

ةيئيبلانيناولا مارتحا و قيبطل ةيبراغمل ةكبشلا  
**NECEMA**  
Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in the Maghreb

First Setup Meeting  
20-21 February 2006

**THE FIRST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF NECEMA**

**Description:** This document is the Terms of Reference for the Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in the Maghreb (NECEMA). It outlines the working methods of NECEMA, including: the roles of the Secretariat and the regional planning committee, the chairmanship, the INECE coordinator, capacity for participation, and the work program.

*This document can be used as the strategic plan for NECEMA for 2006 – 2009.*

**Action Required:** To be reviewed for adoption by delegates.

**I. Background Information**

Countries across the Maghreb region are taking steps to improve environmental protection, by adopting new laws and participating in a growing number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. But, while significant environmental progress has been made in the last two decades, the main issue remains how to assure compliance and enforce these laws and international commitments.

The 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference (Marrakech Conference) of the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) provided the opportunity for participants from the region to discuss their concerns about enforcing environmental laws. The Maghreb participants concluded that a regional enforcement network, in partnership with INECE and other international organizations, would identify needs and strengthen capacity through target programming. The Maghreb representatives further agreed that the new network should capitalize on lessons learned from existing networks, including their goals and objectives. Such a network would also contribute to the ongoing process of convergence with E.U. legal standards in the environmental sector.

In December 2005, the Tunisian Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the German Corporation for Technical Co-operation (GTZ) organized a symposium on “Environmental Law, Good Governance, and Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Perspectives” in Tunis, Tunisia. INECE led a very successful workshop on “future steps toward cooperation in the Maghreb region” that offered an opportunity for INECE and participants from the Maghreb to build upon the commitments made at the Marrakech Conference.

## **II. Scope**

NECEMA will grow in phases. Initially, it will consist of the Maghreb countries (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia), eventually expanding to include other North African countries. At the same time, it will create links with networks in the Middle East and Europe. The network will be informal, following the successful experiences of INECE and other regional networks: ECENA, REPIN ETC.

## **III. Mission**

NECEMA's mission is to promote environmental good governance in the region through an exchange of innovative policies and practices guided by INECE's mission: to contribute to a healthy and clean environment and to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of ecosystem integrity, both through effective compliance and enforcement of environmental laws using regulatory and non-regulatory approaches.

## **IV. Goals**

NECEMA's goals are to:

- develop in-country networks for enforcement cooperation;
- strengthen capacity for compliance and enforcement; and
- raise awareness of the importance of environmental compliance and enforcement.

NECEMA shall be transparent, through the issuance of periodic reports and other means; in the use of funds and resources; and in its institutional goals and interests.

NECEMA participants will actively avoid potential conflicts of interest and disclose issues that could reasonably be interpreted as potential conflicts.

## **V. Membership**

Membership is open to practitioners from government (national or sub-national environmental agencies responsible for implementation of environmental policies and laws through compliance and enforcement,) inter-governmental organizations, academics, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and others. Individuals may participate in NECEMA based upon their position, demonstrated leadership, and commitment to environmental compliance and enforcement in their home country and the Maghreb region (or the broader region in the future.)

## **VI. Activities**

NECEMA activities include:

- (1) national and regional workshops to share best practices, including an annual forum;
- (2) national and regional program assessments and studies;
- (3) national pilot activities that promote adoption of new environmental enforcement policies and practices;
- (4) practitioner toolkits;
- (5) peer-to-peer technical exchanges and specialized trainings;
- (6) national and regional performance indicators;
- (7) linkages with other networks; and
- (8) website and information exchange.

## VII. Structure

### REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

NECEMA's Regional Planning Committee (RPC) serves as the advisory body of the network, and is comprised of national coordinators from the Maghreb countries (open to future participation from the broader region), representatives of international development agencies, and representatives of environmental NGOs.

INECE will select a coordinator for NECEMA who will serve as a member of the RPC. Member countries will appoint national coordinators to serve as the primary contact. National coordinators will support information sharing and activity coordination, including country participation at NECEMA's annual forum, regional training workshops, and country-to-country technical exchanges.

RPC members are selected based on their commitment to environmental compliance and enforcement in their respective countries and in the region. RPC members will serve for a three-year term.

RPC responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- meaningful participation as demonstrated through regular and significant contributions to the efforts of NECEMA or other efforts to further INECE goals in the region;
- serving as an "Ambassador of NECEMA" in the region to raise awareness of the importance of environmental compliance and enforcement in achieving environmental results;
- identifying needs at the regional level;
- developing proposals for regional projects;
- leading, sponsoring, or promoting projects proposed by or within NECEMA or INECE more broadly;
- identifying financial needs and donor opportunities;
- overseeing implementation of work programs;
- evaluating progress of projects and NECEMA's operations and recommending adjustments as required;
- coordinating work by electronic communications, and other means; and
- meeting, when possible, by holding regular meetings, using existing regional forums, conference calls, and conferences.

### NECEMA CHAIRPERSON

The RPC will select one member to serve as Chairperson.

The Chairperson sets forth the specific rules for appointing members, convening meetings, setting NECEMA policies, and reporting meeting decisions. The Chairperson will automatically be a member of INECE's Executive Planning Committee (EPC).

### INECE COORDINATOR FOR NECEMA

The INECE Secretariat will select a "Regional Network Coordinator" to:

- assist the INECE EPC and INECE Secretariat in identifying individuals who have the potential to assume leadership roles;
- contribute to the development of NECEMA,
- support NECEMA's goals; and
- support regional priority projects.

The Regional Network Coordinator will serve as a link between the RPC and the INECE Secretariat. While the first Regional Network Coordinator will be named by the INECE Secretariat, after consultation with the INECE EPC, and with the approval of the RPC, the position may thereafter be elected by the RPC.

#### **NECEMA SECRETARIAT**

NECEMA's Secretariat is responsible for providing technical, coordination, administrative, and communications support to NECEMA members and to the RPC in developing and implementing the work program. The Regional Network Coordinator will serve as Director of NECEMA's Secretariat.

#### **STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION**

Representatives from international organizations, development agencies, and other member country stakeholders, including judges, lawyers, civil society, experts, and business leaders are encouraged to participate in NECEMA activities.

### **VIII. Cooperation**

To enhance regional cooperation, NECEMA will:

- coordinate with regional economic and social development programs and initiatives in the region, including, but not limited to, the European Commission Neighborhood Policy and the United States/Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI);
- have direct input into INECE EPC deliberations through INECE representation in NECEMA;
- maintain contact with regional participants (and other participants of other INECE networks, as appropriate) through electronic means, including e-mail and the Internet, in order to share knowledge and post requests for information. To further this effort, NECEMA will develop and maintain a communications and web strategy;
- provide information for the INECE website;
- exchange information and experiences with other regional networks; and
- coordinate with other regional networks to create synergies and cooperate on capacity building efforts.

### **IX. Funding and other INECE Obligations**

To support NECEMA, INECE will:

- provide assistance to secure the necessary resources and support for the establishment of NECEMA;
- provide support in designing projects and fundraising efforts;
- assist with the development of research, case studies, educational documents and tools, and other relevant materials in appropriate languages for the Maghreb region (Arabic, French, etc);
- provide support and technical assistance to organize activities such as conferences, seminars, and training sessions;
- help develop an Internet communications network;
- promote NECEMA activities in the INECE Newsletter, on the INECE website, and in other relevant forms; and
- work with Maghreb representatives to continuously improve INECE regional web pages and their responsiveness to the needs in the region.

### **X. Logo**

The RPC will decide on the logo of NECEMA. The logo will be placed on all NECEMA documents.