

ECA: Environmental Mandate & Activities

Economic and Social Commission for Africa

Environmental Mandate

The overall objective is to strengthen the capacity of member States to design institutional arrangements and implement national policies and programmes that reinforce the linkages within the nexus of food security, population, environment and human settlements in order to achieve sustainable development, and to contribute to building capacity of African countries to utilize science and technology in achieving sustainable development. Other objectives of this sub-programme include promoting awareness of the need to integrate concerns of the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic development, social development and environmental protection into national development planning and poverty reduction programmes; improve stewardship of the natural resource base and the environment by strengthening the capacity of member States for sustainable exploitation, management and effective utilization of such important natural resources as mineral and energy resources, and water resources.

Environmental Activities

Emphasis is placed on the WSSD plan of implementation, namely:

- Water and sanitation
- Energy
- Health and environment
- Agriculture
- Biodiversity and ecosystem management.

In response to urgent sustainable development challenges, consistent with the NEPAD framework, activities focus on the following four priorities:

- strengthening strategies and programmes for integrated water resources management; Improving land resources management
- Harnessing science and technology for sustainable development
- Assessing and monitoring progress on the implementation of the WSSD outcomes