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Meeting of the expert group

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

Consideration of the report of the secretariat**Report of the secretariat for the period 1 July 2010 to 31 August 2012****I. Introduction**

1. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was established in December 1985. Its mandate is to provide advocacy for environmental protection in Africa; to ensure that basic human needs are met adequately and in a sustainable manner; to ensure that social and economic development is realized at all levels; and to ensure that agricultural activities and practices meet the food security needs of the region. AMCEN gives guidance in respect of key political events, regional policies and initiatives related to the environment, including implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and regional agreements. AMCEN holds its ordinary sessions once every two or three years. The UNEP Regional Office for Africa serves as the secretariat for AMCEN.

2. The objective of the Secretariat report is to inform participants in the fourteenth session of AMCEN of the status of implementation of decisions taken by the Conference at its thirteenth session; the status of implementation of the work programme of the Conference during the biennium; and other follow-up activities mandated by the Conference during the reporting period.

3. Activities undertaken during the reporting period from 1 July 2010 to 31 August 2012 focused on the following four main areas:

- (a) Status of implementation of decisions taken by AMCEN at its thirteenth session;
- (b) Status of implementation of the work programme of AMCEN and related activities for the period from 1 July 2010 to 31 August 2012;
- (c) AMCEN-related meetings and conferences.

II. Status of implementation of the decisions taken by AMCEN at its thirteenth session

4. The following nine decisions were adopted by AMCEN at its thirteenth session:

- (a) Implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (b) Further implementation of the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on climate change in Africa;
- (c) Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

* AMCEN/14/EGM/3/1

- (d) Status and use of the general trust fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
- (e) Environmental education and technology-supported learning;
- (f) African monitoring of environment for sustainable development;
- (g) Africa Environment Outlook process and the African Environment Information Network;
- (h) African common position on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing;
- (i) Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Decision 13/1. Implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

5. The action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was prepared as a response to the call by NEPAD for the development and adoption of an initiative to address Africa's environmental challenges while at the same time combating poverty and promoting socio-economic development. The action plan was prepared through a consultative and participatory process under the leadership of AMCEN.
6. The action plan was organized in clusters of programmatic areas covering the following priority sectors and cross-cutting issues: combating land degradation, drought and desertification; wetlands; invasive species; marine and coastal resources; climate change; cross-border conservation of natural resources; and cross-cutting issues. It relates to Africa's common and shared sustainable development problems and concerns and is a body of collective and individual responsibilities and actions which African countries are to adopt and implement to maintain the integrity of the environment and ensure the sustainable use of their natural resources through partnerships with the international community.
7. The African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (formerly the NEPAD Secretariat) and AMCEN are each implementing various aspects of the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD. AMCEN is responsible for the implementation of its work programme and relevant decisions, which are an integral part of the action plan. The implementation of the work programme during the biennium should therefore be considered in that context.
8. Nine years after the adoption of the action plan under the auspices of AMCEN, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), the African Union Commission and AMCEN, with the support of UNEP, have been involved in reviewing its implementation during the reporting period. The aim was to assess the progress made in the implementation of the plan, as well as to address some emerging environmental issues in Africa.
9. NPCA initiated efforts aimed at harmonizing its activities in order to achieve more synergies and complementarities in its approaches and implementation strategies. Consultations were held with the regional economic communities to share information and progress in the implementation of various programmes and activities in Africa. Regional institutions and representatives from other regional networks were involved in these consultations. The consultations resulted in the identification of the need to establish an environmental platform that would help promote sustainable environmental management in the region.
10. The platform will focus on creating a more vibrant global partnership and cooperation to enhance Africa's environmental sustainability. The platform seeks to promote a shift in environmental management in Africa by developing innovative models. Climate-related risks will increasingly be mainstreamed into development, and adaptation actions will be implemented in priority regions and sectors. It intends to benefit from the successes and lessons of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), which has been instrumental in promoting the African agriculture agenda. Synergies between the proposed platform and CAADP will be maximized at all levels.
11. Consultants were hired to review the action plan implementation and a report was produced. The report was further reviewed by colleagues from the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the African Union Commission and UNEP. The document was further strengthened, to incorporate emerging issues on environment, such as the green economy and the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+ 20). The final document from the revision exercise was consequently discussed for validation at a stakeholders consultation meeting will be held on 3 and 4 September 2012 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

12. The report of the action plan for the environment initiative of the NEPAD will be submitted to AMCEN at its fourteenth session for consideration and adoption.

Decision 13/2. Further implementation of the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on climate change in Africa

13. The work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) on climate change in Africa (known as AMCEN work on climate change in Africa) was initiated as a follow-up to the twelfth session of AMCEN. During this session, ministers made a significant paradigm shift by agreeing to focus mainly on climate change. The AMCEN decision on climate change had two parts: (a) Africa's preparations for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012; and (b) a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes.

14. The objectives of AMCEN work on climate change in Africa were to:

(a) Support efforts by AMCEN to implement the continent's process to achieve a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012;

(b) Provide a platform to deliberate and agree on a shared vision and common position for Africa to combat climate change and achieve sustainable development;

(c) Engage with the international community in finding solutions to the challenges posed by climate change;

(d) Develop a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes and its associated subregional climate change programmes.

15. In its decision 13/2, AMCEN called for the further implementation of the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment on climate change in Africa. Some of the achievements made in the implementation of AMCEN work on climate change in Africa during the reporting period are provided below:

Completion of the Africa comprehensive climate change programmes

16. The preparation of a comprehensive framework of climate change programmes in Africa and associated frameworks of subregional climate change programmes were completed under the auspices of AMCEN and the regional economic communities. The framework of climate change in Africa takes into consideration the specificities of different regions with the aim of consolidating and improving the implementation of climate change projects and programmes within the continent.

17. The development of the Africa comprehensive framework on climate change programmes constituted a first-ever attempt to provide a coordinated response for the continent hence putting Africa in a position to achieve optimum results in adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer. There is now a critical need to implement the recommendations made in the comprehensive framework of climate change programmes and the associated frameworks of subregional climate change programmes.

Climate for Development in Africa Programme (ClimDev-Africa)

18. As part of the effort to address climate change challenges in Africa, the Climate for Development in Africa Programme (ClimDev-Africa) was created as a joint initiative of the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Commission of the African Union (AUC) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The Programme was endorsed at regional meetings of African heads of State and Government and by Africa's ministers of finance, planning and economic development and AMCEN. Its purpose is to explore actions required in overcoming climate information gaps for analyses leading to adequate policies and decision-making at all levels. The programme is now operational.

AMCEN communication strategy on climate change

19. The second part of AMCEN work on climate change in Africa involved the preparation of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes and its associated frameworks of subregional climate change programmes. One of the key gaps identified in this process was the lack of readily available data on climate change to provide a deeper understanding of the climate change facts and projections of its impact on different sectors. Where data was available it was not packaged to best inform decision makers and negotiators. Therefore, it was agreed that a communication strategy that would provide sustained, reliable and accessible information to the different actors involved in and affected by the impacts of climate change should be prepared.

20. It was underscored that information alone was ineffective without the support of a tool and mechanism for capacity-building and skills development. The communication strategy was therefore to serve as an essential tool for AMCEN in supporting countries and ensuring regional attention and efforts and in mobilizing policy and political and financial support as well as enhancing public/civil engagement for the comprehensive response to climate change in Africa. A consultative meeting on the AMCEN communication strategy on climate change was organized by the AMCEN secretariat at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi from 23 to 26 August 2010 in order to finalize the document.

21. The communication strategy will provide a platform and methodologies for enhancing access, development, sharing and utilization of climate change resources, including data, relevant policy and technical documents and available tools, so that the need for an effective global response and understanding and capacities of the African countries in responding to climate change are well informed and enhanced. It is expected to fulfil a dual role of raising awareness of the necessity to mitigate and adapt to climate change and of providing information on the trends and impacts associated with our daily choices and action at all levels.

22. Concerted efforts should now be made to implement the AMCEN communication strategy on climate change to bring greater awareness and provide information to communities to enable them make informed and responsible choices.

Second Inter-ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa

23. In November 2010, UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO) organized the Second Inter-ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa in Luanda, where African ministers of health and environment agreed to give special attention to the management of the adverse effects of climate change on health. It was highlighted at the meeting that through the experience gained in the implementation of the Libreville Declaration on health and environment, in particular through the creation of the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance (HESA), synergies could be found to support adaptation actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience in the health sector in developing countries, in particular in countries in Africa, given that adaptation is an urgent and immediate need for those countries.

24. The ministers adopted a Joint Statement on Climate Change and Health in which the countries agreed to implement an essential public health package to enhance climate change resilience of the health sector.

Framework for public health adaptation to climate change in the African region

25. As a follow up to the Second Inter-ministerial Conference on Health and Environment, UNEP, WHO and other partners developed the framework for public adaptation to climate change. The overall objective of the framework is to guide the formulation of country-specific action plans that will form the health component of national climate change adaptation plans aimed at minimizing the adverse public health effects of climate change.

26. In its decision SS.IV/1 on climate change, adopted at its fourth special session, AMCEN requested the African Union Commission, UNEP, WHO and other development partners to support the implementation of the framework for public health adaptation to climate change in the African region adopted by the WHO Regional Committee for Africa at its sixty-first session through an appropriate mechanism.

Africa's common negotiating position on climate change

27. Several consultative meetings of the African group of negotiators have been held since the thirteenth session of AMCEN, including in Johannesburg in March 2011, in Cape Town in May 2011 and in Durban in August 2011, culminating in the fourth special session. The meetings were held with the view to updating Africa's common negotiating position on climate change. The AMCEN secretariat provided policy and legal advice to the African negotiators and Government officials at all these and other global climate change meetings. It also provided fact sheets, policy and technical briefs to African negotiators and senior Government officials.

28. The updated African common position on climate change was endorsed by AMCEN at its fourth special session as the basis for negotiations by African States on strengthening the international climate change regime through the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

29. It was also agreed that the African common position will be continuously backed by new findings, including the best available scientific, economic and technical information, and, in this regard, institutions, African centres of excellence, the African Union Commission, the African

Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Climate Policy Centre and other development partners, including the World Bank, were invited to support the elaboration of the research agenda in support of the African common position. Additional consultative meetings have therefore been held in 2012 in this regard.

30. The support provided to the African negotiators by AMCEN is expected to continue until the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Doha from 26 November to 7 December 2012.

Decision 13/3. Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

31. In its decision 13/3, AMCEN noted that the evolution of other relevant initiatives under the African Union referred to in the decision had been completed through further intergovernmental consultations within the African Union. In this regard, the Conference requested the AMCEN secretariat, in consultation with the AMCEN Bureau, to continue the revision of the Constitution of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, taking into account the institutional evolution of the African Union, and report to the Conference at its fourteenth session.

32. During the twenty-fourth meeting of the AMCEN Bureau, held in Nairobi on 20 February 2011, the Bureau agreed to constitute a working group to review the AMCEN constitution and related issues, including the institutional evolution of the African Union, and to present clear recommendations for consideration by the Bureau. The working group comprised representatives of the African Union Commission, Mali (as President of AMCEN), the United Republic of Tanzania (as Rapporteur) the AMCEN Bureau, UNEP and the AMCEN Secretariat. A meeting of the working group on the revision of the Constitution of AMCEN was held on 25 and 26 August 2011 at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.

33. It will be recalled that in February 2009, the Assembly of the African Union made a decision to reconfigure the specialized technical committees (STCs) from 7 to 14. Environment issues, where AMCEN falls, are an integral part of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment. The Assembly requested the Commission to prepare detailed activities of the STCs with a view to avoiding overlap and ensure coherence and harmony with the portfolios of the Commission.

34. In its decision Assembly/AU/Dec.365(XVII), adopted at the seventeenth Ordinary Session of the African Union, held in Malabo on 30 June and 1 July 2011, the Union took note of the report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.227(XII) on the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs), adopted in Addis Ababa in February 2009. In principle, it adopted the proposed detailed activities of the 14 STCs, including for the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment. With regard to the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, the Commission, in its recommendation, proposed to establish subcommittees on agriculture, rural development, water and environment with a view to addressing the diverse and broad competencies incorporated within that STC. The Assembly requested the Commission to operationalize the STCs from January 2013 and decided that thereafter the Sectoral Ministerial Conferences should be abolished.

35. In the light of the Malabo decision on STCs, the working group agreed that it would not be proper to embark on the revision of the AMCEN constitution before the STCs became operational and the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment found its proper place with regard to how it would carry on its work. However, it would be more appropriate for AMCEN to review and make recommendations on how it would engage with the African Union, especially with the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, in the context of the new structure. The working group recommended that a position paper with such recommendations be prepared for consideration by the fourteenth session of AMCEN. It is worth noting that that paper is available as document: AMCEN/14/5.

Decision 13/4. Status and use of the general trust fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

36. Pursuant to decision 13/4 on the status and use of the general trust fund, the secretariat prepared a budget proposal for the use of the remainder of the principal of the AMCEN Trust Fund not be invested, for approval by the Bureau. The budget consisted of the interest generated by the general trust fund and the remainder of the principal that is not invested to carry out Conference activities covers the costs of Bureau meetings and meets the costs of regular sessions of the Conference.

37. Currently both voluntary contributions and the interest rate are in decline, rendering the situation unsustainable in the future. Unpaid pledges amounting to \$2.1 million have had to be written off contributions to the trust fund continue to be irregular and low.

38. The AMCEN Secretariat has made every effort to mobilize resources for the trust fund. Letters asking for contributions to the trust fund were sent out to countries and follow-up was undertaken. However, contributions received from member States in 2010-2011 amounted to \$254,136. The interest generated by the general trust fund over the same period was \$76,477. The total income for this period was \$330,620.

39. A report on contributions to the General Trust Fund of AMCEN and use has been prepared by the secretariat (AMCEN/14/EGM/5).

Decision 13/5. Environmental education and technology-supported learning

40. Overall, a considerable amount of progress has been made in the four-year period since the twelfth session of AMCEN with regard to environmental education and technology-supported learning. A number of strategic partnerships have been established and a capacity-building programme focusing on training in the area of technology supported learning has been partially implemented. A pilot application on mobile learning was implemented in Kenya and won two international awards. Lack of funding is now the major impediment towards continuing the capacity building programme.

41. A detailed report summarizing progress made to date on the implementation of decision 12/6, which was adopted at the twelfth session of AMCEN and supplemented by decision 13/5, can be found in document AMCEN/14/INF/2.

Decision 13/6. African monitoring of environment for sustainable development

42. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment adopted decision 13/6 on African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD), urging member States to integrate AMESD products and services into their planning and development processes. The regional implementation centres of the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) programme were instructed to articulate the AMCEN decision and disseminate information to users of AMESD products and services and for Governments to integrate these products and services into their development planning processes. The respective regional economic communities were urged to facilitate this among their member States. It was appreciated that policymakers would need training on how to integrate and also be exposed to the various options to integration.

43. The regional implementation centres showcased their products and services in the African Pavilion at the seventeenth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Durban in November 2011. Under the coordination of AMESD headquarters, representatives from the regional implementation centres of AGRHYMET from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region, the Intergovernment Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) from the IGAD region and the Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS) from the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) region exhibited their services and formed informal alliances with continental and global environmental initiatives. As part of the added value to measuring the impacts of climate change, AMESD products and services aims to provide updated environmental data to African policy makers to support decision-making for sustainable development in the continent.

44. The African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development and IGAD held a successful midterm workshop in Nairobi from 15 to 17 February 2012. The main objective of the workshop was to provide a forum for exchange of experiences in the development, integration and validation of products and services of AMESD and IGAD. In the IGAD region, AMESD action focuses on the assessment and monitoring of land degradation and natural habitats for sustainable land management. ICPAC serves as the regional implementation centre and works closely with its lead partner, the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD).

45. A policy workshop on the theme "Showcase the use of AMESD services for policymaking" was held in May 2012 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa on 22 and 23 May 2012. The specific objective of the conference was to sensitize policymakers on the utilization and integration of AMESD regional products and services and general environmental Earth observation information into the development process of AU member States. It was attended by around 50 representatives of each of the African regional economic communities - CEMAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) - and AMESD regional implementation centres, as well as by environmental policymakers from AU

member States. In addition, about 60 local and international organizations, universities and others attended the conference. The workshop concluded by urging African policymakers to promote an active, informed and sustainable participation in global environment surveillance initiatives.

46. The African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development programme will come to an end in June 2013. A new programme – Monitoring of Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) will bridge AMESD with the follow-up Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and Africa Initiative. The implementation of MESA will start in 2013 and run until 2018. MESA, likewise, will build on the results of AMESD to address the needs for improved management of natural resources and environmental security towards sustainable development in Africa, at the continental, regional and national levels, including all sub-Saharan African countries.

Decision 13/7. Africa Environment Outlook process and the Africa Environment Information Network

47. The AMCEN secretariat is working with the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Early Warning and Assessment and the Regional Office for Africa to develop modalities for communicating, tracking and reporting on implementation of the outcomes of the Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) process by AMCEN.

48. There are ongoing activities to achieve this through the strengthening of the Africa Environment Information Network (AfricaEIN). Understanding that mainstreaming of AEO findings into national processes is best achieved through country-led processes, the first meeting of national focal points of AfricaEIN is planned for October 2012. In addition, capacity-building for the preparation of state of the environment and outlook reports, atlases of our changing environment, national environment summaries and/or Climate change and environment outlook reports have been provided to the following countries: Cape Verde, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania (Dar Es Salaam).

49. The United Nations Environment Programme, working in collaboration with CA, WHO, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations, has supported the preparation of the third Africa Environment Outlook Report. The report's underlying theme is "Health and environment interlinkages". The summary for policymakers (French and English) will be launched at the fourteenth session of AMCEN. Civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations were invited and participated in the preparation of the report through the provision of content, case studies and data, and as peer reviewers. They also supported the preparation of the report through resource mobilization.

50. The United Nations Environment Programme has developed and is implementing a plan to strengthen the Africa Environment Information Network. This includes strengthening of national networks, building their capacity to increase their relevance to national and regional processes, working with African centre of excellence (or Topic Centres), aligning monitoring and assessment products to national reporting and development needs and improving the capacity of countries to collect, analyse, package and communicate environmental information

Decision 13/8. African common position on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing

51. The tenth conference of parties to of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing in October 2010. The President of AMCEN played a critical role in Nagoya to arrive at outcomes that took into account Africa priorities and concerns. Through the Global Environment Fund (GEF)-funded project "Capacity-building for the early entry into force of the Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing", which is led by the CBD Secretariat, in collaboration with UNEP, support is being extended to African countries.

52. Furthermore, with contributions from Japan and other donors, GEF established the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF), which is designed to support countries looking to build enabling activities to ratify the Protocol. However, thus far African countries have expressed disappointment at not being able to access the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund. During the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, held in July 2012, African delegates stated that Africa had been largely left out by the GEF.

53. At its second meeting, the Intergovernmental Committee recommended that GEF expedite the procedures for gaining access to funds from NPIF. Expedited procedures will ensure that African countries access the financing through NPIF in the process of ratifying the Protocol

Decision 13/9. Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

54. The first session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an inter-governmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES), held in Nairobi in October 2011, established the platform.

55. The second session of the plenary, held in Panama City in April 2012, decided on the physical location of the IPBES Secretariat. Germany won the bid to host the Secretariat in Bonn.

56. The intersessional process towards the first IPBES meeting, anticipated to be held in early 2013, is currently under way. The intersessional process will support preparations for the first plenary meeting of IPBES, in addition to underpinning the development of its programme of work.

III. Implementation of the work programme of AMCEN undertaken over the period 1 July 2010 to 31 August 2012

57. In previous bienniums, the work programme of AMCEN has been taken as an integral part of the action plan for the NEPAD environment initiative. A number of activities were thus undertaken in this context during this reporting period.

Land degradation and desertification

58. The Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) was initiated as a model to help in the fight against desertification, ensure ecosystem restoration and development of arid and semi-arid zones. The creation in June 2010 of the Great Green Wall (GGW) Pan African Agency and the recommendations of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in June 2010 provided an enabling environment for the development of a global partnership in support of the initiative.

59. In order to strengthen its support to the initiative, the United Nations Environment Programme identified areas in which it could assist. A study on the comparative advantage of the Programme in the GGW was developed by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring centre on the basis of an analysis of ongoing and past programming, lessons learned and current flagship programmes. The study also provided an overview of ongoing programming in the GGW countries undertaken by other agencies, including the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the African Development Bank.

60. The study demonstrates that whereas the other agencies focus their work on developing national-level support programmes and providing financial resources for large-scale investments in land and water management, there are shortfalls in the development or integration of science and assessment from design through the implementation phases. GGW has been developed as a set of national initiatives without overall integration and consideration of the GGW portfolio that – while being technically sound – does not take full advantage of recent innovations in ecosystems management, monitoring and science-based decision-making tools.

61. Three rapid evaluations were commissioned in collaboration with three specialized centres. The thematic study on ecosystem services and drivers for change in the GGW context was carried out by the Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE) in Senegal; the topic on transboundary natural resource management and governance in GGW countries was conducted by the Comité Inter-Etats pour la Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel (CILSS), whereas the socio-economic situation and capacity to adapt to climate change was undertaken by Environment and Development Action in the third world

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