

NEPAD COSMAR Profile

What is NEPAD

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is an initiative adopted by African leaders as a strategy for managing Africa's self-development and integration into the global economy in the 21st century. The initiative is focused on creating conducive conditions for economic growth and sustainable development for Africa through forging of a new partnership anchored on fairness and equality, a partnership both between African countries, and between Africa and the international community. The overarching objective of NEPAD is to eradicate poverty and to place African countries, both individually and collectively on a path of sustainable economic growth and development.

NEPAD Environment initiative

The sustainable use of African natural resources and the protection of the environment has been recognized as an important component for achieving the objective of NEPAD. Therefore, one of the key segments of the overall programme of action for NEPAD is the Environment Initiative of which the Government of Senegal is the designated coordinator.

A comprehensive NEPAD Environment Action Plan was developed and presented to an international Partnership Conference held in Algiers, Algeria in December 2003 where it was adopted. The Action Plan identifies eight broad programmatic sectors for priority interventions in which the coastal and marine sub-theme (in short referred to as NEPAD COSMAR) is one of the programmatic sectors. Log in <http://www.nepad.org/files/envitourism> for a full list of all programme areas of the NEPAD environment initiative.

NEPAD COSMAR Programme

The Coastal and Marine Programme area of NEPAD Environment Initiative had a head start through a Global Environment Facility (GEF) medium-sized project (http://www.acops.org/African_Process/GEF_MSP.htm), the "African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa" that involved eleven coastal states from Nov 2000 to Sept 2002. Through this project, participating countries carried out a comprehensive assessment of the threat and causes of degradation in the coastal and marine environments.

The project identified main issues affecting the coastal and marine environment as:

- Loss and modification of habitats
- Overexploitation of fisheries resources and other living resources
- Pollution
- Impacts of uncontrolled tourism development

- Modification of river flow

The assessment by countries led to the development of detailed programme of action and a portfolio of regional projects to address the identified issues affecting the coastal and marine environment of sub-Saharan Africa. A Partnership conference at the level of Heads of State held in conjunction with the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in September 2002 endorsed the output of the African process and approved its integration as the coastal and marine programme of the NEPAD Environment Initiative.

Objectives of NEPAD COSMAR

The overall objectives of COSMAR are:

- Contribute to the reversal of the trend of marine environmental degradation that impedes poverty alleviation efforts in Africa;
- Mainstream coastal and marine issues within NEPAD and serve as the focal point for engagement with Africa's principal socio-economic development agenda.

NEPAD COSMAR Secretariat

In a Ministerial level meeting chaired by H.E President Wade in Dakar, Senegal (October 24/25, 2002), Kenya was requested to take the lead role in the coordination of NEPAD COSMAR sub-theme of the NEPAD Environment Action Plan. The meeting recognized the advantaged position of Kenya as the host country to the Joint Secretariat for the two sub-Saharan African Regional Seas Conventions (Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions) based in Nairobi, and which provide the framework for regional cooperation. The Government of Kenya has since accepted the responsibility and established a secretariat within the larger Eastern Africa NEPAD Secretariat based in Nairobi to coordinate the activities of the sub-theme.

The activities of the COSMAR are executed in close collaboration with the Regional Co-ordinating Units (RCUs) of the Abidjan and Nairobi conventions, in accordance with the decisions taken in the Dakar meeting of October 2002, as well as other Regional Seas programmes involving African countries. In summary responsibilities of the secretariat are:

- To create awareness and mobilise political goodwill for policy and institutional measures to address coastal and marine issues
- To facilitate resource mobilisation through enabling environment and fostering of partnerships
- To facilitate the design and implementation of projects and programmes under the sub-theme
- To foster knowledge sharing and networking

COSMAR Programmes and projects

The NEPAD coastal and marine programmatic area comprises a portfolio of 19 regional projects centred around five priority themes (Coastal erosion; Management of key ecosystems; pollution; sustainable use of living resources; and tourism) supplemented by two other additional 'associated projects'. The projects were approved and endorsed at the 2002 (African Process) Partnership Conference held in September 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The projects identified under each theme are contained in the following links ([click on links for full details](#)):

- Coastal Erosion
- Tourism
- Sustainable Use of Living Resources
- Pollution
- Management of Key Habitats

Coastal Erosion

- a) Coastal Erosion Control in Sub-Saharan Africa (COS1")
- b) Development and Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (ICAM) in sub-Saharan Africa (COS2")
- c) Impacts of Climate Change and Sea-level Rise on the Coastal Zones of sub-Saharan Africa (COS3") Project

Tourism

- a) Development of Sustainable Coastal Tourism Policies and Strategies (TOU1")
- b) Promoting Environmental Sustainability within the Tourism Industry through Implementation of an Eco-certification and Labeling Pilot Programme for Hotels (TOU2")
- c) Preparation of National Ecotourism Strategies and Implementation of Pilot Projects (TOU3")
- d) Pilot Measures to Demonstrate the Best Practices in Mitigating Environmental Impacts of Tourism: Reef Recreation Management (TOU4")

Sustainable Use of Living Resources

- a) Assessment and Mitigation of the Ecological and Socio-economic Impacts of Destructive Fishing Practices in sub-Saharan Africa (RES 1)
- b) Mariculture Development in sub-Saharan Africa (RES 2)
- c) Impact of Global Climate Change on Key Marine and Coastal Ecosystems in sub-Saharan Africa (RES 3)

- d) Strengthening Management, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Capacity in Fisheries Management Organizations in sub-Saharan Africa (RES 4)

Pollution

- a) Management of Municipal Sewage in sub-Saharan Africa through Appropriate Technologies (POL 2)
- b) Prevention of Pollution from Shipping Activities and Strengthening of National and Regional Oil Spill Management Systems in sub – Saharan Africa (POL-3)

Management of Key Habitats

- a) Conservation of Biodiversity through the Enhancement and/or Establishment of Marine Protected Areas in sub-Saharan Africa (HAB 1)
- b) Promoting the Establishment of RAMSAR Sites and Developing a Participatory and Integrated Approach for River Basin Management in sub-Saharan Africa (HAB 2)
- c) Mangrove Management in sub-Saharan Africa (HAB 2)
- d) Improving the Protection and Stability of Coral Reefs and Associated Communities (HAB 4)
- e) Reduction of Suspended Solids in Estuaries and Lagoons in sub-Saharan Africa (HAB 5)

NEPAD COSMAR Associated projects

- The GOOS-Africa project on enhancement of sea level monitoring in Africa as a component of integrated coastal area management and early warning system
- The WIO-Lab Project on addressing Land-Based sources of pollution on coastal and marine environment