

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP: AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING

Facilitators: Group
Rapporteur: Jonathan Allotey

GOALS

- Improve environmental enforcement and compliance through improved networking.
- Learn to cooperate better within each country and then within the region.
- Gain knowledge of environmental issues.
- Identify key environmental players within countries and the region so that we are better able to share our resources, including technical skills and lessons learned.

1 INTRODUCTION

Critical Environmental Challenges

- Balancing environment and development.
- Effective utilization of resources (human and natural).
- Poverty (reduction eradication).
- Public awareness-availability of information and dissemination (sharing).
- Lack of capacity to comply with good practices by small and medium enterprises.
- Political priority misplaced and interference.

Critical Institutional Challenges

- Lack institutions and capacity.
- No clear institutional and legal framework for ECE Duplication in some situations.
- Inadequate resources (financial, human, technical).
- Dependence tendency on external resource and institutions.
- Lack of common objectives/priorities.
- Overlapping and duplication of functions.
- Absence of critical mass of technical staff thus affecting Stability of technical staff.
- Lack of cooperation between institutions and donor countries.

2 DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Network Challenges

2.1 Partnership with existing networks (at regional, sub-regional)

- CLEIAA (Capacity Development and Linkages for environmental impact assessment in Africa) Dr. P. C. Acquah
- NESDA – Network for Sustainable Development in Africa – Abu Bamba
- Basel Convention Centers
- UNEP collaborating Centers
- Center for environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE),
- IMESCAR
- Inter-governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD)

Work through and with intergovernmental groups such as Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community for Central Africa States (ECCA), MAGREB Union–North Africa, Intergovernmental Agency on Drought and Development (IGADD), African Union, AMCEN, EIS-AFRICA – Information

An advantage of using existing

Networks/Frameworks is that regional grouping could budget for activities and work at regional level but use sub-regional groups as vehicles for achieving objectives

2.2 Information Exchange

- Create regional web page on INECE site
- Create a portal on INECE site to connect to EIS-AFRICA website
- Engage persons to update INECE Africa site
- INECE Africa site to capture laws, judgments, other parameters.
- Use INFOTERRA Focal Points on country database support.

2.3 Other Instruments/Network Improvement

- Modalities to operationalize the networks.
- Need for Civil Society/NGOs and Government institutions to complement each other to promote/(sell) INECE Africa network.
- Need to assist countries without internet service
- Need to identify contact persons in environment ministries and agencies, NGOs of member states through UNEP
- Materials production and distribution.

2.4 Priority Regional Needs

- Harmonization of Legal Instruments/frameworks on Environmental Compliance Enforcement
- Information exchange/dissemination/awareness
- Resource Sharing
- Capacity Building

2.4.1 Priority Projects/Activities: Harmonisation

- Regional Meeting of Environmental

Compliance Enforcement officials to prepare input into African Ministers on the Environment meeting to be held in July in Kampala Uganda. The aim of the meeting is to prepare strategy.

- Review of existing legal framework for Environmental Compliance Enforcement and undertake harmonization using UNEP/Dutch Law Project as example – demonstrating case study.
- Participate in development of INECE indicators project
- Application of INECE indicators in African Setting

2.4.2 Information Exchange Dissemination

- Creation of INECE Africa Portal in collaboration with Environmental Information Systems-AFRICA
- Develop Africa Section of INECE Newsletter and its dissemination to African countries.
- Develop, produce and distribute Environmental Compliance Enforcement awareness material
- Develop Best Practice Manual for Africa

2.4.3 Resource Sharing

- Evaluation and development of databases on existing resource.
- Training needs assessment.
- Framework for a Resource Protocol
- Capacity Building
 - Training in Environmental Compliance Enforcement
 - Development of materials (manuals) for ECE
 - Institutional Development
 - Provision of equipment and materials

2.5 Time Frame

Five (5) years

2.6 Comments On Inece Strategy

Strategic Plan needs to address Africa's PRIORITY ISSUES, namely:

- Biodiversity Related Conventions
- Pollution related conventions (eg. Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam etc.)

3 CONCLUSION

Within different phases of enforcement there can be a conflict between public and government because of confidential information but also a natural conflict if the public is seen as challenging government action or inaction.

The following recommendations for the co-chairs of INECE could be made:

- Sponsor a side event on the role of the public within environmental compliance and enforcement during the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD).
- Keep promoting the role of the public within compliance and enforcement by developing a methodological basis on the public role; publishing a compendium of case studies and experiences.
- Provide a platform for the exchange of regional experiences
- Support capacity-building, through training courses for example.