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MISSION TO OUAGADOUGOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
THIRD MEETING OF AFRICAN DESERTS AND ARID LANDS COMMITTEE
(ADALCO)

7 - 9 FEBRUARY 1990

by

REGIONAL ADVISOR ON DROUGHT AND DESERTIFICATION CONTROL

THIRD MEETING OF AFRICAN DESERTS AND ARID LANDS
COMMITTEE (ADALCO)

1. The Third Meeting of the AMCEN's African Deserts and Arid Lands Committee (ADALCO) was held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from 7-9 February 1990. It was opened by H.E. Mr. Moustar Kebe, Minister for Nature Protection of Senegal, Vice-President of AMCEN and Chairman of ADALCO. A welcoming statement was made by H.E. Mr. Dieudonne Bonanet, Minister of Tourism and Environment of Burkina Faso, while Dr. Halifa Drammeh made a statement on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP. Mr. C. Metcalf, UNDP Resident Representative in Burkina Faso, also made a statement.

2. Members of the ADALCO Committee who attended the meeting included Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Guinea, Morocco, Senegal, Swaziland and Tanzania. The following National Focal Points of Western Africa Sub-regional Environment Group (WASREG) also took part: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Chad, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo. Representatives of the following international organisations and countries also participated: UNEP, UNDP, UNSO, FAO, ECA, WMO, OAU, CLISS, IUCN, United States and Commission of the European Community. ABUSE, a non-governmental organisation was also represented. A list of the participants is attached as appendix 1.

3. The composition of the Bureau consisted of the following:

Chairman:	H.E. Mr. Moustar Kebe
Alternate:	Mr. Moustar Niang
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Fidele Hien
Reporteurs:	Dr. Diallo N. Tata (Guinea)
	Dr. Moise Akle (OAU)

4. The following agenda was adopted for the meeting:

1. Opening statement by the Chairman of ADALCO,
2. Election of the Bureau,
3. Adoption of the Agenda,
4. Presentation of a Report on activities and Progress as agreed at Second ADALCO Meeting, Dakar 22 - 24 May 1988.
5. Information regarding outcome of the third session of the AMCEN, Nairobi 10 - 12 May 1989.
6. Presentation of reports by designated National Focal Points concerning development action programmes for implementation of priority sub-regional activities.
7. Proposing a follow up of activities of ADALCO.

5. The ADALCO Report on Activities and Progress as agreed at the Second ADALCO Meeting, Dakar, 22-24 May 1988 was introduced by a member of the secretariat. The most important elements concerned the following:

- the responsibilities given to the Committee, and the difficulties encountered in fulfilling them;
- the outline of action plan to combat desertification in Southern Africa;
- the Master Plan for development of the Nubian sandstone aquifer;
- the Programme of Cooperation against Savannization and Suhelization in the Central African Sub-region.

6. The information regarding the outcome of the Third Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment was provided by Dr. Halifa Drommeh (Doc. UNEP/AMCEN 3/2). He presented to the participants an outline of the report by the AMCEN's Special Group on re-assessment of AMCEN's organizational and operational structures. He pointed out that the task force had recommended to the Bureau, the relocation of the various AMCEN's networks as follows:

<u>Network</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Energy net work	ECA
Science and Technology	UNESCO
Genetic Resources	OAU
Climatological net work	WMO/ACMAD
Soil and Fertilizers	FAO

The AMCEN Bureau is scheduled to meet in Dakar from 8-9 March 1990 to review the recommendations of the task force.

7. Presentation of action programmes to combat desertification in Southern Africa:

Dr. William Rugumamu introduced the paper on an action programme on combating desertification and promotion of food production in Southern African sub-region, emphasizing the following main points:

- situation of the problem within the framework of the Cairo programme,
- description of the status of natural resources,
- methods of utilizing resources and consequences on the environment,
- bottlenecks for improved knowledge about resources and rational planning on combating desertification,
- strategy for the integration in the national plans of desertification control measures.

In the conclusion, two approaches are proposed to solve the problem:

- the first is the political approach, resolving the conflict between SADCC Countries and South Africa;
- the second is the economic approach, whose objective is to establish a new economic order based on the interdependence of countries in the sub-region.

The following remarks were made following the presentation of the paper:

- the report was in conformity with the consultant's terms of reference and duration of mission; it was an interesting and well - documented report;
- never the less, it would have been useful if the outline had been formulated in consultation with the SADCC Secretariat in Gaborone (Botswana) and with the other relevant institutions;
- identification of specific cases to be submitted to the Committee would have been welcomed;
- the Secretariat would use the outline as a basic document for identifying priority areas that would form the basis of an action programme to be implemented by competent and interested organizations.

8. The Central African Sub-region.

Mr. M. Bringa Maxime Faustin presented the report on the programme of cooperation against savannization and sahelization in the Central African sub-region. The main points in the report are as follows:

- analysis of the causes of savannization and sahelization in the Central African Sub-region;
- social economic and ecological consequences;
- analysis of the development plans of countries in the sub-region;
- general approach to ecological degradation;
- sub-regional strategy to combat savannization and sahelization.

In conclusion the report points out that the sub-region is facing ecological, economic and social crises resulting from bad management of natural resources, excessive population pressures and developments which are frequently sectoral. The solution proposed is to encourage national development programmes integrated at the sub-regional level.

Following the presentation of the Report, the following points were expressed:

- confirmation of the degradation of forestry resources in Central Africa as a result of pressures due, inter alia, to the importance of Central Africa's forestry resources in the global forestry economy.

One participant expressed the view that one of the causes of degradation is the expansion of agricultural lands resulting from population increase although the report cited bush fires as the determining factor.

9. Concern was expressed on the procedure followed by the Committee in adopting the reports submitted. The meeting considered that since the Committee itself had requested the studies to be undertaken, it was therefore in a position to take decisions on the two reports, which were adopted by consensus. In adopting the reports, the Committee requested the Secretariat to consider inviting the authors of the reports, experts and relevant institutions to participate in restructuring and defining more precisely the main programme activities to be undertaken.

10. Presentation of Reports by members of the Committee.

The members of the international community presented reports on desertification control activities being undertaken by their respective organizations in the African region. The following are the major activities:

- project on management of the Fouta Djallon valley - OAU
- MAB project - UNESCO
- IPCC/ACMAD projects and preparation of world conference on climate change (1990) - WMO
- project on preparation of world conference on environment and sustainable development - UNDP;
- advisory services to member States on desertification control and ACMAD establishment - ECA

11. Reports by representatives of National Focal Points of WASREG.

The representative of Central African Republic pointed out that Pygymies were being used to combat deforestation and bush fires in the forests since they inhabit these ecological habitats. Guinea reported on the following activities underway:

- development of the upper Niger Basin,
- control of bush fires,
- surveillance of natural resources
- strengthening of national institutions,
- environmental protection.

Ghana reported on the following:

- promotion of village pilot projects in arid and semi-arid regions within the framework of AMCEN,
- formation of anti-desertification unit,
- formulation of a national conservation strategy,
- formation of a senior Women's Advisory Group - to sensitize women on environmental matters,
- creation of environmental awareness throughout the nation.

12. Proposals regarding follow-up activities.

Mr. J. Scoupy reviewed the progress which had been achieved in the ADALCO Meeting, namely:

- (i) compilation of a report on "Programme of cooperation against savannization and sahelization in Central African sub-region",
- (ii) drafting of a report on "outline of an action - programme to combat desertification and promote food production in the Southern African sub-region".
- (iii) mobilization of national focal points from the North - East Africa (Egypt, Libya, Sudan and Chad) in the development of the Nubian Aquifer. The preparation of a master-plan by a consultant had not yet been completed.

Some suggestions about the follow-up activities included:

- (i) finalization of the reports presented at the 3 ADALCO Meeting by the respective consultants,
- (ii) selection of specific activities from the reports for implementation.
- (iii) next ADALCO Meeting to be held in a North African country to ensure the participation of the North African member countries.

ISSUES OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO ECA
Re-organization of AMCEN

13. As pointed out in paragraph 6, UNEP had appointed a special Task Force to examine and suggest the reorganisation and structure of AMCEN. Since its inception, UNEP had acted as the sole secretariat to AMCEN. Towards the end of last year, UNEP, ECA and OAU met to try to resolve the running of AMCEN's

secretariat. To-date no concrete solution has been found concerning the composition of AMCEN's secretariat. UNEP's idea was for ECA and OAU to contribute one post each to AMCEN Secretariat.

Regarding the recommendations of the special task force, a UNEP official explained that a decision concerning the re-distribution of the various net works to other international organization would be taken at the 5 meeting of the AMCEN Bureau to be held in Dakar (Senegal) from 8-10 March 1990. It is suggested that ECA participate in the Dakar meeting since the Energy net work is to be reassigned to ECA. Moreover, the Climatological net work is expected to be taken over by ACMAD once the latter is established.

APPENDIX 1

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