

**ACOPS**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON  
PROTECTION OF THE SEA**



**UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**



**GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**Third Meeting of the Preparatory Committee  
For the Preparation of the Partnership Conference**

**Mauritius, 01 November 1999**

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING**

**Mauritius  
01 November 1999**

## **Opening of the meeting**

Hon. Peter Mokaba opened the meeting by welcoming all those present and especially Hon. Cletus Avoka, the Environment Minister of Ghana. The list of Participants is given in Annex I.

## **Approval of the Agenda**

The Chairman sought approval for the agenda (Annex II). This was agreed after the following amendments had been adopted:

- a new agenda item 12 entitled “Benchmarks and Milestones” had been agreed to, and
- Agenda item 12 was amended to read “ 13. Date *and venue* of the next meeting”.

He indicated that a great deal of developments had taken place since the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee and he listed them in his Chairman’s Report.

## **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Ministers from Mozambique, Côte d’Ivoire and Seychelles.

## **Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman proceeded to read his Report which is given in full as Annex III. The report dealt with the following issues:

- Review of events since Cape Town Conference;
- Analysis of the three pillars of the Cape Town Declaration;
- Endorsement by the OAU of the Cape Town Declaration;
- Establishment by South Africa of the Secretariat for the Partnership Conference;
- Technical mission on the venue of the conference;
- Fundraising;
- Programme of Work;
- Comments on the proposed institutional and legal framework of the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions including the Joint Implementing Mechanism;
- Accession of South Africa to the two regional conventions;
- Review of other relevant activities including the Land/Water Strategic Partnership for Africa.

Several members, including the Minister from Ghana and representative from Kenya, suggested that this was an important statement and that it needed to be circulated to the meeting. This was agreed.

Mme Kaba reminded the meeting that Côte d'Ivoire informed the South African Government of its focal point through the South African Embassy in Abidjan.

Mr Drammeh further made the following comments:

- Proposal to set up a Regional Commission on Sustainable Development was controversial;
- The role of AMCEN could not be overemphasised, as that body had to be central to the process;
- The role of RCUs and COP had to be identified, especially as the two regional conventions were in "Intensive Care Unit".

The Chairman responded that the OAU Summit Resolution undertook to examine the feasibility of a Regional Commission on Sustainable Development for Africa and that the Government of South Africa intended to assist this process. He also said that the role of AMCEN, which is a member of the Preparatory Committee, was central to the process.

At this point, the debate revolved around agenda item 8 (Venue and Date of the Partnership Conference) as this item also featured in the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman introduced the final findings of the Technical Mission Report (see Annex VI) which stated that Senegal had better facilities to host the Partnership Conference. The minister from Ghana and also the representative from Kenya said that they had no reason to disagree with the Chairman's acceptance of the Mission Report.

It was therefore unanimously agreed that Senegal be chosen as the venue of the Conference in line with the decision taken at the Second Preparatory Committee Meeting in New York. It was also agreed that a formal letter be written to the Minister of Senegal to inform him of the decision. It was suggested and agreed that the Millennium Joint COP of the Abidjan and Nairobi Convention be held in Côte d'Ivoire and that a progress report of the activities of the Preparatory Committee would be tabled at this meeting.

It was pointed out, however, that assurances will be sought from Senegal on their contribution in terms of resources to be provided to this event, as is customary.

### **Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee, New York**

Mr Drammeh said that it was difficult to comment on the minutes after such a long time. The Chairman said that the minutes were circulated way back in May and that no comments or amendments had been received to date. The minutes were therefore approved. It was agreed that copies would be re-circulated.

### **Minutes of the Special Consultation Meeting, 29 September Nairobi, Kenya**

The Chairman introduced the minutes having explained that this was a special restricted meeting, proposed by UNEP. As most members were not in attendance in Nairobi, they were not in a position to give any comments. The Chairman said, however, that he was keen that every member should be apprised of the points discussed at that meeting as they constituted a valuable input into discussions at this Third Preparatory Committee.

Mr Drammeh said some of the points made at that meeting were not reflected in the minutes, especially the need to agree on the calendar of events.

Mr Pissierssen of IOC of UNESCO said that some of the difficulties in communication, referred to in this document, might be improved by using IOC communication facilities (please see Annex IX).

Mr Drammeh produced a UNEP informal list of Benchmarks and Milestones. It was subsequently agreed that its contents would be merged with the Work Programme, as set out in the paper "Way Forward" (Annex IV). (Please see Draft Resolution on the Work Programme – Annex XII).

The Minutes of the Nairobi meeting held on 29 September was duly noted and some of the elements which were regarded as important were again discussed at this meeting.

### **Endorsement of the Cape Town Declaration by the OAU Summit (Algiers – July 1999)**

The Chairman reiterated that an appropriate Resolution should be drafted commending the OAU for its assistance to the process through the endorsement of the Cape Town Declaration. This has been agreed. The Chairman also said that regular liaison with the OAU should continue (please see the relevant Resolution – Annex VII). He again pointed out that the reporting line was via the OAU as per the resolution of the Cape Town Conference.

## **Progress Report by ACOPS**

Dr Sebek introduced the ACOPS report which sums up the activities undertaken since the last Preparatory Committee meeting all of which are detailed in Annex V. In particular, Dr Sebek said that several strategic partnerships were being forged in order that certain components of the work programme, as agreed at the First Preparatory Committee Meeting in Nairobi in February, could start as soon as possible. A good example of such a policy, in the field of root cause analyses was the anticipated co-operation with UNESCO.

Mr Pissierssen, the IOC Africa Programme Co-ordinator, made a presentation, the full text of which is reproduced in Annex IX. The crux of the proposed co-operation suggested by ACOPS and accepted by UNESCO, was UNESCO's participation in the work on root cause analysis. This offer was made by the Secretary of IOC, Dr Bernal in a letter to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, the full text of which is reproduced in full in Annex X.

Dr Sebek also read the letter which the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) had written to him, reiterating the pledge of the South Pacific countries to work through the Samoan Government and SPREP in the African process. The relevant letter is reproduced in Annex XI.

Mr Drammeh commented that in pursuing co-operation with such potential partners as GIWA and the GPA Secretariat, one had to take into account co-operation which UNEP pursues with those units in strengthening the two conventions.

The Chairman commented that ACOPS as the facilitator of the African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa was asked to assist in the mobilization of resources for this Conference, be it in pledges in kind or financial.

## **Venue of the Partnership Conference**

This item has been covered in the relevant section on the Chairman's Report (also see Annex VI – the full report, including annexes was circulated at the meeting).

### **"Way Forward" – prepared by Chairman's office**

This document is reproduced in full in Annex IV of the Minutes. The Chairman in particular drew the attention of members that the Work Programme of the Preparatory Committee followed the pattern currently practised throughout the world by starting with preparation of root cause analysis, followed by preparation of hot spots identification and prioritisation; preparation of pre-investment studies, leading into concrete investment in order to solve identified problems.

In the ensuing debate, it was suggested that the reference to “external partners” be changed to “international” partners.

The Chairman re-iterated the following

- that the task of establishing a Joint Implementing Mechanism and the strengthening of the two conventions is per resolution of the Cape Town Declaration and was given to UNEP;
- the task of the feasibility of a Regional Commission on Sustainable Development was given to the OAU Secretariat;
- the task of preparing and convening the Partnership Conference is the responsibility of the Preparatory Committee for the Partnership Conference which reports to the OAU;
- that whilst each role player will need to play its important role in this process, the role of various other role players will need to be clarified.

### **Critical Policy Issues Relating to the Future of the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions**

This document was reproduced by UNEP as UNEP (DEC) / EAF/ CP.2/2 (see Annex VIII) and was introduced at this meeting by Mr Drammeh. He reiterated the goals of the COP meeting and outlined the most salient points of the document relating to:

- Updating and/or restructuring of the Nairobi Convention;
- New Work programme;
- Sustainable Financing Mechanism and arrangements for the Nairobi Convention, and
- More effective regional co-ordination arrangements and mechanisms.

The Chairman said that the Preparatory Committee would be keen to assist in any way it could. He said that Governments which at present contributed towards strengthening of institutional capacity (e.g. Governments of Seychelles and of Côte d'Ivoire) should be commended for their assistance.

Mr Drammeh said that the Preparatory Committee might wish to advise on the issue of contributions. Mr Dixon Waruinge said that he hoped that as the Preparatory Committee continued its operations, it would be helpful if the capacity of the RCUs could be strengthened in the process.

The Chairman expressed an interest in the Preparatory Committee taking part in the working groups which will be set up during COP2. He also added that it was crucial to establish what were the underlining reasons for African countries not paying their dues and that it would also be essential to create conditions for the full involvement of the private sector.

## **Recommendations to COP2 of the Nairobi Convention and the Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the Nairobi and the Abidjan Conventions**

The Chairman said that a number of Resolutions to COP2 (see Annex XII) would be made available later in the day for submission to COP2. Most of the topics had been referred to in the course of the meeting.

### **Date of the next meeting**

It was agreed that, in order to take advantage of the continuing work in preparation for COP2 and the presence of all those concerned, the Preparatory Committee would reconvene at 6pm on Wednesday with a view to approving the Draft Minutes which would be prepared by that date.

However, the next meeting of the Preparatory Committee would take place in Dakar, Senegal as agreed at the Second Preparatory Committee Meeting held in New York on 21 April 1999.

### **Short Meeting of 3 November 1999**

The Chairman, Hon. Peter Mokaba once again welcomed members of the Preparatory Committee to this short meeting and thanked them for attending. The meeting adopted in principle the Draft Minutes which was circulated.

The Chief of Cabinet of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr Jules Gbetibouo, who arrived in Mauritius after the Preparatory Committee Meeting which was held on 01 November 1999, accompanied Ms Kaba to this short meeting.

### **Venue of Partnership Conference:**

With regard to the venue of the Partnership Conference and the suggestion that Côte d'Ivoire should host the Joint Millennium COP of the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions, Côte d'Ivoire drew attention to the following:

- i) their delegation would inform their Minister of Environment on the issues discussed as it is only the Minister himself who would be able to indicate his response;
- ii) Côte d'Ivoire have made budgetary provisions for the year 2001 and not for 2000;
- iii) that late December 2000 coincides with the elections in Côte d'Ivoire and is therefore not suitable for the hosting of a conference.

As the decision was made with regard to the venue of the Partnership Conference, the Chairman indicated that he would accept if the two countries would want to discuss this issue and come up with a suggestion.

**Resolutions to COP2:**

The resolutions were tabled at the meeting (Annex XII). It was agreed that it needs shortening. The calendar of events tabled by Mr Drammeh was combined with the Work Programme as set out in the “Way Forward” Document, into the combined work programme as was suggested at the meeting on 01 November. This was circulated as part of the resolutions to be tabled at the COP2. The resolutions were discussed and members made constructive inputs.

Hon. Mokaba thanked all the members and closed the meeting.



# ANNEX I

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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## ANNEX II

### THIRD MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE

DATE: 01 November 1999, 17H00  
VENUE: Radisson Beach Resort Hotel Conference Room (Radisson 2)  
Mauritius

#### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chairman's Report  
*(already circulated)*
3. Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee, New York  
*(already circulated)*
4. Minutes of the Special Consultation Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya  
*(already circulated)*
5. South Africa's accession to the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions  
*(Chairman to report)*
6. Endorsement of the Cape Town Declaration by the OAU Summit (Algiers – July 1999)  
*(Chairman to report)*
7. Progress Report by ACOPS  
*(enclosed herewith)*
8. Venue of the Partnership Conference – Report by André Share  
*(Special mission report already circulated)*
9. "Way Forward" – prepared by Chairman's office  
*(already circulated)*
10. Critical Policy Issues Relating to the Future of the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions  
*(see UNEP (DEC) / EAF/ CP.2/2)*
11. Recommendations to COP2 of the Nairobi Convention and the Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the Nairobi and the Abidjan Conventions
12. Date of the next meeting

## **ANNEX II (as amended)**

### **THIRD MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE**

DATE: 01 November 1999, 17H00  
VENUE: Radisson Beach Resort Hotel Conference Room (Radisson 2)  
Mauritius

#### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chairman's Report  
*(already circulated)*
3. Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee, New York  
*(already circulated)*
4. Minutes of the Special Consultation Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya  
*(already circulated)*
5. South Africa's accession to the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions  
*(Chairman to report)*
6. Endorsement of the Cape Town Declaration by the OAU Summit (Algiers – July 1999)  
*(Chairman to report)*
7. Progress Report by ACOPS  
*(enclosed herewith)*
8. Venue of the Partnership Conference – Report by André Share  
*(Special mission report already circulated)*
9. "Way Forward" – prepared by Chairman's office  
*(already circulated)*
10. Critical Policy Issues Relating to the Future of the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions  
*(see UNEP (DEC) / EAF/ CP.2/2)*
11. Recommendations to COP2 of the Nairobi Convention and the Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the Nairobi and the Abidjan Conventions
12. Benchmarks and Milestones
13. Date and venue of the next meeting

## **ANNEX III**

### **THIRD MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE**

#### **Chairman's Report**

This time next month will mark exactly one full year since more than thirty African ministers accompanied by their technical staff and joined by the international donor community gathered in Cape Town from 29 November to the 4 December 1998 to adopt the landmark Cape Town Declaration on the African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in Africa, particularly sub-Saharan Africa. This event in itself created an impetus in the identified area of work and inspired new hope in the revitalisation of African instruments of action which were threatened with definite but very painful death. Since then there has been an increasing hive of activity. As a Preparatory Committee for the Partnership Conference elected at the Cape Town Conference we are satisfied that thus far, with a few exceptions we have achieved what we set out to do.

However the traditional slow pace of events beyond the control of the Preparatory Committee continued to weigh heavily on our work, by putting us under tremendous pressure given the fast-approaching time of the Partnership Conference. The urgency of action has therefore increased and not abated.

The three important pillars of the Cape Town Declaration are:

- 1) the resolution to convene a Partnership Conference by the year 2000, the time of which has now been shifted to March 2001 by the decision of the Preparatory Committee for the Partnership Conference, adopted in New York on 21 April 1999;
- 2) Africa to work towards a Regional Commission for Sustainable Development as a Joint Implementing Mechanism for all Environment and Development conventions, and
- 3) the establishment of a Preparatory Committee as an institutional framework for preparing the work leading to and including the Partnership Conference. The Conference designated ACOPS to act as a facilitator of this process. We report with satisfaction that the composition of the Preparatory Committee has now been completed.

As we brace for the important Third Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Partnership Conference, it is my duty to draw your attention to the important developments which have taken place since the last meeting of the Preparatory Committee in New York last April.

- The preparations for the Partnership Conference and the convening of the Conference itself remain the task of the Preparatory Committee for the Partnership Conference as determined by the resolutions of the Cape Town Conference.
- South Africa has been elected through myself to chair this Process.
- I would like to report that the Government of South Africa has already set up a secretariat for the African Process for the Protection and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment. This will constitute the Secretariat of the Preparatory Committee for the Partnership Conference, the process towards the Conference and the Conference itself. Contact details will be communicated to members of the Preparatory Committee shortly.
- Countries will have to finalize the identification of Focal Points for this process in order to ensure communication between the Secretariat and African countries.
- On the basis of a resolution proposed by the Government of South Africa, the OAU Summit has endorsed the Cape Town Declaration at its July 1999 session in Algiers. This is a development of great importance in that it further enhances the political commitment of African countries at the highest level without which no serious progress towards effective implementation of the two regional African conventions on the protection of coastal and marine environment can take place.

### *Venue*

- The venue of the Partnership Conference has now been recommended. The Report of the Technical Mission that was fielded to Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal has been circulated. The technical mission identifies Senegal as having better facilities to provide the venue for the Partnership Conference.

- In terms of Decision 13 of the Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee held in New York on 21 April 1999, we wish to report that the secretariat in South Africa has now been set up with the assistance of the South African Government.

### *Funding*

- Part of the resources have been made available by the South African Government for the establishment of a secretariat.
- ACOPS continues to engage with the external partners. The report of this work will be covered under item 7 of the Agenda.
- A comprehensive budget for the Partnership Conference including the work of the Preparatory Committee, the process of the Conference and then the Conference, will be tabled at the next meeting of the Preparatory Committee. This would also identify all contributions that should come from African Governments and their institutions.

### *Programme of work*

- I would reiterate that the logical sequence of activities which would result in the strengthening of our process, is as follows:
  - Preparation of root cause analysis;
  - Preparation of hot spots identification and prioritisation;
  - Preparation of pre-investment studies, leading to
  - Concrete investment in order to solve identified problems.

The work on the first three points will include guidelines on the methodology with a view to ensure a uniform approach and absolute transparency.

- As you will see from the accompanying report by our facilitator, ACOPS, covered under Agenda item 7, partnerships are also being forged with leading agencies, both intergovernmental (such as UNESCO), and non-governmental (such as IUCN). In addition, joint actions are already discussed informally with the GPA Secretariat in the Hague, and also with GIWA, with a view to joining hands with our efforts. You may wish to give your endorsement to these initiatives.

- A special consultation meeting attended by UNEP, GEF, ACOPS and I held with a representative of the Vice-Chair (Mozambique) was held in Nairobi in September this year to co-ordinate the work of the Preparatory Committee with the activities of GEF and to exchange views on linkages of the work GEF in Africa and to prepare for the Mauritius meeting.. A note of this meeting was circulated to all members of the Preparatory Committee.

### *COP2 of the Nairobi Convention*

In view of the fact that the Mauritius meeting of the Preparatory Committee is held back-to-back to the COP2 of the Nairobi Convention, as well as the Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the Nairobi and the Abidjan Conventions, it is only appropriate that we address some of the crucial issues dealing with the linkages between our work and that of the two conventions. I believe that the following considerations should be taken on board:

- As the Preparatory Committee is the product of the African Process, as envisaged in the Cape Town Declaration, I am sure that all members will welcome the importance given to this Declaration in all supporting documents circulated for the COP2 and the Joint Bureau Meeting.
- The entire idea of the Joint Implementing Mechanism for the two conventions, also referred to in the supporting documents, was suggested in the background documents for the Cape Town Declaration. You may wish to give your support to this idea which was actually first floated in the early 1980s when the two conventions were being negotiated. I would welcome a debate today which could facilitate subsequent discussions later this week in Mauritius.
- Documents for COP2 also refer to the importance of the accession of South Africa to the Nairobi and the Abidjan Conventions. I reiterate once again the commitment of my country to this process, but must emphasise that it assumes wholehearted commitment of other contracting parties.
- The on-going debate on the possibility of the gradual disappearance of the two regional co-ordinating units, and the possible overall permanent role of UNEP's Secretariat in assuring such functions, should certainly continue. The debate on the



strong reporting mechanism vis-à-vis AMCEN and OAU, linkages with the Barcelona Convention, and above all, linkages with the global conventions and specific global units of UNEP such as GIWA and GPA to which I have already referred to, should also continue. However, whilst I suggest that we once again reconfirm our sincere commitment to the strengthening of the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions, it is important to note that we cannot achieve this important goal through merely institutional and ideological means. Rather, it can be achieved by putting forward concrete activities for their implementation at, and following the Partnership Conference. Many such activities were proposed to, and then agreed by the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee which we held in Nairobi in February this year. They were reaffirmed and further supplemented in the work of consultants commissioned by UNEP in the last few months. What is now urgently needed is rapid fund-raising for this work to continue, or we otherwise risk merely adding further resolutions to already agreed resolutions.

#### *Other important relevant developments*

- We also have to note the recent concrete developments relating to relevant global and regional initiatives. It include the beginning of operations of the Global International Water Assessment (GIWA) of UNEP; the on-going work of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) Secretariat in the Hague, and UNEP's overall review of its regional conventions, especially those relating to Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions and their reference to the Land/Water Strategic Partnership for Africa; the role of global environmental conventions (Climate Change and Biodiversity) and the overall operations of GEF.
- Following the OAU Summit Resolution, South Africa is finalizing a medium-sized project proposal to GEF on the feasibility of setting up an African Regional Commission on Sustainable Development.
- In conclusion, I would like this meeting to come up with a document assisting the subsequent COP2 and Bureaux of the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions meeting relating to the points of overlap between our work and those of the two conventions. I would also propose that item 3(6) of the Joint Bureau meeting relating to Preparatory Work towards Partnership Conferences to be specifically referenced to this Committee. The same goes for item 4 of the agenda of the Nairobi/Abidjan Joint Bureau.

- In view of the decision of the New York meeting a resolution should be adopted by the COP2 of the Nairobi Convention and the Joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions, endorsing the decision to shift the date of the Partnership Conference to March 2001 to ensure completion of all the necessary work.
- I propose that the Third Preparatory Committee passes a resolution making appropriate recommendations to COP2 of the Nairobi Convention and the Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the Nairobi and the Abidjan Conventions, with a view to facilitating decisions by ministers and their officials.

Hon Peter R Mokaba, MP  
Chairman  
Preparatory Committee for the Partnership Conference

1 November 1999

## ANNEX IV

### PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE

#### THE WAY FORWARD

##### SUMMARY

1. The **political** process galvanising African countries to advance in their attempts to protect the coastal and marine environment was given a strong impetus in 1998 through the PACISCOM Conference in Maputo (July) and then the Cape Town Conference (30 November - 4 December). It has since been merged into a **single African process**.
2. This process has succeeded in terms that it achieved a consensus on a **common strategy and action programme**.
3. The further step forward was a rapid setting up of an institutional mechanism to organise the next step, i.e. preparation of the technical work leading towards the Partnership Conference. This mechanism took shape through a Preparatory Committee, chaired by South Africa, with Mozambique (Vice-Chair), Seychelles, Kenya, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire serving, whilst UNESCO, AMCEN and UNEP also joined. The Preparatory Committee reports to the OAU and the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) served as the facilitator.
4. One of the most important idiosyncrasies of this process was that it brought together African countries, but also linked them with the **external partners**, both bilateral and multilateral. Many of them already took part in the Cape Town Conference.
5. Further **political connections** have been made to the on-going processes such as the Euro-African Summit, Land/Water Partnership - brought together by UNEP, the World Bank and UNDP.
6. The African process took on board at a very early stage the need to **vitalise and strengthen the two African Regional Conventions**, Nairobi Convention and Abidjan Convention, which currently suffer from inadequate funding, inadequate political will and whose programmes need boosting. Much co-operation with UNEP centres on this point in conjunction with directorates on regional conventions and on policy development and implementation.
7. **Partnerships** have been created with two major external partners which will be contributing specific input to the process: with **UNESCO** (on root cause analysis) and with **IUCN** (on habitats and specially protected areas).

**8. Programme activities** (as agreed at the First Prep Com Meeting) leading towards the partnership conference include the following:

- preparation of an analysis of the economic, social and cultural root causes of problems identified as hindering the sustainable development and protection of the coastal and marine areas and resources of Africa;
- action plan for the revitalisation and co-ordination of the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions;
- identification, characterisation and prioritisation of hot spots of environmental degradation (“environmental hot spots”) which would be required to be addressed as regional priorities, and for which pre-investment studies should be prepared;
- identification of regionally significant areas, sites and resources that, although not currently degraded, are threatened with future degradation likely to be of regional significance either because of the sensitivity of the receptor or the magnitude of the activity posing the threat;
- development of proposals for regional projects or national projects of regional significance (projects dealing with environmental “hot spots”, transboundary effects, management of fishery resources, protection of endangered species, transboundary movement of hazardous waste, adaptation to the predicted impact of climate change) relevant to the protection and sustainable use of the coastal and marine environment and their resources;
- investigation of feasible and viable financial models to ensure sustainable financing of the African Agenda for the development and protection of the coastal and marine environment;
- enhancement of the existing capacity for environmental management in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Partnership Conference (Adoption of projects and activities for the implementation of the African Agenda);
- incorporation into existing national or sub-regional action plans elements relevant to the development and protection of the coastal and marine environment and, if necessary, development of such plans;
- preparation of pre-investment studies; and
- assistance in development of national action plans for the development and protection of coastal and marine environment; assistance in strengthening national policies, legislation and institutional mechanisms.

**9. Funding** of the work leading to the partnership conference and of the conference itself is expected to be provided by the following institutions and Governments:

- Governments of the United States, United Kingdom and Portugal (already made) and other Governments (still pending);
- Commission for the European Union (final stages of arrangements, which will also include components incorporating co-operation with Caribbean and South Pacific regions; and
- GEF, where final draft of a PDF B block proposal is being prepared at present.

- Other Governments, with the UK, Portugal and the United States, having already expressed support.

**10. Calendar of events:**

The calendar of events is partly indicated in UNEP's recent internal document, distributed to members of the Prep Com.

**Calendar of work:** This will be discussed at the next meeting, but is largely dependent on the flow of funds.

## ANNEX V

### ACOPS Progress Report to the Third Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Partnership Conference

It will be recalled that ACOPS which, together with the Government of South Africa and UNEP, organised the Cape Town Conference, was appointed to act as facilitator of the Preparatory Committee for the Partnership Conference. In addition to the points already reported to at the first two Preparatory Committee meetings and at the special consultation meeting held in Nairobi on 30 September 1999, most activities were referred to in the paper "Way Forward" (see Item 6 of the Agenda for the Third Meeting of the Preparatory Committee) the following activities are being brought to the attention of members:

1. An arrangement has been made with **UNESCO**, which is also a member of the Preparatory Committee, to contribute towards one of the important components of the work programme, namely, the study on analysis of Root Causes of degradation of coastal and marine environment, including social causes. This is an important contribution to the process and a letter which the Secretary of the International Oceanographic Commission has written on behalf of UNESCO is enclosed herewith as Annex.
2. An arrangement has also been reached in principle with **IUCN**, which is one of the newly elected rotating representatives of NGOs, to make its own contribution in kind to the process through a study on specially protected areas – also one of the agreed components of the work programme.
3. An arrangement has also been arranged in principle with the **GPA Secretariat** of UNEP in the Hague, to contribute towards the preparation of the Partnership Conference. Details are being worked out at present.
4. Following consultations which ACOPS' Chairman, Lord Clinton Davis had with the Minister of State for International Development, the Government of the **United Kingdom** has now informed ACOPS that it would be contributing towards the work on root cause analysis and identification of coastal systems which are in particular need of protection.
5. The Government of **Portugal** has already agreed, at the meeting which the Portuguese Vice-President of ACOPS, Deputy Mayor of Lisbon, held with the Secretary of State for Technical Co-operation in August, to fund the use of the Portuguese language in the preparation of the work leading to, and at the Partnership Conference.
6. The Government of the **United States** has also agreed to provide assistance, following discussions which ACOPS' US Vice-President, Congressman Curt Weldon, together with ACOPS' Executive Director had with Government officials in July 1999.

7. The Vice-President of ACOPS from **France**, together with the Executive Director of ACOPS, met with senior officials from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in September to brief them on the current preparations for the Partnership Conference. It was agreed to inform Paris as soon as possible on the agreed venue for the conference and to identify specific components of the work programme which France may decide to fund.
8. As agreed and approved at the First meeting of the Preparatory Committee, held in Nairobi, ACOPS is now in final stages of submission of a PDF B grant proposal to **GEF** on selected components of the work leading towards the Partnership Conference. It is expected that the proposal will be submitted in mid-November, 1999.
9. Chairman of the Preparatory Committee has also continued discussions with **GEF** on a possible medium-sized proposal on the viability of setting up the Regional Commission on Sustainable Development of Africa (as referred to in the July 1999 OAU Resolution on the African Process and endorsement of the Cape Town Declaration).
10. At the meeting which ACOPS' Executive Director held with officials from the **World Bank**, it was recommended that as soon as the work programme for the Partnership Conference is under way, that member countries write to their country directors with a view to a possible World Bank's financial support towards the Preparatory Conference schedule of work.
11. At the policy level, as reported earlier, working groups have been set up between ACOPS and Ministries of Foreign Affairs of **Portugal** and **Sweden** (countries holding Presidencies of the European Union in the first part of the year 2000 and the first part of the year 2001) to co-ordinate the work with the EU priorities in the environmental field at the time of the Euro-African Summit and the Partnership Conference, respectively.
12. At the level of the **European Union**, and as reported to the previous meeting, ACOPS' Chairman, Lord Clinton Davis held discussions with the Director General; of DGVIII. Support from a general EFD fund has been agreed in principle, on condition that the Caribbean and South Pacific countries also became involved (and this was agreed to at the Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee). This support is expected to be approved shortly if several countries follow the Governments which have already written to their respective EU Ambassadors. The Chairman of ACOPS, Lord Clinton-Davis, will be reporting on the outcome of this meeting to the Vice-President of the European Commission, Mr Neil Kinnock, at a meeting which is being scheduled for November/early December.
13. Further support is also expected from the Governments of Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium and Switzerland.

October 1999.

## **ANNEX VI**

### **MISSION REPORT**

*(the full bound text, including annexes was circulated at the meeting)*

**REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL MISSION TO ABIDJAN, CÔTE D'IVOIRE AND DAKAR, SÈNÈGAL TO INSPECT THE CAPACITY (FACILITIES AND RESOURCES) AND LEVEL OF PREPAREDNESS OF THE TWO PROPOSED HOST COUNTRIES, IN PREPARATION FOR THE PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE FOR THE YEAR 2001**

**Compiled by**

**André Share & Aidar Karatabanov**

**August 1999**



## **INTRODUCTION**

At a recent Preparatory Committee Meeting of the Partnership Conference held in New York on 21 April 1999, it was resolved that UNEP would, through its Conference Officer, send a task team on a field mission to the proposed host countries, i.e. Côte d'Ivoire and Sènegal to inspect their capacity and level of preparedness to host the proposed Partnership Conference in the year 2001.

The Technical Team consisted of the following:

1. Mr Aidar Karatabanov, Chief, Conference Services, United Nations Office at Nairobi and
2. Mr André Share, Assistant Director, Coastal Management, Chief Directorate: Marine and Coastal Management, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa.

The brief of the technical team was to inspect and evaluate the facilities and resources offered by the respective countries to host the proposed Partnership Conference in the year 2001, against the requirements as stipulated in the Terms of Reference forwarded to the respective countries by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Hon. Mr Peter R. Mokaba, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa and Vice-President of ACOPS (Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea) (ANNEX I).

### **A. ABIDJAN, CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

On arrival in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the delegation was briefed by Mr M'Gbra N'Guessan, Director of Environment and Ms Nasséré Kaba of the Directorate of Environment, representing the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. A file with a clear, structured plan and programme (ANNEX II) for this inspection was provided to the delegation by the officials of Côte d'Ivoire as well as the necessary brochures of the various facilities and resources offered. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire submitted an offer to host the proposed Partnership Conference in the year 2001, based on the Terms of Reference supplied to them (ANNEX II). Documentation was in French only.

#### **1. Meeting Rooms and Offices**

The delegation was taken to the proposed venue on Monday 28 June 1999. At the venue, we were received by the Director of Banquets of the Hotel Ivoire Inter-Continental, Ms Kamin and Mr Paulin Koffi, Manager of the company Symposia Consult, who is responsible for interpretation and other facilities.

The proposed venue for the conference is a large Conference Centre which is part of a 5-star hotel complex, belonging to the Intercontinental Hotel Group. A brochure of the Hotel and Conference Centre is attached as ANNEX III.

The main hall, La Palais des Congrès, can accommodate up to 2000 people and would be ideal for the opening and closing ceremonies. This hall also has 4 (four) interpretation booths for translation facilities and is equipped with a large screen and projection facilities.

We were shown Salle des Fêtes, a meeting room which can accommodate 300 people, classroom style and it has an extended area for the placement of interpretation booths.

We visited Grand Bassam, a smaller hall, which has a capacity of 50 people. The government is willing to provide this facility for 15 working days, including before and after the conference as required.

We inspected four (4) rooms, with a capacity of up to 100 people maximum, as well as one (1) room with a capacity of 20 people maximum (for round table discussions). All rooms are suitable for organisational work. The furniture are mobile and not fixed and can therefore be re-arranged either classroom style with tables or theatre style at very short notice.

Another room, Korhogo, is equipped with fixed desks, dedicated plugs and phone/fax lines to which computers could be linked to Internet. This room can accommodate up to 10 people and is an ideal facility for the secretariat.

The San Pedro, which can accommodate up to 100 people (theatre style) and up to 40 people (classroom style) also has three (3) built-in interpretation booths and projection facilities.

Close to Kossou, one of the meeting rooms, is a V.I.P. lounge which can accommodate up to 10 people for closed-door meetings and consultations.

In addition the Government is also willing to provide the Rotary Hall, which is adequate to accommodate 30-50 persons for closed-door meetings and discussions.

The conference room and offices detailed above are all interconnected through extensive open areas equipped with round tables and chairs for coffee breaks and serving beverages. These areas are also equipped with bar counters or serving counters for such activity. These open areas are also excellently suited for display of posters and other documentation.

We were also shown around two (2) areas which could serve as registration facilities. These have extensive shelving and 'pigeon holes' as required for registration purposes.

The delegation witnessed that these rooms were extensively utilised by the hotel for organising galas, business lunches and meetings, some of which were taking place during the visit to this facility.

## **2. Equipment**

We visited the company Symposia Consult and were shown around by the Manager and Board Member, Mr Paulin Koffi. This is a local company based in Abidjan, with offices in Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Sènegal. This company normally supply all the interpretation facilities, computer equipment, photocopiers and sound for conferences and have been working very closely with the hotel conference facility.

They have 1200 headsets, roving microphones, sound equipment, interpretation booths and other required equipment. All electronic equipment for interpretation have infrared sensors, and meet the requirements of the conference.

On inspection, we found their equipment of high standard, conforming to the standards set by the Association for International Conference Interpreters (AIIC), of which they are a member. A brochure of the company is attached as ANNEX IV.

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has already approached them for the supply of equipment. A quotation is attached as ANNEX V (It should also be noted that a budget was already approved for the supply of this equipment by the company Symposia Consult).

The Directorate of Environment of Côte d'Ivoire has its own in-house video laboratory with extensive video equipment and video editing facilities.

### **3. Facilities in the Conference Centre**

A room, Korhogo, is equipped with fixed desks, dedicated plugs and phone/fax lines to which computers could be linked to the Internet. This room can accommodate up to 10 people.

There is also another room available which could be utilised by participants, with access to the phone/fax facilities and the Internet.

Overhead, slide, video and LCD projectors for Powerpoint presentations are available. It should be noted that the bulk of the equipment would be supplied by the contracting company, Symposia Consult, who will also make the necessary technicians available for the duration of the conference.

This proposed conference facility is connected and forms part of a mall with cafeteria/restaurant facilities (e.g. Italian, etc.), a hair salon, a movie theatre, sporting facilities (e.g. ice skating, bowling, etc.), souvenir shops, a travel agency, a pharmacy, a bookstore, banking facilities and numerous other amenities which could be used by the participants. There is also a Supermarket very near to the Hotel and a typical Ivoirian Village.

In the open areas of the Conference Centre there are a number of public telephones for phone card users. A nearby Post Office within this complex provide these phone cards.

The Post Office within this complex provide mail facilities, phone and fax facilities, both nationally and internationally.

A resident doctor is available at the Hotel Ivoire Inter-Continental and the Pharmacy within this complex could provide immediate emergency facilities.

#### **4. Other Facilities**

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, having discussed the possible hosting of this Partnership Conference at the highest level within Government, assured the delegation of the provision of transportation and related facilities to Ministers, their experts and UNEP Secretariat staff, as specified in the Terms of Reference.

#### **5. Staff Requirements**

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire expressed their commitment and assurance of staff to be made available for the duration of this conference and when required, both prior and after the conference.

#### **6. Accommodation**

The Conference Centre is part of the Hotel Ivoire Inter-Continental (See ANNEX III). It has two towers adequate to accommodate all the participants seeking high standard accommodation in the form of rooms, junior suites and suites. Rates correspond to 5-star category of Hotel Ivoire, which is part of the Inter-Continental Group. The host assured the delegation that the Government is ready to negotiate a package deal with reduced rates for the Partnership Conference if the chosen venue is the Conference Centre in Côte d'Ivoire.

Hotel Ivoire has a number of amenities, including a movie theatre, large swimming pool, night club, restaurants, a casino, piano bar and extensive recreational facilities. The diverse accommodation types have been inspected and comply with the standards required for such a conference.

As alternative accommodation for participants, the delegation was taken to the Golf Hotel (ANNEX VI), which is also part of the Inter-Continental Group, where prices were more reasonable than in Hotel Ivoire, though the standards of rooms were close to the latter. Suites, junior suites and rooms are available. This hotel, overlooking the Ebrié Lagoon, also has extensive recreational facilities for participants.

The delegation was also shown the Hotel Sofitel (ANNEX VII), which also has suites and rooms of good quality and standards, as alternative accommodation for participants.

The Hotel Ibis Plateau was also proposed as alternative accommodation for participants who will need accommodation at very cheap rates.

It is thus clear that a diverse range of accommodation is available that would satisfy the requirements of the participants, from the high level to the technical experts and advisors.

The delegation was assured of the provision of a shuttle service between the alternative hotels and the Conference Centre.

#### **7. Additional Facilities/Services offered**

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire also kindly offered the following:

- Transport of participants on arrival at the airport to their respective hotels and on departure back to the airport;
- Two coffee breaks (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) for the duration of the conference;
- One cocktail reception;
- One gala dinner;
- A field trip to a project of the rehabilitation of endangered aquatic sites;
- A travel agent who can arrange tourist trips for participants, e.g. a visit to the Basilique at Yamoussoukro;
- One recreational trip to Lagoon Ebrié (a lagoon around the Abidjan area).

## **8. Concluding Remarks**

An exit (debriefing) meeting with the Minister of Environment and Forests of Côte d'Ivoire, Hon. Mr Jean-Claude Kouassi was scheduled for 30 June 1999. The Minister welcomed the delegation and re-iterated his Government's commitment and willingness to host the Partnership Conference.

The fact that approval has already been obtained at the highest level of Government, indicates the seriousness of purpose on the part of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to host this conference. Consultations with the respective Ministries have already begun and a budget has subsequently been dedicated and approved for the hosting of this conference.

Minister Kouassi informed the delegation that he was responsible for investments in Côte d'Ivoire in his previous portfolio prior to becoming Minister of Environment and Forests and has extensive experience in ensuring partnerships, commitment and involvement of the private sector in this initiative.

In general, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire had a very well-prepared and structured programme in place for this inspection. The level of preparedness is an indication of its commitment to hosting this conference. There is no doubt that the host regarded this as an important exercise and went into great trouble to facilitate this inspection. The delegation was shown a video of a recent conference that was held at this venue, with all the equipment in place.

It is the request of the Ministry of Environment and Forests that the date and venue of the hosting of this proposed Partnership Conference be finalised as soon as possible. In the case of Côte d'Ivoire, it is essential that they be informed by the end of 1999.

The delegation extended their thanks and appreciation to the hosts and assured them that this is a transparent process in which an objective factual account will be reflected in the report to be submitted to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Partnership Conference. They also promised that a copy of the Côte d'Ivoirian Report will be forwarded to Mr M'Gra N'Guessan before it is submitted to the Chairman.

## **B. DAKAR, SÈNÈGAL**

As a result of the national strike in Sènegal, no airlines were operating to and from Sènegal. The delegation was supposed to have visited Dakar, Sènegal on 29-30 June 1999, but was unable to do so under the prevalent circumstances. Mr Karatabanov, who had prior commitments and could not extend his stay to proceed to Sènegal, thus commissioned Mr André Share to proceed to Sènegal and fulfil the obligations of the mission.

Mr André Share arrived in Dakar, Sènegal, and was met at the airport by Ms Fatima Dia-Toure, Director of Environment and her colleague Mr Aliou Sarr. Mr Share was given a copy of Sènegal's offer to host this Conference (ANNEX VIII) as well as an Internet-extracted list of hotels in Dakar (ANNEX IX). Documentation was in French only.

Mr Share inspected the facilities, accompanied by Mr Aliou Sarr and Ms Fagamou Sy from the Directorate of Environment and Mr Massamba Sarr of the Protocol Affairs, Foreign Office Ministry.

## **1. Meeting Rooms and Offices**

The inspection of the proposed conference venue took place on Friday 02 June 1999. At the venue, the delegation was received by Ms Maguette Diop Wade of the Hotel Le Meridien President.

The proposed conference venue, Palais des Congrès is relatively new (nine years old), very modern and part of a modern 5-Star Hotel complex. A brochure of the Hotel and Conference facilities is attached as ANNEX X. The Palais des Congrès has three floor levels.

It has a main amphitheatre (Grand Amphithéâtre) which can accommodate up to 2000 people. This amphitheatre is fully equipped with state-of-the-art fixed desks, fixed microphone sets and dedicated plug-in facilities on the desks for simultaneous translation. There are 55 desks, with seating for 2 or 3 at each desk and additional seating for 4 persons behind each desk. The chairs also have headset plug-in points. This amphitheatre has seating for up to 635 people and is fully equipped with interpretation booths for simultaneous translation of 6 languages. It has a fixed main table with all the requirements and seating for up to 13 people, with an interleading door to a private lounge for 25-30 people.

A smaller amphitheatre (Petit Amphithéâtre) can accommodate up to 120 people. It has desks with fixed microphones, fixed translation facilities, headset plug-in points on the desks and interpretation booths for 5 languages.

Room B12-C12, with fixed microphones, plug-in points for simultaneous translation and interpretation facilities for up to 6 languages, can accommodate up to 300 people theatre style, 150 classroom style and up to 60 around a U-shaped formation. Additional chairs behind provides seating for up to 200 people. There are 8 booths, some of which could be used for observers.

Room B2 and B8 which are identical, are suitable to be equipped with computers and connections for access to the Internet could be provided. An adjacent

smaller room, B3, can be used for photocopiers, etc.

Room B6 - B5 can accommodate up to 120 people theatre style, 100 in a U-type configuration, with up to 50 around the table and a second row of chairs behind. This room is also fully equipped with 6 interpretation booths (translation facilities for 4 languages), fixed microphones and headset plug-in points for translations. This room can also be divided into two smaller rooms with the same facilities.

Outside the amphitheatre is an area which could be utilised for registration and has 'pigeon holes' for documentation as required.

Room B1 and C1 are identical and can accommodate up to 120 people in a U-shaped configuration, 150 theatre style. It has 2 interpretation booths and can be equipped with mobile microphones and headsets.

There is a large area outside which is under cover and is normally utilised for coffee/tea breaks. Near this area is also a glass-enclosed office/area which could also be utilised for registration.

The Conference Centre has different levels. Level +1 also has 18 offices which could be utilised by delegations. These vary from individual offices with a single desk to offices with up to 8 desks.

At the rear of the amphitheatre, and interleading to it, (behind the interpretation booths) are 2 lounges, one of which could be utilised by the interpreters for relaxation.

Another room, Conference du Presse, which is a smaller amphitheatre, can accommodate up to 120 people. It has fixed chairs with plug-in points for headsets (interpretation). It has 3 interpretation booths with an adjacent smaller office. The main table can accommodate up to 9 people.

On level -1, there are other individual VIP offices, with individual rest room facilities and smaller boardrooms. There are also 15 other smaller offices available, 2 with rest rooms. A very high quality VIP office is available, fully equipped with its own rest room, individual video and TV facilities, with 3 adjacent offices for secretaries, assistants or colleagues.

A dedicated exhibition area is available as well as extensive open areas with couches for participants.

## **2. Equipment**

All interpretation equipment forms part of the standard equipment of the amphitheatres and some of the smaller rooms. It is of state-of-the-art quality and of high standard. The amphitheatres and some rooms are equipped with fixed microphones on the respective benches and plug-in points for headsets on the benches as well as on the chairs, which could be utilised for other members of a delegation. All interpretation equipment have infrared sensors and comply with the requirements of the Conference.

The main amphitheatre has a projection room, big video screen for

simultaneous projection, big projection screen, etc. Video recording facilities are available.

The Palais des Congrès has a Business Centre which is associated with the Hotel Le Meridien President, which provides all computer facilities, LAN (Local Area Network) and all other equipment (See ANNEX XI).

Technicians are normally on duty 24 hrs for the duration of conferences.

### **3. Facilities in the Conference Centre**

A fully equipped Centre exist with telephone/fax facilities and up to 30 cabins which are normally equipped with individual telephones for use by participants.

All equipment is available through the Business Centre, e.g. overhead, slide video and LCD projectors for Powerpoint presentations.

The Convention Centre, Palais des Congrès, forms part of the Hotel Le Meridien President Complex. There is a curio/clothing store, souvenir shop, pub and 2 car rental companies (Hertz and Avis).

No travel agency is available, but apparently the concierge, in liaison with the conference secretariat, fulfils this function.

A fully equipped Centre with telephone / fax lines for up to 30 people is available, with individual cabins.

There is no Post-Office facility, but it was stated that the concierge could fulfil this function.

A Cafeteria facility is also available at the Convention Centre.

There are 2 big banquet rooms. The Brown room can accommodate up to 500 people, seating 8-10 people per round table. The Green room on the other hand can accommodate up to 300 people in a similar setting. The extensive pool area is normally also utilised for cocktails and is very near to the sea.

A medical doctor is on call at the hotel.

### **4. Other Facilities**

A full VIP transport service for Ministers and other high profile guests is available as well as normal transport for other participants. A fleet 42 Cadillacs and 35 Mercedes Benz vehicles are available.

The Protocol Affairs, Office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, apparently normally sets up a VIP room at the airport for Ministers and Diplomats and see to their luggage, transport, etc. Blanket VISA's are normally supplied, but officials are present to iron out problems with entry/exit VISA's. The officials of Sènegal assured the co-operation of the various ministries which are normally involved,