AMCEN AU UN environment programme

Distr.: General
31 July 2025

Original: English

English and French Only

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
Twentieth Session

Ministerial Segment
Nairobi, Kenya 16 and 17 July 2025

UNEDITED

Decision AMCEN 20/Dec.4: Africa's environmental priorities for the 2025-2027 biennium

We, the African Ministers of Environment,

Having met in Nairobi from 16 to 17 July 2025 at the twentieth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Recalling the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
Recognizing the urgent need to address the escalating impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, pollution, and challenges in environmental governance across the continent,

Recognizing the escalating impacts of desertification and drought on livelihoods, climate change, biodiversity, and ecological stability across Africa, and reaffirming the importance of restoration as a strategic response,

Having considered the proposal of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the recognition and classification of the massive destruction of environmental ecosystems as the crime of "ECOCIDE",

Acknowledging that the interrelated crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation and desertification, drought and deforestation, ocean degradation, pollution and increasing risks to human health and food and nutritional security, pose an existential threat to humanity and our planet,

Acknowledging the strategic frameworks developed by the African Union, in particular the African Union Green Recovery Action Plan (2021-2027), the Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022–2032), Africa Action Plan on carbon markets 2025, , the African Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2023–2030), and the African Green Minerals Strategy (2024), Africa Union Ocean Governance Strategy and Implementation plan (2025-2035), Africa circular economy action plan, The AU Great Green Wall strategy and Ten year implementation plan (2024-2034).

Welcoming member states to implement the African Leaders' Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action (2023) and the Kampala ministerial declaration on migration and climate change,

Concerned by the disproportionate burden of climate impacts on African countries, the widening climate finance gaps, and the growing threats to ecosystems, health, and livelihoods,

Welcoming the progress made in the implementation of decisions arising from recent sessions of the African

Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Decide:

I. Climate Action

1. To urge member States to accelerate the implementation of the Africa Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022–2032).
2. To promote the scaling up of sustainable cooling technologies, including solar-powered refrigeration and passive cooling systems, to enhance climate adaptation and mitigation.
3. To support the implementation of the African Green Minerals Strategy to ensure responsible mining, value addition, and circularity in mineral value chains.
4. To encourage member States, as appropriate, to implement commitments made by African Leaders' Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action (2023), the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on migration and climate change, Mission 300 Declaration and Clean Cooking Declaration.
5. To urge member States to prioritise, harmonise and implement national and regional action plans and policies to combat desertification, land degradation and drought; ensure that these plans and policies are aligned with national development objectives and integrate climate resilience considerations related to agriculture, forestry, health, air quality and water management; and align these considerations with broader sustainable development goals and call for a legally binding protocol on drought under United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
6. To encourage member states to enhance actions on climate resilience and social services that recognize the role of vulnerable groups such as small-scale farmers, children and youth in addressing issues related to climate change and environment.
7. To encourage member state to implement the African Action Plan on carbon market noting the different levels of engagements by member states and ensuring that necessary frameworks to guide the participation in the carbon markets are put in place at national levels.
8. To encourage member states to work with other partners including the Africa Network of Parliamentarians on Climate Change to promote climate action on the continent
9. To scale up climate finance, with emphasis on grant flows to support African climate action and operationalizing innovative financing instruments including debt relief.
10. To enhance the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans. including early warning systems for all and locally led initiatives.
11. To urge parties to ensure timely submissions of Nationally Determined Contribution and call on developed county parties to provide financial support for the implementation of Nationally Determined Contribution

II. Biodiversity, Land Degradation, and Drought

12. To encourage member States to align their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans to Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to enable harmonisation of regional progress.
13. To call for the full implementation of the African Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2023–2030), with emphasis on governance, sustainable use, and financing.
14. To encourage member States to adopt nature-positive food systems and implement the Africa Union Strategic Framework for Drought Risk Management and Enhancing Resilience in Africa.
15. To call upon member States to develop drought policies and governance mechanisms for drought risk management, drought monitoring and early warning, drought vulnerability and impact assessment, drought mitigation, preparedness, and response, knowledge management and drought awareness, and reducing the underlying factors of drought risk.

UNEDITED

16. To urge member States to prioritize, harmonize and implement national and regional action plans and policies to combat desertification, land degradation and drought; ensure that these plans and policies are aligned with national development objectives and integrate climate resilience considerations related to agriculture, forestry, health, air quality and water management; and align these considerations with broader sustainable development goals; and call for a legally binding protocol on drought under United Nations Convection to Combat Desertification.
17. To support the development or the strengthening of regionally coordinated restoration frameworks that priorities drought-prone landscapes, integrating indigenous knowledge systems and ecosystem-based adaptation approaches
18. To establish an ad hoc committee to examine the classification of the massive destruction of environmental ecosystems during the period 2025-2027 and to consider the report of the ad hoc committee at the next Ordinary Session of AMCEN.

III. Pollution and Air Quality

19. To promote a shift from biomass to cleaner fuels, enhance public awareness, and support clean cooking technologies through subsidies and microfinance.
20. To encourage member States to enhance afforestation, reforestation measures, and the establishment of carbon pricing mechanisms to reduce emissions and improve air quality.
21. To request the United Nations Environment Programme, the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, and other relevant partners to support member States implement the priority measures identified in the 2023 Integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Sustainable Development in Africa.
22. To encourage member States to promote alternative fuels and clean cooking technologies to accelerate access to clean cooking aligned with national energy planning and universal energy access goals.
23. To request the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant partners to support member States implement the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.
24. To encourage member States to establish and strengthen national air quality monitoring networks and data collection systems.
25. To encourage member states to ensure coordination at regional and sub regional levels for data sharing and harmonization of monitoring protocols to address transboundary air pollution.

IV. Environmental Governance

26. To request the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant partners to support countries in Africa in the development and implementation of the environmental rule of law.
27. To request the United Nations Environment Programme, the African Union, and other relevant partners to support the advancement of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, including through the development of a continental instrument on access to environmental justice, environmental information, and public participation in environment management.
28. To promote the ratification or accession, implementation, and revitalization of regional environmental agreements, including the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, and the Maputo African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.
29. To promote the ratification and implementation of global environmental agreements of interest to the continent, including the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, the regulatory frameworks on deep sea mining under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and through the

UNEDITED

International Seabed Authority, as well as the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

V. Digital Transformation

30. To support countries to develop and use digital tools to achieve environmental targets while mitigating the negative environmental and social impacts from digital technologies and their supply chains.
31. To encourage member States to involve ministries of finance and national statistics offices in the design, governance, and deployment of digital public goods for environmental management, to ensure data-driven policymaking and integration with national budget processes.
32. To catalyze a transformative use of environmental digital public goods to amplify and accelerate progress towards global climate, biodiversity and pollution goals and targets.

VI. Sustainable Financing and Budgeting

33. To develop a regional bioeconomy framework to support conservation financing and community livelihoods.
34. To request the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other partners to support the development of a common African framework on sustainable budgeting to support the mobilization of resources to facilitate coherent implementation of the priorities of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the African Green Stimulus Programme, nationally determined contributions, and national adaptation plans.
35. To request the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and other partners to support the development of a publicly accessible African resilience finance dashboard to monitor and report progress on aligning national budgets and investments with climate, nature, and sustainable development goals, thereby strengthening transparency and accountability at national and regional levels.
36. To convene a joint session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development in 2027 to align environmental and economic priorities.

UNEDITED