



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of UNESCO)**

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**THE AFRICAN PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND  
PROTECTION OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT  
IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

This document describes the political and technical framework initiated in 1998 through the PACSICOM and Cape Town Conference, which resulted in the African Process for the development and protection of the marine and coastal environment in sub-Saharan Africa. The African Process is an African-lead ongoing initiative that will progressively generate concrete project proposals. As a programmatic approach, it provides a solid methodology that will gradually permit other sub-Saharan countries to benefit from a structured process for the prioritisation of leading causes of environmental degradation, and the identification of the most effective interventions, from an environmental, institutional, and financial perspective. This will provide external partners with a set of concrete initiatives organized in the 'Programme of Interventions' to work jointly with African stakeholders on sustainable projects with a high degree of national ownership. The African Process is being implemented by a consortium of international organizations that include IOC-UNESCO, ACOPS, UNEP, and UNEP-GPA, with the full support of the OAU and AMCEN, the African conference of Ministers of Environment. As a result of this effort, the protection of the marine and coastal environment in sub-Saharan Africa became part of the priorities in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

## 1. INTRODUCTION

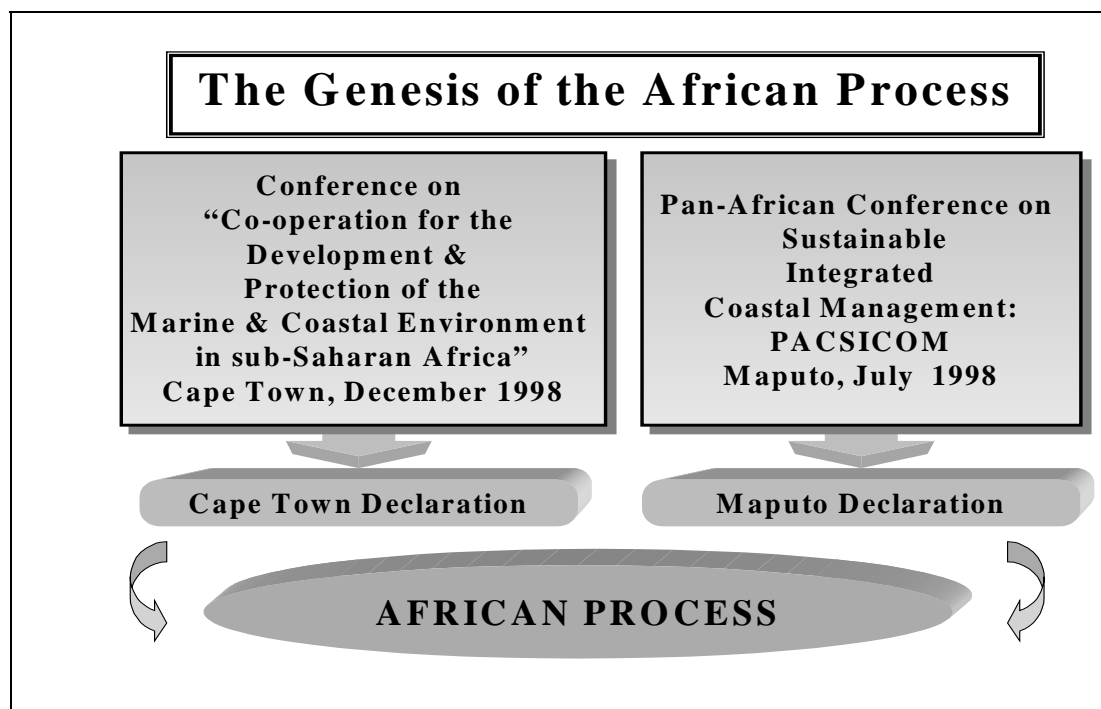
### 1.1 Background

The African Process for the “Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in sub-Saharan Africa” is the result of a merger of two initiatives: the PACSICOM Conference held in July 1998 in Maputo, and the Cape Town Conference on Development and Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment in sub-Saharan Africa, held in December 1998.

These two events, organized during the UN International Year of the Ocean, resulted in the strengthening of a unified political awareness amongst African governments for the need to develop an integrated approach towards the development and preservation of coastal and marine resources.

One of the main outputs of the Cape Town Conference was the recommendation to organise a Partnership Conference in 2002, which would bring African States and the donor community together with a view to seek and increase support for the development of intervention project proposals for sub-Saharan Africa.

A Preparatory Committee for the organisation of the Partnership Conference was subsequently established, composed of Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Mozambique, Seychelles, and South Africa as well as international organisations such as UNEP, IOC-UNESCO, IUCN, ACOPS, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN).



### 1.2 Political endorsement of the African Process

The African Process has rallied significant high-level political support because it is an African-lead initiative that is aimed at the delivery of targeted and bankable projects. For this reason it has been highlighted by the WSSD PrepCom III as one of Africa’s main contributions to the Johannesburg Summit. In addition, the African Process has been incorporated into the “ocean segment” of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD, and ACOPS has been invited to participate in the Steering Group of the GEF medium-size project, which is developing the Environment Action Plan of

NEPAD. In addition to this, the GPA Co-ordination Office in The Hague has highlighted the African Process as a key initiative for the development of Regional Programmes of Action (RPAs) and National Plans of Action (NPAs) in fulfilment of the GPA mandate. Similarly, the African Process is to be discussed at the Banff meeting of Environment ministers of G8 as well as at the upcoming Summit. Therefore, external partners who support the African Process and its projects are delivering on a range of key initiatives such as the WSSD agenda and Type II Partnerships, G8 support for NEPAD, NEPAD itself, and the implementation programme of the GPA.



### 1.3 Objectives of the African Process

The African Process has five principal objectives:

- 1) To identify areas, sites or living resources that are either suffering measurable degradation (i.e. hot-spots) or threatened with future degradation (sensitive areas) and to determine, through root-cause analysis, the leading causes of these impacts, taking into consideration scientific, technical and socio-economic factors.
- 2) To design a programme of interventions, including demonstration projects and pre-investment studies, addressing problems of regional priority. Some projects are regional in scope, and focus on groups of countries united by geographic location or identified common problems. Site-specific projects of priority for the participating countries are also included.
- 3) To strengthen existing regional institutions, in particular the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions, and to establish synergies with relevant programmes and projects.
- 4) To provide a framework for facilitating the mobilization of resources for the sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment, given that available funds for such projects are very limited.
- 5) To produce a self-sustaining model that can be replicated in other regions or thematic areas in order to develop interventions that contribute to the goals of sustainable development.

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN PROCESS

ACOPS was designated as facilitator of the African Process by the Preparatory Committee of ministers and was assigned the task of developing a GEF medium size project (MSP) proposal as a tool for preparing a set of proposals addressing the marine and coastal issues affecting the seven countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Seychelles, and South Africa). At the time, it was recognized that Partnership Conference was not just tailored around this GEF MSP as other mechanisms, such as those of individual nations or private sector partnerships, will also be invited to present proposals at the Conference. In September 2000, ACOPS signed an agreement with IOC/UNESCO to jointly implement the GEF MSP and provide technical assistance in the organization and running of the national teams and working groups.

### 2.1. GEF Medium Size Project on the Development and Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of Sub-Saharan Africa

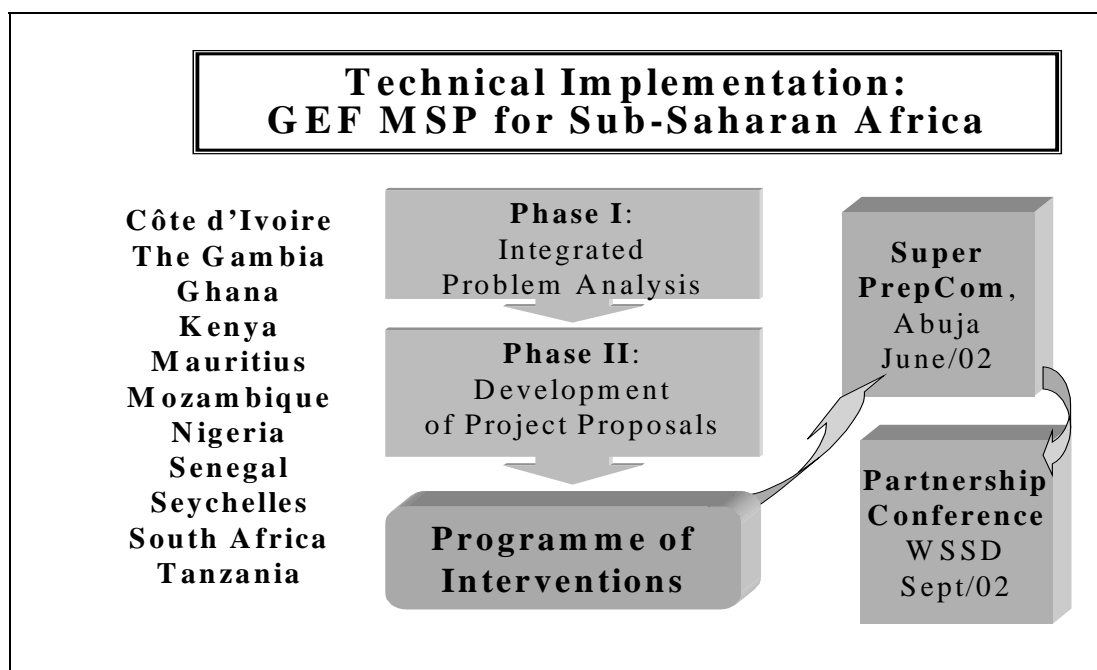
As mentioned above, technical implementation of the African Process has taken place through a GEF Medium Sized Project (MSP) that has been implemented in two phases. Originally focusing on seven countries, the GEF MSP was enlarged to include an additional four countries (Gambia, Mauritius, Senegal, Tanzania). This was made possible through the support of UNEP.

Eleven countries in sub-Saharan Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Seychelles, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania) are participating in the project, of which the ultimate goal is to develop a sound portfolio of proposals for interventions for these eleven countries, basically responding to item 1) and 2) above.

ACOPS and IOC implement the GEF MSP with additional support coming from GPA and UNEP. The Steering Committee of the GEF MSP is composed of the same members of the Preparatory Committee for the Partnership Conference (i.e. Ministers of Environment of the eleven countries + organizations).

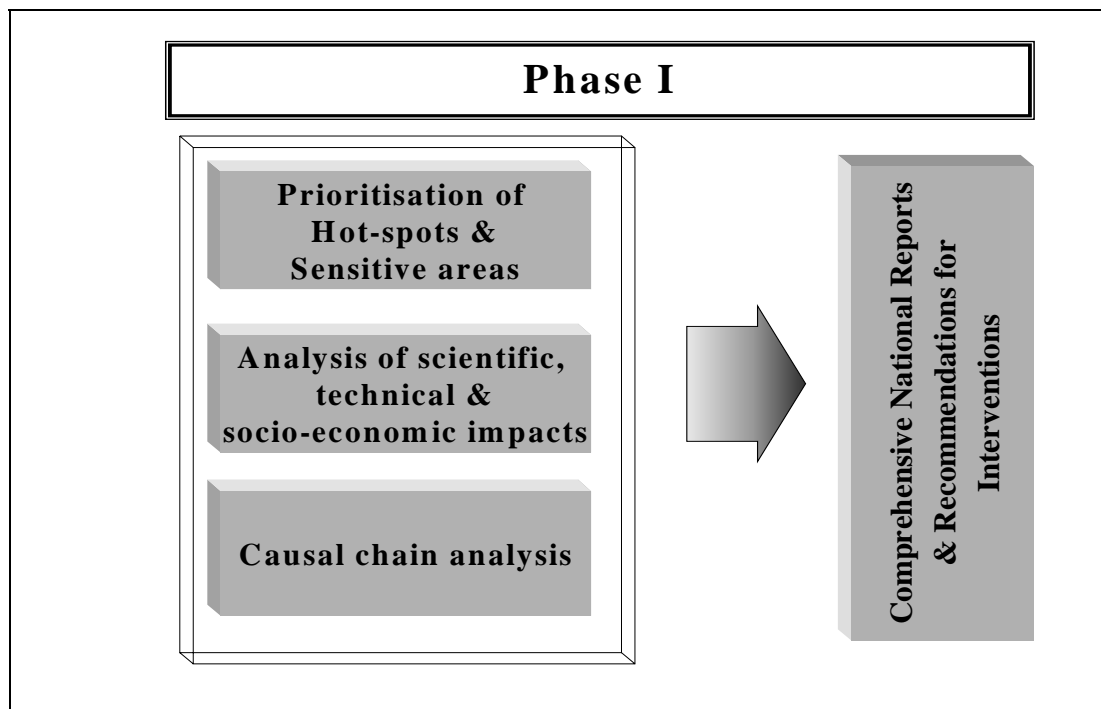
### 2.2 The GEF Medium Size Project

The GEF- medium size project consists of two phases that progressively identify the most feasible and tractable options for addressing key environmental issues, on the basis of a comprehensive analysis that uses existing information and data.



## PHASE I

From October 2000 – September 2001, an integrated problem analysis was carried out by national multidisciplinary teams, composed of both socio-economic experts and natural scientists. The resulting national reports identify and characterise the main causes of environmental degradation and threats to defined marine and coastal resources and ecosystems, analyse the resulting impacts from a scientific perspective as well as in terms of socio-economic considerations, including health, food security and local community livelihoods, and identify immediate and direct causes, as well as underlying pressures and root causes. Gaps relating to institutional, regulatory, and enforcement frameworks and data inventories, were assessed. The national teams then presented recommendations for specific interventions, which could most effectively mitigate these environmental impacts in the respective countries and sub-regions.

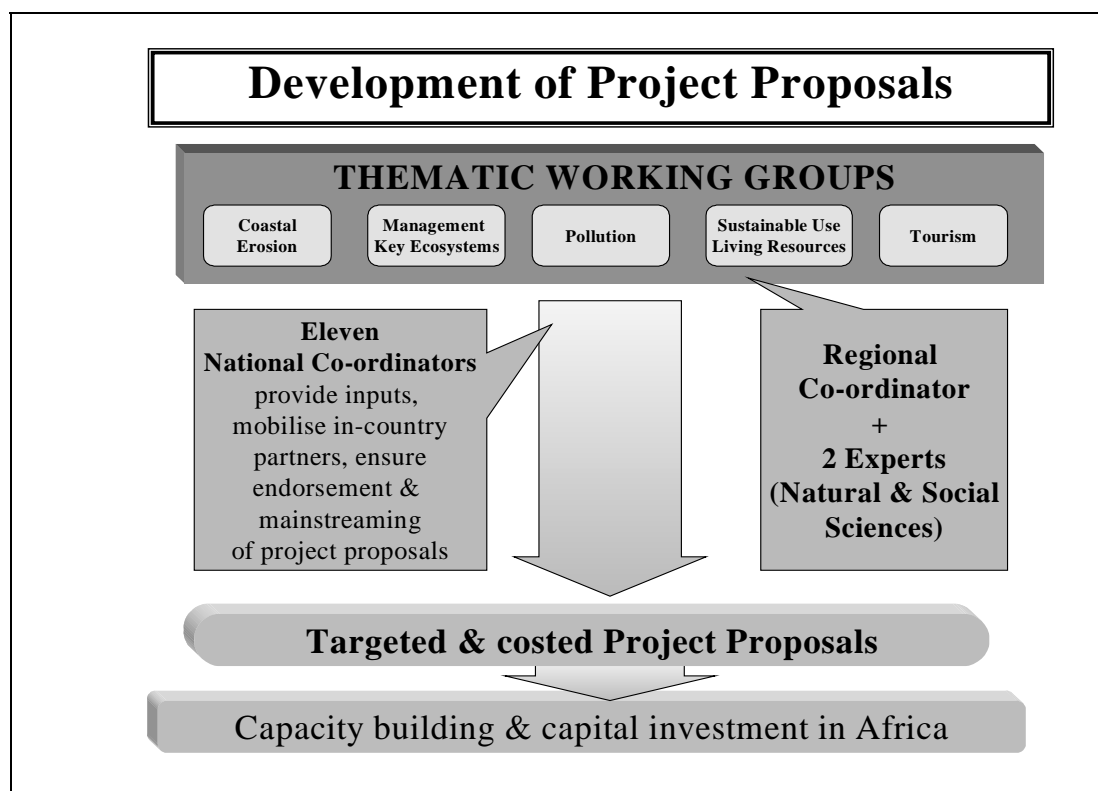


## PHASE II

On the basis of the outputs of the integrated problem analysis, concrete project proposals are being developed. Five thematic working groups (Coastal Erosion, Management of Key Habitats and Ecosystems, Pollution, Sustainable Use of Living Resources, and Tourism), identified by the national teams as the priority areas for project development, are guiding and co-ordinating the project proposals. Each working group is led by a regional coordinator who works with two experts with multidisciplinary backgrounds; in turn, these teams are liaising with country coordinators in each of the eleven countries. All resource experts are from African countries. These teams are developing interventions that are both regional and sub-regional in scope, both in geographic terms and with reference to identified common problems, as well as site specific interventions that are of priority for the participating countries. These project proposals will be structured into the comprehensive Programme of Interventions (PoI)<sup>1</sup>, which will be presented at the Partnership Conference.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Programme of Interventions (PoI) is defined as a structured framework which would organise, arrange and present the whole of the project proposals in a coherent and 'user-friendly' way for effective reconnaissance by the donors and partners of the Partnership Conference. In particular, the PoI would strengthen elements of regionality, cooperation and linkages*



Following the second meeting of the Working Groups, held in Accra, 18-20 February, the teams have now started to develop the project proposals which will be presented and reviewed at the next meeting of the Working Groups planned to take place in Abidjan, in May 2002.

A crucial step in this process is to ensure endorsement of the proposals at the national level. This will be one of the major tasks of the 11 national coordinators. In addition, in order to ensure success at the Partnership Conference, negotiations with potential donors and partners have also begun at this time.

The GEF MSP will result in a portfolio of environmental projects: the objectives of the proposals must be to address the priority environmental issues identified, and the field activities must relate to the selected **hot spots** and **sensitive areas** identified in the first phase of the MSP.

After reviewing at the Abidjan meeting in May 2002, the proposals will be integrated into the Programme of Interventions (PoI) and submitted to the Super PrepCom for approval in June 2002.

### 2.3 'Other proposals' submitted to the Partnership Conference

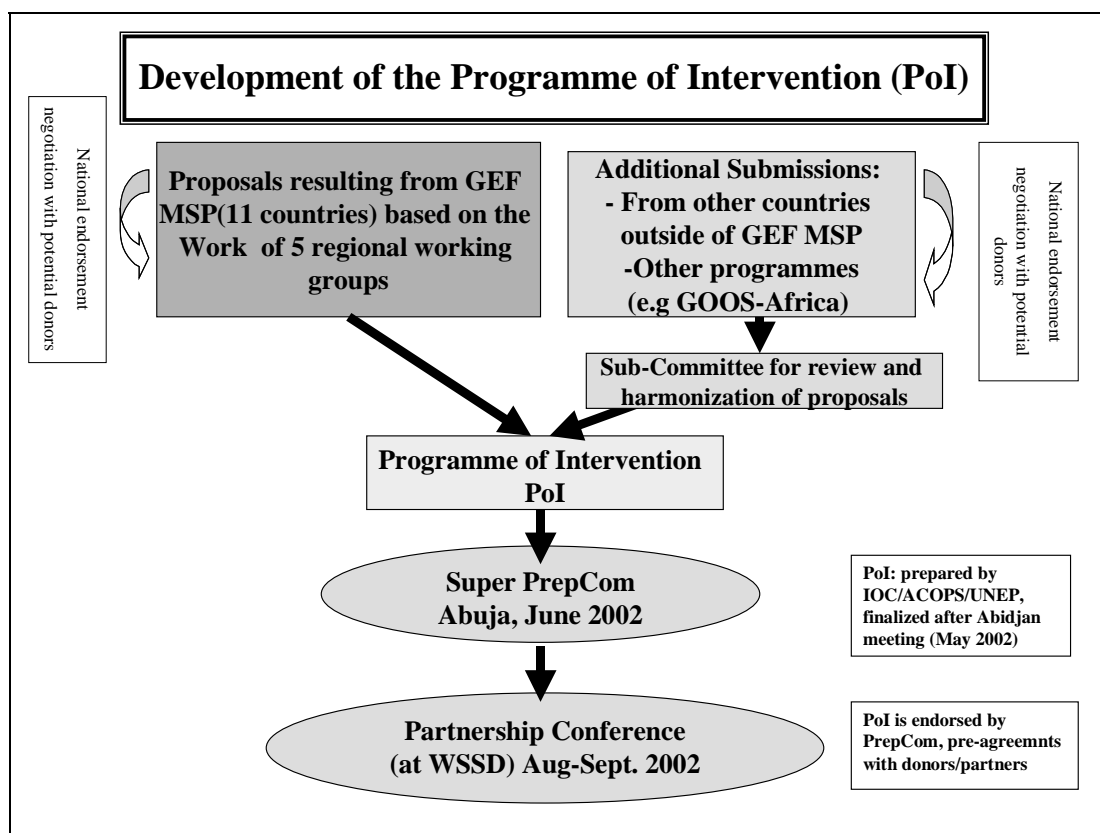
In order to ensure that countries not participating in the GEF MSP can still participate and benefit from the Partnership Conference, the Preparatory Committee (in its last meeting in Cape Town, Sept. 2001) agreed to invite all countries to present their priority marine and coastal environmental projects and to allow submission of proposals from countries and programmes not participating in the GEF MSP.

For this purpose, the Preparatory Committee has established a Sub-committee on Harmonisation of Project, to undertake the technical review and harmonisation of project concepts and proposals that may be submitted from countries and programmes not currently participating in the GEF MSP. This sub-committee will review these proposals, and will prepare the inclusion of the proposals into the Programme of Interventions. South Africa, Mozambique and Nigeria, will be members of the Sub-committee as well as the implementing agencies (including IOC).

Though GOOS-Africa has its own mechanism for preparing and developing project proposals, in terms of schedule, the GOOS-Africa proposals, which responds to the PACSICOM recommendations as well as to IOC Assembly resolutions, are in line with the objectives of the African Process and will be integrated in the Programme of Interventions. The Preparatory Committee has set up the date of 15 April 2002 for other countries/programmes to submit their project proposal. However, in order to be successful it will necessitate that these proposals (whether nationally or regionally focused) are supported by national authorities of the countries concerned. As for the GEF MSP proposals, these other proposals will also need to start negotiating with potential donors. To help with this, IOC and ACOPS have compiled a database on donors, which may assist to identify specific donors, their field of interests, and their budget cycles.

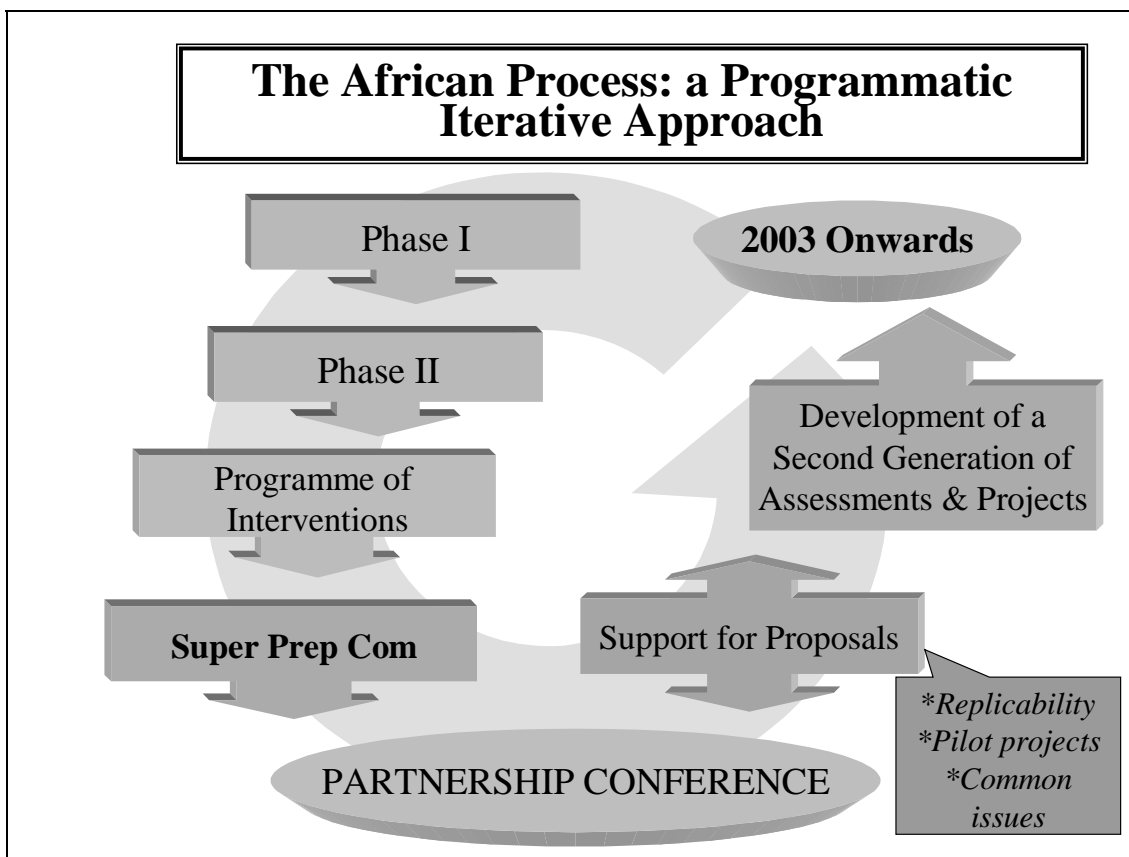
In terms of format of the project proposal, it is recommended that other countries and programmes use the same template as the GEF MSP proposals, as it provides a solid basis on which to commence work. It contains the basic information that most partners will require, and it can be adapted to the specific requirements of a partner when this stage is reached. In addition, the standard format will provide an excellent instrument for the mobilization of potential partners as it provides good and consistent information.

The Harmonization committee will have carried out its work before the GEF MSP Abidjan Workshop scheduled on 13-16 May 2002. Once reviewed by the Harmonizing committee, the proposals will be integrated into the Programme of Interventions together with the GEF MSP proposals, and will be presented at the Super PrepCom meeting in Abuja (17-19 June 2002). The Super PrepCom meeting will be chaired by Nigeria's President Obasanjo, and attended by the Ministers of Environment of the initial eleven countries, plus possibly representatives of other countries. Identified partners and donors have also been invited to attend.



## 2.4 Beyond the Partnership Conference

In accordance with a decision adopted by the OAU Summit of Lusaka, July 2001, the African Process will culminate in a Partnership Conference, which shall be held at the level of Heads of State during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, August – September 2002). The high level of political support it has mobilised is further evidenced by the decision of President Obasanjo of Nigeria to host and chair the final preparatory meeting to the Partnership Conference, the “Super PrepCom”, which will be held in Abuja from 17 to 19 June 2002. The Super PrepCom will endorse the project portfolio, the Programme of Interventions, which will be adopted at the Partnership Conference. This is one of the most innovative aspects of the African Process, as a framework that gives the projects to be developed both sustainability and a follow up mechanism. It will include elements of capacity building in order that the projects are effectively implemented in the various countries, and coordination of international donor assistance to the sub-continent. It will also include regional cooperation mechanisms, *inter alia*, through active linkages with the Nairobi and Abidjan conventions. Future activities after the Partnership Conference will include the continued mobilisation of partners and donors to ensure that the proposals are implemented, the definition of modalities for continued development of selected proposals, the possible development of a second GEF cycle project, the establishment of assessment and follow-up mechanisms for the funded proposals.





## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACOPS	Advisory committee for the Protection of the Sea
COP	Conference of Parties (of Abidjan or Nairobi Conventions)
GEF MSP:	Global Environmental Facility – Medium Size Project
GPA	UNEP Global Plan of Action
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NPA	National Plan of Action (ref. GPA)
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
OAU	Organization of African Unity
PACSICOM	Pan-African Conference on Sustainable Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (1998)
PoI	Programme of Interventions
RPA	Regional Programme of Action
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2002