



MONITORING OF AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT!

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NEWSLETTER OF AFRICAN MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

INSIDE NEWS

Grant Agreements Signed

The time for real impact has come. The implementation phase of the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) programme all over Africa is staged into play. AMESD has signed grant contracts with its Regional Implementation Centers (RICs) to implement its five regional thematic actions: management of water resources (CEMAC Region), cropland and rangeland management (ECOWAS Region), land degradation mitigation and natural habitat conservation (IGAD Region), coastal and maritime management (IOC Region), and agricultural and environmental resource management (SADC Region).

AMESD IGAD Thema is officially starting

Addis Ababa, May 11, 2010: The African Union Commission, through the European Union, has awarded a grant contract of EUR 1, 845, 632 to its implementing partner IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) - an intergovernmental organization formed within Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The agreement was signed on Tuesday, May 11, 2010, in AMESD Headquarters in Addis Ababa. This signature marks the official commencement of a three years implementation project, up to the 10th May 2013.

SEE FULL STORIES ON PAGE 4



Rhoda Tumusiime
African Union Commission
Commissioner for the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA)

FORWARD

It is with deep honor and profound appreciation that I write this forward to signal the publication of the first newsletter by AMESD on monitoring of the African environment. Africa's environment has been subjected to severe stresses over the years, with major ecological complexes suffering huge reverses as a result. From forests and woodlands, marine and coastal resources, land and fresh-water, biodiversity and the atmosphere, the changes have been growing steadily and adversely. And while information on these perceptible declines have been building up, the capacity of institutional and development structures in Africa have not readily assimilated the relevant genres for purposes of engendering sustainable economic renewal of African states.

At no time in history has Africa been deluged with so much information and used very little of it. Yet, this has to change, and it has to change qualitatively, if the harnessing of vital environmental information is to be meaningfully geared to achieving sustainable development. Africa has to make earnest moves to systematically build the requisite capacities to accommodate, process, utilize, and integrate environmental data not only with a view to monitoring the environment, but also to add value to planning models and development frameworks. It is in this context that my Department of Rural Economy and agriculture, within the African Union Commission, has taken the task of coordinating the AMESD programme in cooperation with the European Union, which funds the project, the ACP Secretariat and five major African RECs. In a recently concluded meeting of African Ministers of Environment (AMCEN) held in Bamako, Mali, from 20-25 June, 2010, a key decision was passed on AMESD that urged Member States to institutionalize the use of climate-related information to build- resilience and adaptation to climate change in national, sub-regional, and regional planning and development endeavors. This is the first time that the visibility of the programme has been accorded ministerial attention at the continental level. The critical step now is to facilitate the technologization of African institutional structures so as to enhance their capacity to absorb and utilize relevant earth observation data in pursuit of sustainable development.

It is my belief that this brief will help readers appreciate the policy and developmental significance of the AMESD programme being led by the African Union Commission.

AFRICAN MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (AMESD)

SAFEGUARDING AFRICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES AND PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD

AU-EU Partnership

AMESD is a partnership between the African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Union (EU). AUC has been mandated by the five participating Regional Economic Communities (RECs: CEMAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, IOC, and SADC) and by the ACP Secretariat, who are the program beneficiaries, to be in charge of the program implementation. AMESD was kicked off in October 2007 and is expected to run until mid 2013. Its funding from the European Development Fund reaches €21 million.

A Pan African Initiative

AMESD covers all the 48 ACP African countries. Each REC designated an institution in its area of jurisdiction as a Regional Implementation Centre (RIC) in order to develop AMESD added value products and services, based on Earth observation data, and put in place regional networks for the dissemination and use of these services at national level. The RICs are as follows:

- The Centre régional de Formation et d'Application en Agrométéorologie et Hydrologie Opérationnelle (AGRHYMET) in Niamey for the ECOWAS region;
- The Botswana Department of Meteorological Services for the SADC region;
- The Mauritius Oceanographic Institute (MOI) in Quatre Bornes for the IOC region;
- The Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo-Oubagui-Sangha (CICOS) in Kinshasa for the CEMAC region;
- The IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in Nairobi for the IGAD region.

At the political level

The RECs' goal in AMESD is, in line with their institutional mandate, the support to the development of the Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Policies and Plans and, within each AU member state, the National Action Plans (NAPs). The latter should promote a regional management of the public (institutional) and private sector related to environmental monitoring using EO technology. In this context, AMESD aims to provide decision-makers in the RECs, the African Union Commission and the national level with full access to the environmental data and products they need to improve national and regional policy and decision-making processes for better management of natural resources.

Stakeholders

The program's principal partners include the European Commission, EUMETSAT, the Commission of the African Union, the five participating African Regional Economic Communities and the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP).

AMESD is presided over by a Program Steering Committee, which supervises the initiative's implementation. This is comprised of representatives of the Regional Economic Communities, the ACP Secretariat, the Delegated Regional Authorizing Officer nominated by the commission of the African Union and his/her deputy, as well as

A PAN AFRICAN INITIATIVE WITH A CONTINENTAL AND REGIONAL COMPONENTS

representatives of the European Commission, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UN Environment Program (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and EUMETSAT.

The Technical Assistance (TA) is a Consortium of four firms (THALES ALENIA SPACE-France, BRLi, IRD and Conzortio ITA) contracted by the AUC to assist in the management of the program (technical, administrative and financial) at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, and at the RICs' level.

Goals

AMESD extends the operational use of Earth observation technologies and data from meteorological to environment and climate monitoring applications. The initiative will enable all African national and regional institutions focusing on environment and natural resources, as well as the continent's National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, to catch up technologically with their counterparts in Europe, America and Asia, which have benefited from the use of operational space technologies in environmental monitoring for some time.

It has four main area of focus:

- Providing the African user community with better access to Earth observation, field and ancillary data, as well as the infrastructure, local capacity and services necessary to sustain long term environmental monitoring;
- Setting up operational regional information services to support and improve decision-making in environmental management;
- Establishing national, regional and continental environmental information processes, frameworks and activities enabling African governments to meet their obligations regarding international environmental treaties more effectively and to participate in strategic global environment surveillance programmes such as Europe's Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS);
- Organizing specialized training and staff exchange programmes to maintain the technical capability of African AMESD stakeholders in the long term, with the aim of ensuring self-sufficiency. More than 500 African technicians will be trained by AMESD.

Regional Thematic Actions

Five Regional Thematic Actions (THEMA) are being established by the RICs in order to address the already prioritised decision needs of the RECs in the fields of (i) water resources management; (ii) crop and rangeland management; (iii) agricultural and environmental resources management; (iv) mitigation of land degradation (including forest exploitation) and conservation of natural habitats and; (v) marine and coastal management.

Water Resources Management

REC: CEMAC + DRC - Economical and Monetary Community of Central Africa (www.ceeac-eccas.org)
 RIC: CICOS - International Commission of Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (www.cicos.info)



Water Management for Cropland and Rangeland

REC: ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States (www.ecowas.int)
 RIC: AGRHYMET Regional Centre (www.agrhymet.net)



Land Degradation Mitigation and Natural Habitat Conservation

REC: IGAD - Intergovernmental Authority on Development (www.igad.int)
 RIC: ICPAC - IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (www.icpac.net)



Coastal and Maritime Management

REC: IOC - Indian Ocean Commission (www.coi-ioc.org)
 RIC: MOI - Mauritius Oceanography Institute (<http://moi.gov.mu/index.htm>)



Environmental and Agricultural Resource Management

REC: SADC - Southern Africa Development Community (www.sadc.int)
 RIC: BDMS - Botswana Department of Met Services (www.weather.info.bw)



AMESD IGAD THEME...

The ICPAC grant is one of the five Regional Thematic Actions, also called THEMA, which are developed and implemented by AMESD in Africa in the areas of management of water resources (CEMAC region), cropland and rangeland management (ECOWAS region), land degradation mitigation and natural habitat conservation (IGAD region), coastal and maritime management (IOC region), and agricultural and environmental resource management (SADC region). ICPAC will be responsible for the overall management of the THEMA and for de-

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veloping the Natural Habitat Conservation (NHC) service. The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), ICPAC Partner also based in Nairobi, will be developing the land degradation assessment service. Implementing its program in over 47 African states, AMESD is funded by the European Union under the 9th European Development Fund up to 21 million Euros, through Intra-ACP funds and regional indicative programs from CEMAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, IOC and SADC. The program is hosted by the African Union Commission (Addis Ababa).



Prof. Laban OGALLO, ICPAC Director, is signing the grant agreement witnessed by (from left to right) Ir. Etienne KAISIN, AMESD-TA Team Leader, Mr. Joan NADAL-SARTE, Head of Operation at the EU Delegation to AU, Dr. Khalil TIMAMY, AMESD-AU Program Coordinator a.i., Prof. OGALLO and Dr. Debalkew BERHE from IGAD.



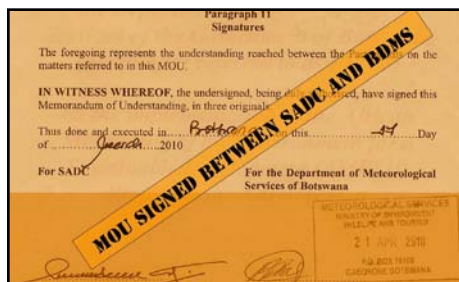
Exchange of originals between CICOS Secretary General and Head of EU delegation to DRC. From left to right: Head of the European Union Delegation in DRC, Mr. Richard Zink, H.E. Mr. Jean Bruno ITOUA, Minister of Energy from the Congo Republic and also President of the CICOS Ministerial Council and Col. Benjamin NDALA, CICOS Secretary General.

EU-AU GRANT AGREEMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONGO-UBANGI-SANGHA BASIN

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, 30th April 2010: The African Union Commission has awarded a grant of Euro 1,295,789 to CICOS in the framework of the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) programme. The CICOS grant, which was signed on Friday 30 April 2010, for a 3-year period, is one of the five Regional Thematic Actions, also called THEMA, which are developed and implemented by AMESD in 5 African Economic Regions (CEMAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, IOC, SADC). The CEMAC/DRC THEMA aims to assist gov-

ernments of the CEMAC Region, extended to the DRC, to use satellite data observation for proper management of water resources in the Central African region. The activities funded are needed to prepare two operational services for the Congo Basin, in a first stage, and Central Africa in a second stage. Representatives of the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (ADB) and development partners of the CICOS such as French Cooperation and GTZ, were also present in the signing ceremony.

MOU SIGNED BETWEEN SADC AND BDMS

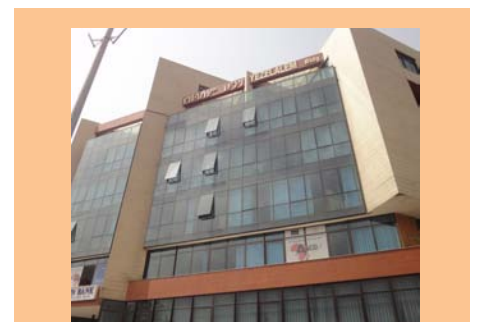


21st April 2010: A Memorandum of Understanding between the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Department of Meteorological Services of the Government of Botswana (BDMS) has been signed and came into force in April

21, 2010 in the framework of the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD)"- a pan-African program implementation.

The purpose of the MOU is to implement the AMESD Regional Thematic Action in the SADC region, which is identified in the SADC region as "Agricultural and environmental resource management".

BDMS, which is the AMESD Regional Implementation Centre (RIC) for the SADC Region, will receive a grant of EUR 1,846,000 for this purpose.



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