



**African Regional Workshop on
Article 6 of the Convention**

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Some facts



- Twenty seven experts representing 26 countries from the African region
- Pre-workshop survey of 48 African countries ranked the issue of public awareness as the region's top priority, ahead of education and training
- Policy makers, the general public and youth as key target audiences

Needs identified (1)



- Concentrate on raising awareness for the youth, and in local communities
- Increase use of local languages in climate change awareness initiatives
- Increase exchange of information – for example through the development of the clearing house mechanism
- Establish synergies on work on Article 6 (eg. CCD and CBD), among regional agencies, to ensure cost-effectiveness
- Increase networking and better utilization of regional assets

Needs identified (2)



- Public institutions to increase use of the media and for wider utilization of informal channels of communication to transmit information
- Relate climate change to the activities that are performed by grassroots communities
- Involve religious groups in raising public awareness
- Increase cooperation at the international, regional and subregional levels so as to involve countries in on-going initiatives (eg., through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative)
- Mobilize support for Article 6 related activities

Gaps identified (1)



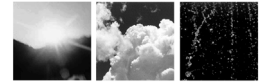
- The multiplicity of local languages and the regional divide between English and French
- In some countries, the rapid turnover of policy makers requires educating new officials on a regular basis
- Inadequate funding is a universal concern
- Inadequate expertise and staff
- Bureaucratic resistance and difficulties of coordination can impede the efficient implementation of Article 6 activities

Gaps identified (2)



- International support can often come with heavy and time-consuming reporting procedures attached
- Government officials and the general public may ignore climate change messages because they are more focused on other priorities, such as poverty and AIDS
- Practical limitation on communications, from slow Internet to illiteracy to limited distribution of newspapers, can be serious barriers

Follow-up actions (1)



- Provide support to regional institutions with competitive advantages in specific fields of education, training and public awareness
- Identify specific opportunities for regional cooperation, for example, in launching a regional strategy on education and training, or in establishing a regional network on Article 6
- National focal points could explore how to benefit from the NEPAD initiative in formulating their national programmes for implementing Article 6 activities
- Enhance the relationship between government officials and journalists and to keep journalists abreast of CC issues

Follow-up actions (2)



- Develop and share replicable templates of activities and success stories, eg: through the development of regional curricula for education on climate change at primary and secondary school levels
- Governments could collaborate actively with national and regional institutions, including universities and NGOs to formulate regional strategies for climate change training
- Strengthen regional cooperation through sharing information products and translations, experiences and ideas, es, building networks of university research programmes
- Promote synergy with other environmental conventions

Greetings from the past, with an eye on the future

