outcomes presents a challenge to implementing Parties. Despite the ratification and support from countries in taking action to impede environmental degradation, developing countries – especially small island developing states – face considerable challenges in the implementation of these MEAs due to lack of human, institutional, and technical capacity. To address this, UN Environment joined forces with the European Commission and the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and initiated a four year project in 2009 to assist 79 countries to enhance their capacities in implementing certain MEAs at the national and regional level.

The ACP MEAs programme – now in its second phase – aims to build on the successes of its first phase where it formulated successful partnerships with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UN Environment DTU Partnership, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification - Global Mechanism, African Union Commission, Caribbean Community Secretariat, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme – reflecting the far-reaching mandate of the programme. We hope that this publication not only illustrates some of the success stories and lessons learnt during the first phase but can also serve as a critical resource for policy makers, development practitioners and those involved in capacity building in the environmental field.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Maruma Mrema'.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Director, Law Division
UN Environment



Programme at a glance

Recognizing that developing countries face considerable challenges in fulfilling their obligations as parties to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) because they lack the capacity to address increasingly complex scientific and technical issues, the African, Caribbean and Pacific multilateral environmental agreements (ACP MEAs) programme was designed to enhance the capacity of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to strengthen their engagement with MEAs.

Programme structure

With an overall budget of €21 million, the first phase of the programme adopted a multi-partner, multi-regional approach. The activities of phase 1 began in March 2009 and ended in 2014. Phase 2 of the programme, known as ACP MEAs 2, is expected to be completed in December 2017.

UN Environment is the overall coordinator and facilitator of the programme, which is divided into the following components:

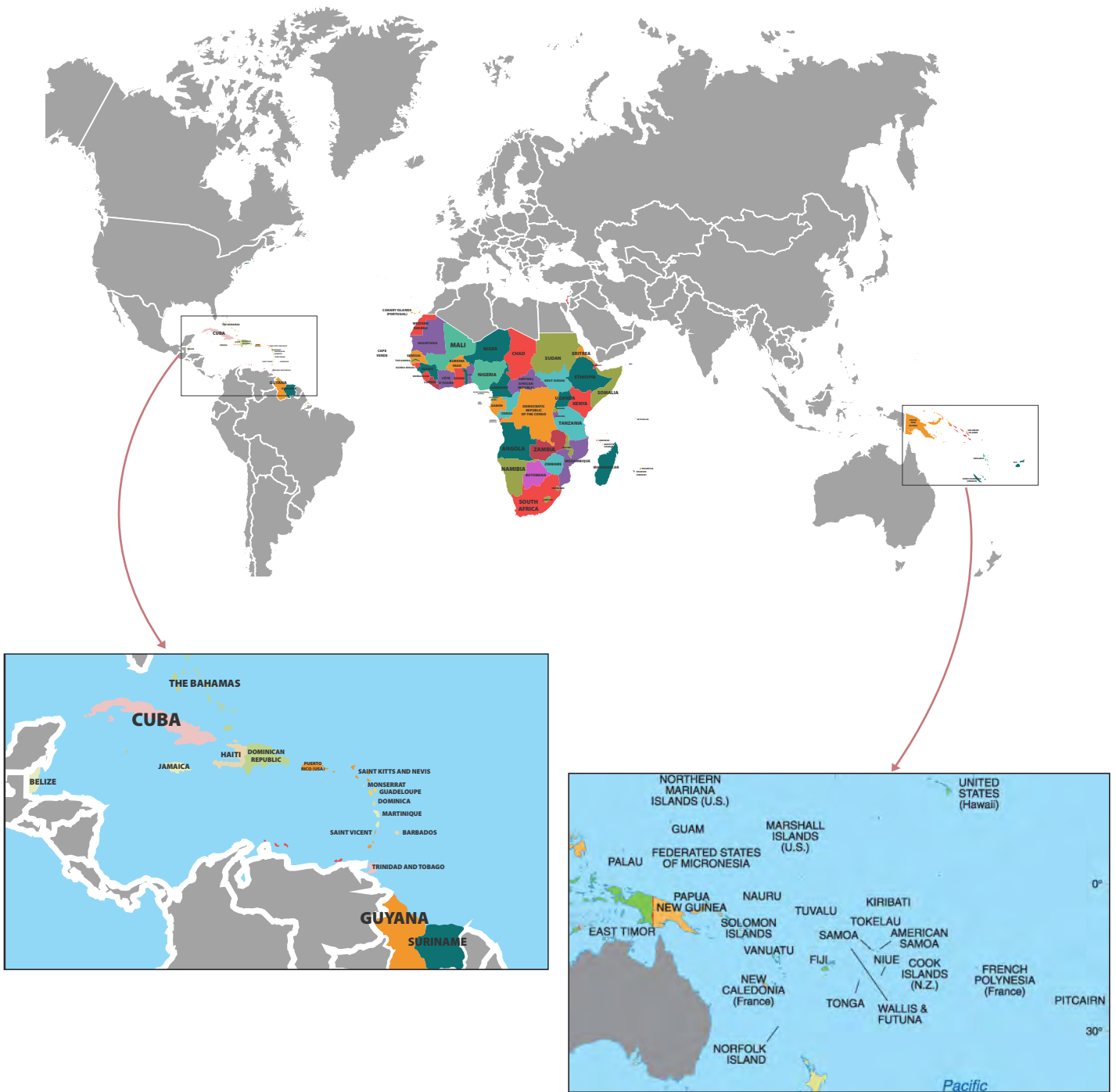
Regional hubs	
Africa	Hosted by the African Union Commission (AUC)
Caribbean	Hosted by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) secretariat
Pacific	Hosted by the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Implementation of specific MEAs	
Combatting Desertification	Executed by United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Global Mechanism (UNCCD-GM)
Sound management of chemicals	Executed by the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) secretariat
Clean-up of obsolete pesticides	Executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Clean Development Mechanism	Executed by UN Environment DTU Partnership)

In the broader context, the aim of the programme is to reduce the adverse effects of, in particular, climate change, biodiversity loss, drought, land degradation, chemicals and waste, and obsolete pesticides, as well as other threats to impoverished populations resulting from environmental degradation. Some of the capacity-building efforts include increasing technical knowledge of MEAs, enhancing the negotiation skills of government officials, enhancing exchange of information and expertise in relevant areas, building adequate institutional frameworks to support the implementation of MEAs.

Angola

- Antigua and Barbuda -
Belize - Cabo Verde - Comoros
- Bahamas - Barbados - Benin - Botswana
- Burkina Faso - Burundi - Cameroon - Central
African Republic - Chad - Congo – Democratic Republic
of the Congo - Cook Islands - Cote d'Ivoire - Cuba - Djibouti
- Dominica - Dominican Republic - Eritrea - Ethiopia - Fiji
- Gabon - Gambia - Ghana - Grenada - Guinea - Guinea-Bissau -
Equatorial Guinea - Guyana - Haiti - Jamaica - Kenya - Kiribati
- Lesotho - Liberia - Madagascar - Malawi - Mali - Marshall Islands
- Mauritania - Mauritius – Micronesia - Mozambique - Namibia -
Nauru - Niger - Nigeria - Niue - Palau - Papua New Guinea
- Rwanda - Saint Kitts and Nevis - Saint Lucia - Saint Vincent and
the Grenadines - Solomon Islands - Samoa - Sao Tome
and Principe - Senegal - Seychelles - Sierra Leone -
Somalia - South Africa - Sudan - Suriname - Swaziland
– United Republic of Tanzania – Timor-Leste -
Togo - Tonga - Trinidad and Tobago
- Tuvalu - Uganda - Vanuatu -
Zambia - Zimbabwe

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries .



Source: Global MAP



Clean-up of obsolete pesticides, pesticides management and sustainable pest management

Implementing partner: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Many developing countries lack sustainable pest management strategies and adequate pesticide control measures, such as import controls, quality control, safe procurement practices and effective stock management and storage. Highly toxic pesticides are still used in many developing countries because they are more readily available than less hazardous products, or because the absence of regulation makes it easy for them to enter local markets, often illegally. Poor pesticide management, excessive pesticide donations during migratory pest emergencies and centralized procurement have led to the accumulation of large pesticide stocks. Moreover, unsound pesticide use poses unacceptable risks to human health and the environment, and is a threat to food security and international trade.

The majority of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries have ratified multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that deal with the management of pesticides and chemicals, such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Most ACP countries also adhere to such voluntary international initiatives as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. These instruments provide a sound framework for the management of chemicals. However, ACP countries require support and assistance with capacity-building and regional coordination to implement and enforce MEAs effectively and

About the partner

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was established in 1945 as a specialized agency of the United Nations with the mandate to fight against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

As part of the FAO strategic objective 2, "Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable", the Plant Production and Protection Division promotes sustainable approaches to agricultural production. It supports initiatives such as the ACP MEAs programme, which aims to reduce the misuse of agrochemicals in production systems; prevent environmental, social and health damages; and build capacity in relation to alternative, ecosystem-based approaches to pest management and agricultural production.

www.fao.org/sustainability

Figure 1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment staff in Samoa completing training in site investigation
©FAO/Kevin Helps



Figure 2. Regional workshop on capacity-building for integrated pest management, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 2012
©FAO



to harmonize them with existing national laws. With assistance from FAO between 2009 and 2013, ACP countries identified over 3,500 tons of obsolete pesticides and contaminated containers and equipment – the equivalent of about 1,000 truckloads – and began to dispose of them. FAO also helped ACP countries to build capacity to manage pesticides safely, thereby facilitating their compliance with MEAs governing pesticides and enabling them to reduce the adverse impacts of pesticides on human health and the environment. The project worked closely with regional institutions to build their capacity to deal with pesticide-related issues and to enforce relevant MEAs. In order to prevent further pesticide accumulation, the project addressed the management of pesticides throughout their life cycle and opportunities for reducing reliance on chemical pesticides, particularly through integrated pest management (IPM).

Scope and partners

The project worked with participating countries to:

- Facilitate the inventory of obsolete and usable pesticides, risk assessment and pesticide registration
- Repackage obsolete pesticides safely
- Contribute to the safe disposal of obsolete pesticide stockpiles
- Improve the management of empty pesticide containers and small pesticide stocks
- Put in place pesticide management policies and strategies
- Reduce the use of pesticides and improve the use of alternatives to conventional chemicals

The project was implemented through engagement with regional and national

Figure 3. Pesticide safeguarding and disposal operations in West Africa ©FAO



partners after careful assessment of the relevance of the activities to country needs.

Pesticide stock management system

To assist countries with the inventory of their pesticide stocks, the Pesticide Stock Management System, a web-based application developed by FAO in 2003, was adapted for use by the project. The system uses indices based on the FAO Environmental Management Toolkit for Obsolete Pesticides to generate health and environmental risk assessments for obsolete stocks. The data are presented in matrices that countries can use to prioritize pesticide stocks for safeguarding and disposal on the basis of risk and geographical location and to identify stores that can serve as collection centres for obsolete pesticides before their eventual export for disposal. The adapted system enables any participating country to upload its national register of approved pesticides, including the crops and pests for which they have been approved. Countries can also upload inspection and

quality-control data. The system allows this information to be shared with other countries, so that regulators can know which pesticides have been approved by other countries and for what purposes, and which pesticides have been restricted or banned.

Pesticide inventory, safeguarding and disposal

Obsolete pesticides inventory, safeguarding and disposal

Working with country teams to develop their skills, the project inventoried obsolete pesticides, empty containers, contaminated equipment and contaminated sites in the majority of participating ACP countries. In Africa, 2,821 tons of obsolete pesticides and 23 priority contaminated sites were identified while in the Caribbean, 231 tons of obsolete pesticides and 12 contaminated sites were identified. In the Pacific, an inventory of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Pacific island countries, undertaken in the 1990s by the Australian Agency for International

Figure 4. Pesticide safeguarding and disposal operations in West Africa ©FAO



Figure 5. Biological remediation of contaminated site in West Africa ©FAO



Development and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), was updated. The new inventory identified only a small quantity of obsolete pesticides in Samoa. The data collected in the ACP regions made it possible to identify and quantify the risk posed by obsolete pesticide stocks and provided the basis for country-level environmental assessment reports and environmental management plans outlining safeguarding and disposal strategies for all waste streams inventoried. By the end of the project, nine countries in the three regions had disposed of their stock, totalling 535 tons in Africa (Benin, Botswana, Kenya, Malawi and Swaziland), 237 tons in the Caribbean (Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) and 2.6 tons in the Pacific (Samoa).

Remediation of contaminated sites

Site-specific risk assessment and remediation of pesticide-contaminated sites were initiated using a methodology developed by FAO in collaboration with Wageningen University in the Netherlands. The risk assessment took into account the nature and scope

of contamination, environmental factors and current and future land-use patterns. Remediation techniques included land farming, containment, phytoremediation, physical and biological barriers and chemical adsorption, with the choice of method dependent on the nature of the contamination and environmental factors. The methods used were cost effective and could be applied locally without investment in sophisticated equipment or specialized training. Remediation of contaminated sites was under way in several ACP countries.

Capacity-building

ACP countries are strongly committed to developing expertise in hazardous waste management and the project included several activities to that end. The project provided training to technical staff and pesticide regulators in the three ACP regions to strengthen registration capacity, which was low in many countries.



We recall well how this project allowed us to better know our land and its surface per crop. We can now better anticipate the expected crop quantities at the end of the season. It is also helpful for organizing crop rotation. We look forward to receiving more training, such as advice for early sowing of corn.

Sambo Oudjo and Saka N'Gobi Orou, smallholder producers (corn, sorghum, soybean and yam) with 12 and 5 hectares, respectively - Mareborou village, Benin.

Diploma in pesticide risk management

A two-year postgraduate diploma programme in pesticide risk management is being offered at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. The objective of the programme is to ensure sustainable, effective and environmentally sound pest and pesticide management in ACP countries. The programme prepares pesticide regulators to manage and regulate pesticides at the national level in accordance with the FAO and World Health Organization (WHO) International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, the key global reference for sound pesticide management practices (revised in 2014). By mid-2014, 22 students from the three ACP regions had obtained the diploma.

Pesticide management policies and strategies

For a sustainable outcome, the project looked beyond the management of existing stocks to analyse the barriers to sustainable pesticide management. Legal experts reviewed national legislation in several participating countries

to promote alignment with international reference standards for sustainable agriculture. Countries in all three ACP regions recognized the need for regional harmonized pesticide registration systems. In West Africa, collaboration with the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) enabled significant advances to be made in this process. Existing national and regional systems in 17 countries in the Sahel and West Africa will be harmonized under a regional Global Environment Facility project. Consultation with country stakeholders also confirmed that harmonization was a priority in the Caribbean and Pacific regions.

Alternatives to pesticides

The project sensitized countries to the need to phase out highly hazardous pesticides that were still used in agriculture. It underlined the need to promote pest-control alternatives, in particular IPM, to reduce reliance on



I remember well when the project team came to my village, Ina. We all went to my fields and measured my plots. It was very positive as it turned out I owned 45 hectares (I thought I had only 35 hectares). From then on, it has been easier to plan my work and how much seeds and fertilizers I need to buy. It also facilitates the implementation of crop rotation and fallow lands practices.

Agueh Mama, farmer (corn, yam, soybean and other crops) - Ina village, Benin.

chemical control, contribute to food security and minimize the risks associated with the use and accumulation of pesticides. In Africa and the Pacific, agricultural practices with higher economic, environmental and social sustainability were promoted through capacity-building on IPM for farmers in Farmer Field Schools.

Networking activities and communication

The project brought together regional organizations and national representatives to share experiences and identify common barriers to the implementation of MEAs. This resulted in the creation of informal networks and discussion forums among pesticide regulators in ACP countries for exchange of information and the development of regional strategies.

Looking ahead

An enabling regulatory and policy framework is necessary to support the most sustainable long-term pesticide management strategy so as to avoid the build-up of new obsolete pesticide stocks. Factors leading to the accumulation of stocks, such as pesticide subsidies, centralized procurement and large, untargeted donations to agriculture and public-health sectors need to be addressed. Investment in IPM should be promoted within the context of sustainable agricultural intensification.



©FAO



Developing integrated financing strategies for sustainable land management

Implementing partner: Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

As a partner in phase 1 of the ACP MEAs programme the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Global Mechanism (UNCCD-GM) was in charge of the sub-component “Combating desertification”. UNCCD-GM streamlines and prioritizes action to build scientific evidence and public awareness; advocates enabling policies; sets standards; mainstreams sustainable land management (SLM) into national socioeconomic development frameworks; and mobilizes resources.

To that effect, UNCCD-GM was involved in promoting multi-stakeholder dialogues at the national level, centered on priority setting and financing for SLM in ACP countries. This approach ensured that SLM became more central to budget and financial resource allocation processes. Understanding and working within domestic budget processes also increased the chances for accessing emerging international financing, in particular climate change financing and resources available for safeguarding food security, and financing for water harvesting and environmentally induced migration. Notwithstanding its focus on Africa, UNCCD-GM aspired to support all developing countries by promoting the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, including through South-South cooperation, given the relevance and potential for replication of such experiences.

Mobilization of financial resources for land-related issues was a challenge as liberalization and privatization policies have led to a sharp decline in public investment in the rural sector over the past 20 years. To address the

challenges related to SLM in ACP countries, UNCCD-GM focused on promoting a common and shared vision of resource mobilization for implementing the Convention; supporting pilot countries in the three ACP regions in developing national integrated financing strategies; enhancing the roles of the regional hubs in coordination and technical support to the ACP countries; establishing regional and interregional South-South partnership platforms to support resource mobilization efforts, manage and disseminate key, up-to-date, financial knowledge and success stories on innovative ways to mobilize resources; and supporting networking of regional experts to foster collaboration, exchange and capacity-building.

In this regard, the goal of the “Combating desertification” sub-component of the ACP MEAs programme was to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders in participating ACP countries through an approach focused on building partnerships on key cross-cutting and horizontal thematic issues to support the implementation of the Convention.

To this end, UNCCD-GM adopted an approach built on:

- Reaching a common understanding of the integrated financing strategy
- Starting activities at the regional level in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific
- Forging strategic partnerships, notably with the UN Environment and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) least developed countries/small island developing States (LDC/SIDS) project
- Strengthening cooperation with the regional hubs, namely African Union Commission (AUC) for Africa, CARICOM secretariat for the Caribbean and SPREP for the Pacific
- Enhancing capacities by creating national multi-stakeholder teams and exploring South-South cooperation opportunities
-

The capacity enhancement and knowledge exchange workshops on designing integrated financing strategies, which were held in the three ACP regions, are part of the global knowledge exchange and capacity enhancement aimed at promoting an integrated approach to resource mobilization for the implementation of the Convention.

Sharing a common vision of SLM financing

In partnership with the UN Environment and UNDP LDC/SIDS project, regional training workshops were organized in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

In September 2011, under the auspices of AUC, a training workshop on the Convention was held for African negotiators. An expert from Benin facilitated the workshop, which welcomed a total of 41 participants from the Africa Group of Negotiators. The expert's experience had a positive impact on the workshop and the negotiators and helped built a strong network of expertise for sharing

knowledge. The Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of AUC also supported the negotiators of the Convention and organized a training workshop in Burkina Faso from 13 to 16 November 2011.

In the Pacific, initial feasibility studies indicated that designing integrated funding strategies was a significant challenge, as Pacific island countries first needed to identify their priorities in relation to the Convention by aligning their national action plans (NAPs) with the 10-year strategic plan for implementation of the Convention. Thus, the interventions took into account priorities and challenges within national contexts. Fiji received support for its NAP alignment process through a series of national interventions focusing on project management training and the designing of integrated funding strategies.

As a result of these capacity-building activities, a common approach to the content and scope of the resource mobilization strategy was adopted in order to support the implementation of the Convention. There were no more individual projects to submit to donors as sustainable land management came to be perceived as a complex, intersectoral and interdisciplinary national process that requires mainstreaming into the national development frameworks. Such a process promoted a hybrid bottom-up/top-down approach with the participation of different categories of actors – from local to national levels – and was accompanied by appropriate coordination platforms and mechanisms, which served as an impetus for the successful implementation of NAPs on the ground.

Knowledge was centred on capitalization of information on financing; exchange of information on financial needs and funding opportunities, including the regional collaboration and leadership on issues and opportunities for funding sustainable land management; and promotion of discussions

among regional actors and international partners on key issues relating to the financing of the rural sector for sustainable land management, sustainable agricultural production, promotion of livestock production and integrated water-resource management.

Capacity-building within the framework of South-South cooperation, the promotion of expertise and specific potentials for upgrading within the community space and the consideration of the differences and complementarities in the three ACP regions and in the countries was carried out. The development finance landscape is characterized by increasingly complex situations, a multiplicity of funding sources and a wide variety of actors. The best approach would be to seek synergies and coherence, integrate actions and establish a consistent arrangement of financial and multi-actor partnerships.

Building South-South partnership platforms

The fruitful discussions between UNCCD-GM and stakeholders during the workshops were extremely useful for prioritizing actions for building relationships, including the development of South-South partnership platforms to increase the efficiency, harmonization and coordination between donor institutions, as set out in the 10-year strategy for the implementation of the Convention. From this point of view, the South-South partnership platforms established with the regional hubs of the ACP MEAs programme promoted the establishment of information monitoring systems on funding opportunities for sustainable land management in dry lands. By its very nature, South-South cooperation is perceived by countries, especially African countries, as an essential factor for endogenous development,



©UNCCD SLM

as recalled appropriately in the Accra Agenda for Action:

South-South cooperation on development aims to observe the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, equality among developing partners and respect for their independence, national sovereignty, cultural diversity and identity and local content. It plays an important role in international development cooperation and is an invaluable complement to North-South cooperation” (para. 19 (e)).

These platforms served as the main reference points and launch pads of all the relevant activities. Since they are lively platforms, case studies, best practices, financing opportunities, project ideas had to be entered on a regular basis in order to stimulate partnership-building and new opportunities for stakeholders in SLM.

In this context, one example of the relevance of the vision and approach of the project is the emblematic Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI). Under this important initiative, which is supported by the European Commission in the framework of the European Union-African Union Partnership, FAO and AUC assumed the responsibility for building the GGSWSSI South- South Partnership Platform for capacity-building and resource mobilization. This recognition at the highest level in Africa of the need for such collaboration was encouraging.

Looking ahead

Before looking ahead, it is important to looking back at the stages of the project to take stock of the challenges. The first and most important challenge related to the involvement of stakeholders in the different processes for the implementation of NAPs and resource mobilization. It was not enough to provide support to countries and subregional organizations in defining common approaches and promoting the setup of platforms for resource mobilization. Rather, it was important to make a consolidated effort to strengthen the capacities of local actors – in particular local authorities – in development planning processes, including natural resource management to ensure sustainability.

This required the organization of specific knowledge management programmes and targeted capacity- building activities. Another challenge related to sustaining the regional South-South partnership platforms and building interregional bridges on common thematic issues relating to SLM financing.

This entailed emphasizing support to existing networks of key actors, such as women and young people, feeding the platform with useful information on financial opportunities and backstopping partnership-building leading to effective financial resource mobilization.

Rural Ecosystems and People of Mauritania ©Mamoudou Lamine Kane.





Improving the sound management of chemicals

Implementing partner: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) secretariat

The overall objective of the “Sound management of chemicals” sub-component is to ensure that, by 2020, chemicals in ACP countries are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

The activities of this sub-component contributed to building the capacities of ACP countries to fulfil their obligations under the chemicals-related MEAs and thereby improve their management of chemicals in different sectors.

This was accomplished through the support of projects under the Quick Start Programme in ACP countries. The 10 projects aimed to develop and strengthen national chemicals management institutions, plans and programmes, and enhance in-country coordination in 20 countries.

A total of 233 project applications were submitted to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund between May 2006 and February 2010. Of these, 92 projects with total funding of approximately US\$18 million were approved. The approved projects were implemented by 83 Governments and 8 civil society organizations, and involve activities in 85 countries, including 41 least developed countries and small island developing States. In 2009, the SAICM Trust Fund received an additional €1.95 million from the European Commission under the ACP MEAs project to support the sound management of chemicals in ACP countries.

About the partner

Adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 6 February 2006, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a policy framework to foster the sound management of chemicals.

SAICM was developed by a multi-stakeholder and multisectoral preparatory committee and supports the achievement of the goal agreed at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development of ensuring that, by 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

The SAICM Quick Start Programme was established to support initial enabling capacity-building and implementation activities in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition.



"We, producers, live daily with pesticide-related risks. Some producers, after treating and during the treatment of their farms with pesticides, eat and smoke without washing their hands clean. We, some years later, notice their health deteriorating. Moreover, livestock die after grazing in cotton fields treated with pesticides. Thanks to the various awareness campaigns in the course of the project, people are more careful and try to better manage pesticide storage and treatment procedures."

Yaya Diallo, cotton producer - Velingara, Senegal

Chemical safety and capacity-building at the community level

One of the projects worked on building the capacities of civil society organizations and communities to monitor the health impacts of pesticides in cotton growing systems in West Africa and to effectively participate in the implementation of SAICM to reduce risks related to pesticides use in the agricultural and health sectors.

Community-based monitoring field studies were conducted and a number of activities tailored to different audiences was organized with the participation of various stakeholders, including information sessions and awareness-raising materials and activities, such as a 20-minute documentary. The project mobilized 20 local non-governmental organizations in Senegal and Mali, dealing with environment protection, pesticides and pollution issues, as well as producers unions and associations, and State technical services.



"We initially used the same pesticide to treat our cotton farms and market gardening crops unaware of the dangers it bared. But, during the capacity-building sessions, after seeing the pictures that were shown to us, we changed that bad practice. We are now well aware of pesticide-related dangers. We now ask men to treat our farms. They have all the required necessary equipment and they protect themselves. The project was really useful to us."

Mamina Dembele, cotton producer - Koutiala, Mali

The most important take-away of the project was the increased interest by national and local actors in the major concerns relating to the use of pesticides and, especially, the reuse of empty containers by producers and local communities; recognition that there is need for core facilitators and field guides with better knowledge of pesticide use and the capacity to provide training and counselling support to local actors; and the importance of partnerships and multi-stakeholder involvement and collaboration.

Another project, implemented by UNDP and Pro-Biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOU), focused on chemical safety with respect to children working in rural agricultural communities in Uganda. In order to emphasize the importance of safeguarding

children, a series of courses, workshops and seminars on safety measures in the use of chemicals was organized for workers, work team leaders and government functionaries; a national inventory of dangerous chemicals was developed; and chemical safety education was institutionalized in two main trade unions, among other activities. In addition, the district leadership in Mbale, Eastern Region, mainstreamed the issue of chemicals safety into its district planning and budgeting process – an indication of the efforts being made to mainstream this significant issue.



©SAICM

“The project came in on time. When I was contacted to choose field guides who had to be trained for our community, I emphasized the fact that they should be young and able to carry out their work properly and, also, they should be able to widely share their knowledge with the population. The project is very important to us because the people use a lot of pesticides. There is need for people to be aware of the hazards and the precautions to be taken when using them. If we inform and sensitize them, it will be a very good thing for the community as a whole. We would like the project to last 2 to 3 more years in order to reinforce assets and involve other people.”

Oumar Sabaly, President of the rural community - Bonkoto, Senegal

Mainstreaming chemicals and developing and strengthening legal and policy frameworks

Mainstreaming chemicals into national policy frameworks was specifically targeted in Mauritius (Africa) and Saint Lucia (Caribbean). Mauritius came up with the Mainstreaming Road Map, a pathway for mainstreaming the highest priorities relating to the sound management of chemicals. The project identified areas where capacity-building was needed for improved chemicals management and these have been incorporated in national plans. In Saint Lucia, guidelines were developed for institutions on handling, transportation and storage of chemicals and

chemical waste, managing accidents and spills and the use and disposal of chemicals, which will help strengthen the institutional framework for chemicals management across various sectors.

Six other projects contributed to the objective by enhancing and developing regulations on chemicals. In Burundi and Rwanda, the development of legal provisions on the management of POPs strengthened the countries' capacity to implement the Stockholm Convention. In Ethiopia and Mozambique, the capacity to implement the Basel Convention was strengthened through consultation with different stakeholders and the development of legal frameworks for the

effective control of transboundary movements of hazardous waste and chemicals, in particular the preparation of reports on the analyses of gaps and country requirements to improve the capacity in both countries to manage chemicals and cross-border movements of dangerous waste.

South-South coordination and cooperation

A number of activities involved South-South cooperation, which provided synergies and facilitated the sharing of knowledge. The SAICM secretariat made active efforts to contact the relevant regional hubs and keep them informed about the development of projects and to seek opportunities for synergies. Further linkages with the Africa and Pacific hubs were sought in relation to the projects that had been approved by the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee in those regions and the activities coordinated through the Africa and Pacific hubs. These coordination efforts helped to avoid duplication of actions, supported alignment with national priorities and plans and increased ownership.

At the Pacific regional level, small island developing countries (Cook Islands, Samoa, Solomon Island and Tonga) worked to consolidate available information on poisonous chemicals and enhance the regional capacity to manage them by developing a shared information network. In Africa, member States of CILSS participated in regional workshops, in which they shared experiences and lessons learned while developing common guidelines on the management of pesticides.

Informal consultations were held between the Government of Djibouti and the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Agency to explore cooperation opportunities and exchange of information on controlling the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and chemicals and to carry on activities under the SAICM Quick Start Programme project implemented by the Africa Institute in Ethiopia.

Conclusion

All of these projects contributed to protecting human health and the environment, with an important component for sharing knowledge and best practices at both the national and regional levels. They supported initial capacity-building and implementation activities through the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund to foster the sound management of chemicals and the implementation of chemicals-related MEAs in developing countries, least developed countries, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and countries with economies in transition.

Countries in which SAICM Quick Start Programming activities were carried out: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kiribati, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Uganda



Supporting access to the Clean Development Mechanism and the carbon market

Implementing partner: United Nations Environment Programme-Technical University of Denmark (UN Environment DTU) Partnership

The overall objective of the “Clean Development Mechanism” sub-component is to enable targeted ACP countries to fully participate in the global carbon market. The specific objectives of the sub-component are to build the capacity of host countries to identify, design, approve, finance, implement and monitor Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects that address their sustainable development priorities and offer a cost-effective option for carbon credit buyers to comply with their obligations under the Kyoto Protocol.

More specifically, UN Environment DTU Partnership engaged with 14 countries in Africa, the South Pacific and the Caribbean to identify national implementation teams and local project coordinators; operationalize the designated national authorities (DNAs) in these countries; design sustainable development criteria for selecting projects; and review national project approval procedures. The DNA is the organization responsible for authorizing and approving participation in CDM projects in the respective country. As a requirement for participation in the CDM sub-component, the main task of the DNA is to assess potential projects to determine whether they will contribute to the country’s achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It must then provide a letter of approval to the relevant participants. The success stories highlighted below revolve around the work of DNAs. In order to address sustainable development objectives through CDM projects, DNAs adopted a two- pronged approach consisting of capacity-building and project development. All 14 countries in the three ACP regions benefitted from the processes, with varying degrees of success depending on national context. As part of the project, DNAs in the

14 countries received support from the UN Environment DTU Partnership, ranging from establishment of DNAs to support for their full operation.

The project targeted DNAs, local project developers/consultants, industry sector experts, local government representatives,

About the partner

Established in October 1990 on the basis of a tripartite memorandum of understanding between the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Risø National Laboratory at the Technical University of Denmark and UN Environment, UN Environment DTU Partnership (formerly UN Environment Risø Centre) is a leading international research and advisory institution on energy, climate and sustainable development.

As a UN Environment Collaborating Centre, UN Environment DTU Partnership is an active participant in both the planning and implementation of the UN Environment Climate Change Strategy and Energy Programme.

It carries out in-depth research, policy analyses and capacity-building activities to assist developing countries transition towards more low carbon development paths, and to support the integration of climate-resilience in national development.

local financial and banking sector experts, academics and university students.

The project led to the following outcomes:

- Facilitation of CDM enabling environments in all participating countries, including functional DNAs and portfolios of existing CDM projects
- Full awareness and knowledge of public-sector officials and private-sector actors about the whole cycle of CDM projects
- Full awareness of public-sector officials, namely, staff members of the DNAs, about the international and national requirements for CDM projects and their capacity to approve CDM projects
- Enhanced capacity of private-sector actors for identifying and drafting the design documents for CDM projects (PDDs) and the programmes of activities for their implementation (PoA-DDs)
- A portfolio of around 100 CDM projects, of which 8 have been registered with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with an estimated emission reduction of 400 ktCO₂/year

The following success stories indicate how the “Clean Development Mechanism” sub-component has played a crucial role in taking forward the ACP MEAs project agenda.

Botswana

In Botswana, the project raised awareness about greenhouse gas emission reduction business projects, which contributed to the development of six project idea notes (PINs), including the establishment of the DNA and the preparation of the PoA-DDs. The DNA team in the Department of Meteorological Services prepared various documents, including project approval guidelines, templates for letters of approval and a website. It also developed sustainable development criteria for Botswana, which were validated nationally through capacity-

building workshops conducted during project implementation.

Côte d’Ivoire

In 2011, the DNA of Côte d’Ivoire won the Best Communicator award for the Africa region, which was sponsored by the secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. In Côte d’Ivoire, workshops were conducted on several topics, including training and sensitization on the development of nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) and PoAs; institutional and regulatory frameworks; the national grid emission factor; participation in the Africa Carbon Forum; definition of forests and registration of projects with the Executive Board.

Fiji

Fiji, the largest island country in the Pacific region, played a unique role in the CDM project. The DNA of Fiji was established early on and the first CDM project in the country was registered in 2005. However, owing to a lack of details regarding national CDM regulations and lack of capacity, CDM work in the country stagnated for a long time. Fiji was one of the two focal countries in the Pacific region for the ACP MEAs project. Under the project, five regional capacity-building workshops were organized in Fiji and national CDM regulations were reviewed by an international expert in consultation with key government agencies and private stakeholders. Several PINs and PDDs were developed through joint work by the international expert and local consultants. Two more CDM projects in Fiji were registered in 2012 and 2013.

Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

The ACP MEAs project supported the establishment of DNAs in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The project adopted a regional



approach in the Pacific owing to the small size of the countries and their relative geographical isolation. Apart from Fiji and Papua New Guinea (which was not selected as a focal country owing to political and safety issues), Pacific island countries each have a population of less than 750,000 inhabitants. Fiji and Vanuatu were chosen as focal countries for the ACP MEAs project and other relatively big countries in the region (Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga) were chosen as participating countries. In addition to big regional workshops that involved all six countries, capacity-building activities also included national workshops, CDM regulation studies, and the development of PINs and PDDs for potential projects in Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Such a regional approach is in line with the close cooperation in the region on energy and environmental issues. It facilitated experience sharing among the countries and secured the close attention of relevant government authorities and private stakeholders and built local capacity in relation to using the market mechanism for international cooperation. It also paved

the way for developing the awareness and interest of the participating countries in new mechanisms for climate cooperation, including NAMAs and intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs).

Malawi

Since the inception of the project in June 2010, the DNA in Malawi has reviewed over 15 PINs and about 7 PDDs to ensure alignment with domestic policies and strategies as well as the country's development agenda. This clearly indicates improved awareness about CDM in Malawi.

Sao Tome and Principe

The Government of Sao Tome and Principe passed a decree for the establishment of the DNA. The new DNA facilitated the calculation and approval of standardized baselines by the Executive Board. The grid emission factor for the main electricity system served to support the submission of the respective standardized baselines by the DNA to the Executive Board.

Conservative theoretical emission reductions:				390,538,841 tCO ₂ e			
Region	Country	PIN	PDD	PoA-PIN	PoA-DD	Estimated reductions (tCO ₂ e/year)	Estimated reductions total (tCO ₂ e)
Africa	Sao Tome and Principe	6	2			18 403	386 463
Africa	Rwanda	3	7			39 079	39 079
Africa	Côte d'Ivoire	14	2			3 170 796	22 195 572
Africa	Malawi	4	2			466 232	5 023 769
Africa	Botswana	10	2		4	390 576	3 061 650
Africa	Nigeria	8	2			4 230 330	4 230 330
Africa	Burundi	10	2			11 330 472	113 306 434
Caribbean	Belize	4	1			70 439	1 117 891
Caribbean	Trinidad & Tobago	7	2			16 170 800	16 170 800
Caribbean	Cuba	9	4			2 620 137	35 853 322
Caribbean	Regional			2	1		
Pacific	Fiji	6	2			168 320	3 292 566
Pacific	Vanuatu	6	2			58 514	1 182 594
Pacific	Regional			12	4	40 213	716 489
Pacific	Fiji and Solomon Islands			6	2		
Pacific	Tonga and Samoa			6	2		
Total		87	30			38 774 311	390 538 841

Source: Country pipelines: <http://www.acp-cd4cdm.org/>

Rwanda

In 2010, the DNA of Rwanda won the Best Communicator award, sponsored by the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the DNA organized a two-day training workshop for the members of the DNA technical committee on standardized baselines. The International Climate Initiative (Germany) agreed to fund capacity-building activities for two DNAs in sub-Saharan Africa. These activities focused on standardized baselines under CDM, as well as the applicability of the standardized baseline to future mechanisms such as NAMAs and new market mechanisms. Through the CDM capacity-building project, the DNA signed a collaboration agreement with The

Gold Standard Foundation, with a view to harmonizing the gold standard approval procedure with the Rwanda DNA procedure. Rwanda was the second country worldwide to sign this kind of agreement.

Portfolio of Clean Development Mechanism projects

The following table summarizes the achievement of the Clean Development Mechanism project:

Those projects will eventually be carried out as, in many cases, they have been scaled up as NAMAs and other opportunities for emissions reduction. The national portfolios have been instrumental in the development of NAMAs as they already existed as identified activities that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. All potential CDM projects and the processes

established during the implementation of CDM in the countries also paved the way for the preparation of INDCs. In conclusion, those project proposals and ideas will not be carried out as CDM projects, but have been and will be absorbed by another mechanism, such as NAMAs, that are seen as vehicles for implementing INDCs.

Looking ahead

With regard to institutional strengthening, the countries were left with a solid foundation to build on and to take on and implement other instruments relating to mitigation action. The DNAs of the countries learned how to set up procedural structures, appraise and approve CDM projects; organize and coordinate in order to assess the sustainable development contribution of CDM projects; and harmonize their regulatory frameworks so as to meet the enabling conditions necessary for applying the Mechanism in their respective country. From the CDM portfolio creation and diversification perspective, countries learned

how to identify greenhouse gas emission reduction activities; design and formulate CDM project documents; and seek and obtain approval for projects from national DNAs; promote their CDM portfolios internationally; obtain financing to implement the projects; and manage greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Despite the current situation of the Mechanism, all the work carried out through the CDM project has paved the way for future efforts on the part of the participating countries towards addressing climate change. In other words, the project has left the participating countries prepared and ready to embark on the implementation of NAMAs and the development of country-specific INDCs. Indeed, all subsequent work carried out in participating countries with regard to mitigation action will build on the work carried out through CDM. The project has also left in place the elements for the countries to better structure their low carbon development strategies and pathways.



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Regional hubs

As the first phase of the ACP MEAs programme was implemented directly in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions, the regional hubs played a crucial role as implementing partners for various capacity-building efforts.

Africa hub

Regional partner: African Union Commission (AUC)



Building capacity among MEA focal points in member States and the regional economic communities

Environmental challenges are a global concern as they directly or indirectly affect us all. To address these challenges, the global community, under the auspices of the United Nations, has deployed significant and commendable efforts aimed at reversing the state of environmental degradation. These are evident in the establishment of ever-increasing numbers of MEAs.

At the continental level, Africa has adopted MEAs such as the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Maputo Convention); the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (Bamako Convention); the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention) and the Convention for the Protection, Management, and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Nairobi Convention); and other agreements of regional economic communities (RECs) to better respond to the needs of Africa. Many African countries are signatories to these conventions. These MEAs are gradually being taken on board and are at various levels of implementation, including at the regional and continental levels by RECs and at the national

level by various national institutions, strategies and structures.

One such structure is the designation of focal points – either in the form of institutions or individuals - to deal specifically with certain MEAs. Despite these efforts, the implementation of conventions is often not effectively achieved owing to weak institutions and strategies at the national and

About the partner

The African Union Commission is the secretariat of the African Union that has been entrusted with executive functions. The Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture houses the MEAs unit, within which the ACP MEAs Programme is integrated. The focus of this portfolio is on enhancing multilateral environmental agreement implementation, and more broadly, facilitating development of the rural economy and agricultural productivity in African Union member States by supporting the adoption of measures, strategies, policies and programmes on agriculture. It works closely with the African regional economic communities and other partners.

regional levels. Such weakness is generally attributed to, inter alia, lack of information and coordination mechanisms. The creation of synergies and collaboration between national MEA focal points and between focal points and other stakeholders involved in the implementation of MEAs would contribute a great deal to their effective implementation. Thus, there is the need to better sensitize MEA focal points about the importance of their roles and responsibilities with regard to the development of MEAs; sharing and exchanging information; and the development of adequate implementation strategies and coordination mechanisms.

To that effect, a training workshop was organized by the Africa hub, in collaboration with UN Environment and the Government of Botswana, in Gaborone from 3 to 5 October 2012. The aim of the workshop was to enhance awareness of the importance of establishing adequate strategies, communication and information sharing and exchange for the effective implementation of MEAs. The workshop brought together approximately 40 participants from African Union member States, RECs, MEA secretariats, including MEA focal points, experts and other stakeholders with a role in the implementation of MEAs. In order to ensure ownership of the event, MEA focal points and experts from the host country chaired the sessions and facilitated discussions. At the end of the workshop, the facilitators and rapporteurs prepared a report, which included strategic recommendations to AUC and UN Environment.

The objective of the workshop was to exchange informed ideas on environmental strategies. To that end, a participatory methodology was adopted, which allowed the ideas put forward by individuals to be tested, discussed, amplified and refined by the participants. Selected focal points and experts were invited to give presentations on MEA

implementation strategies and case studies and discussions were held on the following issues:

- State of the environment and sustainable development in Africa
- Role of the African Union in MEAs implementation
- MEAs implementation strategies at both national and regional levels, and challenges
- Case studies on collaboration strategies and specific MEAs implementation at the national level
- Role of MEA focal points in member States and at the regional economic community level
- Overview of international and regional MEAs and the AUC capacity-building programme
- Needs of Africa in terms of capacity-building related to MEAs

The outcomes of the workshop were numerous and included an increased awareness among MEA focal points of the use of crucial synergistic strategies in the implementation of MEAs. The group discussions enabled the participants to brainstorm and identify clear context-specific challenges in African countries in relation to implementing MEAs and formulate recommendations to better implement them. A better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the focal points was obtained. In particular, activities were identified for phase 2 of the ACP MEAs programme, in which synergies between the objectives of the programme and the responsible stakeholders in the member States and RECs can be created.

Promoting the ratification of the Maputo Convention

The Maputo Convention was adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003 at the second ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union.



As African countries gained independence, the need for a new treaty to address nature conservation issues was expressed in various instruments, such as the Arusha Manifesto of 1961, the African Charter for the Protection and Conservation of Nature of 1963 and the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources signed in Algiers in September 1968, which was revised to become the Maputo Convention. The Maputo Convention addresses a continent-wide spectrum of issues covering the conservation and sustainable management of land, soil, water, air and biological resources, with a view to integrating conservation and environment management strategies into social and economic development aspirations. At its thirteenth session, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) urged all countries to ratify or accede to and implement the Convention, in addition to other global and regional environmental conventions and agreements, and called upon the Chair of AUC to develop a strategy to promote the ratification and implementation of the Convention.

As the Africa hub of the European Commission-ACP capacity-building project on MEAs, AUC liaised with all the countries on the continent to urge them to participate in the study aimed at identifying how to better mainstream the Maputo Convention in national policy planning and development frameworks. It made recommendations for the implementation of the Convention, including creating synergies with other conventions given that the Maputo Convention covers environmental concerns that are also covered in the majority of international MEAs. AUC was actively involved in putting forward a “Maputo strategy” and promoting the ratification of the Convention. It helped in the designation of a focal point for the Convention, by mobilizing resources, building partnerships and raising awareness among member States, RECs and other key stakeholders.

The Maputo strategy contains the following recommendations, in particular:

- Africa is committed to sustainable management of her environment and its resources

- Africa needs to be united and act as one in the management of the environment
- AUC and its partners, in particular UN Environment, should take seriously the recommendations contained in this strategy and ensure that they are implemented
- AMCEN should act as the monitoring body to oversee and ensure smooth ratification and handover until the secretariat is effectively in place
- The ACP MEAs programme is an import step in the ratification process and should ensure the preparation and operationalization of an effective manual that addresses the concerns of each member State aimed at guiding the ratification and initial stages of implementation of the Convention
- The ACP MEAs programme should work in close collaboration with IUCN, which is doing similar work on developing a strategy on implementation to reach out to member States to ratify and implement the Maputo Convention

More specifically, it was recommended that, in order to expedite ratification of conventions, inter alia:

- i. Each member State should ensure that the ratification process clearly identifies the institution or person to follow up

the process following the signing and depositing of the instrument with the depository for ratification

- ii. Each member State should expeditiously comply with the legal requirements for the ratification process as specified in national and international law; expressly state its consent to be bound by signature subject to ratification; seek and obtain support for the convention at the national level, especially with the communities and relevant civil societies; and where required, initiate domestication of the convention
- iii. AMCEN should urge all member States to adopt the strategy and to ratify the Maputo Convention as soon as possible

Politically, the Convention promotes the principles of free consent and good faith, provides an avenue for strengthening, promoting and consolidating unity among member States with a view to political stability and good governance. Ecologically, the Convention not only provides a modern approach to the conservation of nature but also aspires to ecological security for future generations. Economically, it integrates conservation concerns and development aspirations, provides a forum for establishing a nexus between environment and development and synergy with other major MEAs. There is great potential for interlinkage between the Maputo Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and for synergizing their implementation so as to maximize the use of resources provided under these conventions at the national and regional levels in order to make a real impact on the ground. Such synergizing of resources would also facilitate the mainstreaming of these conventions into national developmental plans and policies. In terms of social and other benefits, the Maputo Convention is people centered, reconciles nature and culture, and offers numerous



©AUC

L-R: Uganda State Minister for the Environment, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, European Union delegate to Uganda©ACP MEAs



opportunities and benefits for everyone, including women and young people.

AUC also took the lead in implementing strategies to promote the ratification of the Maputo Convention, for example, through the development of a ratification manual, a handbook and a kit/guide. Some of the coordination activities included informing member States of their obligation to ratify the Convention and developing the terms of reference for monitoring and reporting on the ratification progress for the Bureau's role of regional monitoring body for the Convention. There was a great need to ensure the setting up of a monitoring framework under AMCEN and reporting on the progress of the ratification process. Thus, the AUC took the lead in initiating the implementation processes in anticipation of the entry into force of the Convention, including preparing for the setting up of the secretariat under the Convention.

As a result of the concerted efforts, a decision on the AUC strategy to promote ratification of the Convention was adopted at the fourteenth session of AMCEN, held in Arusha, United

Republic of Tanzania, in September 2012, and endorsed by the participants of the twentieth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa in January 2013. These efforts led to an increased readiness on the part of African Union member States to ratify the Convention. In 2013, 10 countries (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Senegal, Togo and Zambia) had already expressed their willingness to start the ratification process, following the sensitization and lobbying by AUC.

Parliamentarians uniting for the environment

In Africa, like elsewhere, parliamentarians are crucial stakeholders in the ratification and implementation of MEAs and their role in the development, review, debate and enactment of laws must be strengthened. It is against this backdrop that a colloquium was organized to build the capacities of parliamentarians in mainstreaming environmental concerns, in general, and MEAs, in particular, into

national plans and processes with a view to reducing poverty and enhancing sustainable development throughout the continent. Under the theme “Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in national and regional development”, AUC and the Ugandan Parliament organized a colloquium in Entebbe from 4 to 6 June 2012, for African regional and national parliamentarians. The colloquium aimed to build the capacity

and increase the awareness of African parliamentarians about MEAs, clarify the linkage between environment conventions and sustainable development, inform parliamentarians of their role in mainstreaming MEAs in national development plans and policies and with regard to compliance and enforcement of MEAs. It was attended by 83 participants from both English-speaking and French-speaking countries, comprising

Group photo of some of the participants©ACP MEAs



Part of the plenary session©ACP MEAs





"The MEAs project allowed me to become more aware of environmental issues. As a parliamentarian and President of the Commission in charge of rural development, energy and environment, in the Parliament of Guinea, I strongly contributed to quadrupling the budget of the Ministry of Environment (2010-2014). The African Parliamentarians Colloquium on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in Entebbe (Uganda) has laid the foundations for the creation of a pan-African organization of parliamentarians called Green Birds Africa. The objective of this network of parliamentarians and actors of public policies in Africa is to give more visibility and attention to issues related to biodiversity. Thus, in almost all countries where we are represented, a significant budget is now allocated to the environmental sector. Green Birds Africa continues to bear the voice of the voiceless among decision makers of the continent. Our organization is developing an action plan for this purpose."

Aliou Barry, Guinea

national and regional parliamentarians, experts from parliamentary centres, the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centre, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, UN Environment, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), UNDP, MEA secretariats, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the European Union delegation in Uganda, ambassadors accredited to the African Union and a representative from the Caribbean hub.

Through a highly participatory process, the participants in the colloquium actively engaged in MEA issues and exchanged ideas on environment law and policy and sustainable development. The outcomes of the colloquium

included the Entebbe Declaration and a manual on mainstreaming MEAs for African parliamentarians.

One of the most tangible spin-offs of the momentum of the colloquium in Uganda was the creation of the "Green Bird Africa" network in Addis Ababa in 2012. This brought together a group of passionate and driven parliamentarians who committed to engage in future lobbying on sound environment management at the national and continental level.

Moreover, in the Entebbe Declaration, African parliamentarians agreed on a number of key recommendations, including that:

- Environmental sustainability should be at the heart of economic development
- Environmental and development objectives should be mutually reinforcing
- Parliamentarians should put pressure on the executive branch to allocate resources to sectors that affect the environment
- Parliaments should use their oversight and policy monitoring functions to ensure compliance with environmental legislation
- Parliaments should work towards promoting research and development of new technologies to facilitate sustainable agriculture
- Parliamentarians who participated in the colloquium should initiate the ratification process of the Maputo Convention in their respective countries
- Parliaments should take the lead in empowering women and young people through gender-sensitive laws and oversight and by monitoring and controlling projects
- Parliaments should take a stance on governance issues such as corruption
- Parliamentarians should network
- AUC, in collaboration with its partners, should hold more colloquiums of this nature



Caribbean hub



Regional partner: Caribbean Community (CARICOM) secretariat

CARICOM Customs Handbook and negotiations training

The Caribbean hub for the ACP MEAs programme has been involved in a number of initiatives since 2009. There have been quite a few success stories, two of which will be highlighted here.

The first success is the implementation of the *CARICOM Customs Handbook: Guide to Multilateral Environmental Agreements*, which was published in 2013.

The aim of the handbook is to provide customs officers with a useful reference guide to MEAs, with provisions on controlling or regulating international trade in environmentally sensitive commodities such as hazardous chemicals and waste, endangered species and genetically modified organisms. The handbook is accompanied by a learning kit comprising a guide and a series of presentations for use in delivering training sessions for customs officers and other border-control personnel. It has been disseminated in hard copy and electronic format to customs administrations throughout the Caribbean region, as well as to other regional stakeholders.

The handbook and learning kit were pilot-tested at a regional customs workshop held in the Dominican Republic in 2012. The workshop was attended by customs officers from 14 Caribbean countries and several participants recommended that similar training be organized at the national level. Under the ACP MEAs programme, the CARICOM secretariat has implemented this recommendation. So far,

national customs workshops have been held in Grenada, Guyana and Saint Lucia, and plans are under way for the delivery of additional workshops.

The handbook and learning kit contain training materials developed specifically with the Caribbean context in mind, but which can also be used in other regions comprising small island developing States. The instructor and main author of the handbook has extensive experience in the customs field in the region and was able to design and deliver training

About the partner

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is a grouping of 20 countries: 15 member States and 5 associate members. The CARICOM secretariat, the principal administrative organ of CARICOM, provides products and services aimed at positively impacting the lives of its more than 16 million inhabitants.

The CARICOM secretariat has the mandate to provide a wide range of services to promote regional integration in the Community, including research and development; coordination of the activities of donor agencies, and international, regional and national institutions; project development and management; dissemination of information; maintaining foreign and community relations; technical cooperation and servicing of meetings of the organs and bodies of the CARICOM.

that effectively addressed the kinds of issues and challenges faced by customs officers in the Caribbean. Participants at earlier workshops provided feedback and recommendations that enabled the CARICOM secretariat to refine and improve training methods for greater effectiveness (i.e., more interactive sessions, more group work, more practical exercises).

In addition, the handbook and learning kit can be used after the workshops as references and in the delivery of ongoing training and professional development, therefore ensuring sustainability. The national workshops were attended by senior officers responsible for training.

The handbook contributes to raising awareness about MEAs among stakeholder groups outside of the environment community, which is an important aspect of mainstreaming MEAs. National workshops were attended by customs officers and officials from other border control agencies (e.g., coastguard, port authorities) and MEA focal points. They provided an opportunity for participants to learn from each other, establish and strengthen communication channels for better collaboration and enforcement and speak openly about challenges (e.g., deficiencies in reporting) and develop strategies to address them.

So far the handbook has received significant positive feedback, particularly in the post-workshop evaluations. Participants have consistently given the customs training the highest ratings, indicating that it has increased their knowledge and understanding and would be useful in their work. Feedback received from participants indicates that the training enabled them to intercept illicit trade that they might otherwise have overlooked.

The second success is the achievements in the training and preparation for MEA negotiations. Since 2011, the CARICOM

secretariat has organized three regional training sessions on negotiating MEAs and two regional preparatory workshops for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The first training session was held in Paramaribo in 2011 and the second was held in St. Kitts and Nevis in 2012. In 2014, the training was combined with the preparatory workshop for the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and delivered as a refresher course aimed at helping Caribbean negotiators prepare for effective participation in the negotiations at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. A regional workshop was held in Georgetown in October 2016 in preparation for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to be held in Mexico in December 2016, and another workshop is planned for early 2017 as part of the preparation for the joint meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

The aim of the preparatory training workshops is to equip Caribbean negotiators, especially those who are new to MEA negotiations, with the information and skills necessary to enable them to effectively participate in the negotiations and represent the interests of their countries. To that end, the workshops identify priority areas of interest for the region and briefing participants on the key issues that are likely to be addressed in the negotiations. The workshops also provide an opportunity for sharing country perspectives and positions on items of interest and developing regional positions to advance collectively in the negotiations while enabling negotiators to plan strategies and prepare for effective regional representation and negotiation at the meetings.

The training sessions and workshops respond effectively to the expressed need to prepare for and strengthen regional negotiations in

areas other than climate change. They also assist with capacity-building for negotiators, especially junior negotiators. The preparatory workshops have enhanced preparation for key negotiations at both the national and regional levels, and negotiators have indicated that, as a result, they have been able to work more effectively as a team during negotiation meetings.

The negotiations training have consistently received the highest ratings in post-training evaluations. Participants indicated that their understanding of the negotiation process had improved significantly and they felt better prepared and more confident to engage in the negotiations. Follow-up assessments showed that participants used the skills and knowledge acquired in the training sessions in actual MEA negotiations.

Participants recommended that the negotiations training be delivered regularly; combining them with the preparatory workshops for the meetings of the conferences of the parties in order to achieve that and once again respond to the needs of the beneficiaries. Seasoned Caribbean negotiators were expert resource persons in the training

sessions; they highlighted the principles and practical aspects of participating in MEA negotiations as representatives of small developing countries, especially as representatives of small island developing countries.

The negotiations training sessions and workshops conducted under the project are good examples of South-South cooperation and experience sharing. Representatives from the CARICOM secretariat had attended and participated in the preparatory workshops for the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the negotiations refresher course organized by SPREP in the Pacific region in 2012. The handbook *Taking the Floor: a Pacific Island Country Guide to Negotiating International Environmental Agreements*, published by SPREP under the ACP MEAs project, was an important resource in the development and delivery of the negotiations training sessions. Lessons learned at those sessions were taken into account in the organization of the preparatory workshop and negotiations refresher course that was organized in the Caribbean region in 2014.



Kimisha Thomas, Environmental Officer, Dominica, at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity - Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 2014 ©ACP MEAs



"I work at the Ministry of Health and Environment of Dominica in the Environmental Coordinating Unit. This unit is tasked with ensuring Dominica remains compliant with the various multilateral environmental agreements to which Dominica is a party. This type of training, therefore, was quite useful in helping me to be more efficient in my job.

Negotiations at the international level are quite complex. It is never just one meeting, where you sit in a room from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. discussing a text. It's literally running from one meeting to the next, many of which are happening at the same time and you need to be there to ensure that the outcome does not affect your country's ability to implement a convention at the national level. This training helped to prepare me for negotiations by explaining not only the rules of procedure, but also how to iron out and simplify as best as possible the technical and regulatory complexities of negotiations. In this way, I can explain different issues in a way that can be better understood and appreciated by decision makers. The negotiation simulations were fun but, more importantly, they helped me to be more confident in applying the theory in a practical way, including making statements and holding caucuses to discuss contentious matters. These are skills I have been able to apply to any environmental negotiation. The process is always evolving and negotiations have to remain dynamic with it. I would not mind matriculating this workshop again."

Kimisha Thomas, Environmental Officer, Dominica

Officials from the CARICOM secretariat and the Dominican Republic Customs engaged in a pre-workshop discussion - Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, June 2012©ACP MEAs



Participants and organizers of the MEAs Enforcement Workshop for Customs Officials and Border Control Personnel - Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, June 2012©ACP MEAs





Pacific hub



Regional Partner: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Strengthening endogenous capacity in the Pacific region

As the Pacific hub, SPREP was charged with delivering quality capacity-building services to the Pacific island countries, including updating skills for drafting project proposals and reports, negotiations training, information management and exchange.

With SPREP engaged as the primary implementing partner in the Pacific region, a number of components of the project were addressed. For the duration of phase 1, the project was run by the Environmental Monitoring and Governance Division of SPREP, a new division that signals the Secretariat's commitment to strengthening systematic processes and tools to significantly improve environmentally sound and sustainable decisions and further consolidating the Pacific hub overall.

Building synergies among the biodiversity-related MEAs

What has been particularly successful in the Pacific through this programme are the joint preparatory meetings ahead of the conference of parties for the biodiversity-related MEAs. A number of activities were organized in the context of regional preparations and support for participation in meetings of the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related MEAs.

In March 2012, SPREP, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), organized the first ever Oceania meeting on the Convention in Fiji. The meeting brought together 30 participants from 16 countries, including 10 regional parties to the Convention and 6 non-party observer countries.

The main objectives of such meetings have been to strengthen cooperation and synergies to meet the obligations of the countries under the biodiversity-related MEAs, enhance the understanding of Pacific island countries of the items on the agendas and expected decisions of the conferences of the parties, identify priority issues for the Pacific region and enhance negotiation skills.

During the joint preparatory meetings, the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Negotiator's Handbook: Pacific Region 2013 developed by SPREP, as part of the ACP MEAs project, has



been an important source of knowledge and training during sessions on MEA negotiations. These sessions provide an overview of MEAs, their creation, how they operate and how they are implemented. Moreover, issues such as benefits of a regional consensus position, the role of the plenary, working groups and the optimal use of high-level officials attending meetings of conferences of the parties, are all topics that have been discussed in the past.

This first joint preparatory meeting for meetings of conferences of the parties was successful and marked the beginning of a series of future joint meetings for Pacific islands countries. For example, a joint preparatory meeting for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES was recently held in Apia in August 2016.

Negotiation skills training

Negotiation skills training courses have been conducted in the region since the mid-1990s for all the Pacific island countries, albeit at irregular

intervals owing to sporadic funding opportunities. Training was typically conducted as part of regional meetings attended by one representative per country.

The ACP MEAs project enabled delivery of training at the national level to representatives from several agencies in the following countries: Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of) (Kosrae), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The training course, which was conducted by instructors with extensive experience in MEA negotiations, comprised a general overview of MEAs and a negotiations simulation at an MEA meeting. Since almost all MEAs are developed and implemented within United Nations processes, the skills learned are easily transferable to other MEAs to which the countries are signatories. This was also a sustainability selling point as most national MEA officers deal with more than one MEA.

In addition to preparing and supporting Pacific island countries to participate in MEA meetings, such as meetings of conferences of



"I oversee operations in the Department of Environment with regard to the various MEAs and conventions. I participated in the negotiations training held in Tonga, which was organised by SPREP, with support from UN Environment under the ACP MEAs project.

The negotiations training had a great impact in changing my participation in the COPs, pre-COPs and other MEA-related meetings. It helped us to frame our statements and negotiating positions more effectively. The role-playing exercise was especially helpful in providing us with perspective on other positions. The overall activities helped us to build a proper strategy for the negotiation process as well as to deeply explore the issues.

One of the main challenges of our work is the great number of issues that need to be tackled with limited capacity, as we are small Pacific island countries. Thus, through the training, we learned how, in the context of negotiations, it is more efficient for each country to look after one particular issue. So, for instance, Cook Islands focused on alien invasive species, Tonga worked on marine issues and so on. There are a multitude of meetings that have to be attended, so splitting the workload while ensuring consistent representation has been crucial. I found the manual [Taking the Floor] that was provided to be a good source of reference and I even shared it with my colleagues. I would be interested in participating in future negotiations training or refresher training and would highly recommend it to my colleagues."

Atelaite Lupe Tolelei Matoto, Director of Environment, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, Tonga

the parties or scientific bodies, the project also assisted with the development of negotiation tools.

Negotiation tools

Irregular training opportunities coupled with the high staff turnover in national offices prompted SPREP to develop self-learning tools for workshop participants with website links to ensure knowledge updates. In that way, skills learned in workshops would continue to be nurtured and shared and Pacific island countries would not need to rely on training opportunities.

Three tools were developed:

1. **Taking the Floor:** A Pacific island country guide to negotiating international environmental agreements, a concise guide that is easy to carry around, written by and based on material prepared by veteran negotiator and the original exponent of the negotiations training method, Ian Fry, with María Gutiérrez.
2. **Compass,** a set of about 12 credit-card size cards held together by a small ring and designed specifically for use in MEA meetings. This tool comprises, inter alia, a summary of Pacific environmental priorities, negotiation tips and information about processes of conferences of the parties.

"Going through the negotiations training has changed our participation by giving us a deeper understanding of the negotiations process and confidence in making statements and having a "Pacific" voice. This is important as the bigger countries then see us and see how we work together – members of our field from the Pacific island countries have been very good in mentoring each other."

Elizabeth Munro, Senior Biodiversity Officer, National Environment Service, Government of the Cook Islands.

3. Multilateral Environmental Agreement Negotiator's Handbook: Pacific Region 2013, prepared by the New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law, in consultation with SPREP. Based on an existing comprehensive manual on MEAs, the handbook has been tailored to the Pacific context.

The collaboration of the New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law and other similar partnerships has enabled SPREP to extend its institutional memory as well as its funding base.

MEA meeting support

Attending the meetings of MEA conferences of the parties is important for Pacific island State parties as it provides an opportunity for them to have a voice in the discussions and the decisions adopted.

To that end, SPREP provided support through regional preparatory meetings, including negotiations training and workshops, which covered the regional and global contexts of the relevant convention, lessons learned from past meetings of the conference of the parties to

the convention, review of the agenda for the meeting, identification of regional priorities and formulation of regional positions, outcome statements and draft messages.

Regional meetings were held between 2011 and 2014 in preparation for the tenth, eleventh and twelfth meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; the eleventh and twelfth meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention; and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species. In addition, a regional meeting was held on CITES. These meetings included the first regional joint preparatory meeting for the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Convention on Biodiversity, the Convention on Migratory Species and the Ramsar Convention in 2014.

Targeted support helps both the countries and the region to better engage in MEA meetings and thereby be better prepared to implement the decisions adopted at the meetings.



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Pacific Hub team retreat, 2012



UN Environment – DTU Partnership side event at the 28th Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly, May 2012



An ACP MEAs stand at the 28th Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly, May 2012



Samoa children, South Coast, Samoa, March 2012



Programme Steering Committee meeting participants at the Secretariat for the ACP Group of States in Brussels, Belgium



Participants at the UNCCD - Sustainable Land Management event



Training of enforcement officers under the Programme



Fale (Samoan house) in Apia, Samoa



Plastic recycling site, Tarawa, Kiribati

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Implementing Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Many developing countries are unable to fulfil their obligations as signatories of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) as they tackle increasingly complex scientific and technical issues. Inadequate human, financial, and technical capacity are some of the constraints that severely impact their ability to implement MEAs.

In order to address this pressing issue, the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have joined forces with the European Commission (EC) and the ACP Secretariat (African, Caribbean, Pacific Group of States Secretariat) and regional organizations, namely, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) and the African Union Commission (AUC) to enhance the capacity of African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries to improve the implementation of specific MEAs.



The Programme is designed to build institutional and national capacity with a focus on synergistic implementation.

To know more, visit acpmeas.info