



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
MDGs**

**Presentation
to Civil Society Forum**

15 October 2008

Presentation outline

- **The Environment MDGs**
- **EC priorities and action on MDG Goal 7**
- **Main EC actions to date in South Africa**
 - **SA progress**
 - **Objectives of Panel discussion**
- **Introduction of Civil Society speaker**

The Environment MDGs

Goal 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources
- Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

EC priorities and action on the way toward 2015 – goal 7: sustainable development (1)

- Integrate environmental issues in the political dialogue with partner countries and support these countries in their obligations towards the environmental agreements.
- Incorporate sustainable management of natural resources, including biodiversity, in development cooperation programs, and strengthen the focus on environmental and natural resources management issues in CSPs.
- Strengthen mutually reinforcing economic, employment, social and environmental policies both at EU level and internationally.
- Carry out Trade Sustainable Impact Assessment for each major trade negotiation and propose flanking measures to enhance positive impacts and mitigate negative impacts.
- Enhance corporate social and environmental responsibility both at EU level and internationally.

EC priorities and action on the way toward 2015 – goal 7: sustainable development (2)

- Pursue efforts to meet the 2010 EU and WSSD targets to stop / reduce the decline in biodiversity (including through adequately considering the links between biodiversity protection and poverty eradication).
- Pursue efforts to ensure the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle in the EU and at global level
- Pursue efforts to address climate change and implement the United Nations Framework Convention and its Kyoto protocol, for example through mechanisms such as emissions trading, Joint Implementation and Clean Development Mechanisms.
- Co-operate and work further to develop a global framework to address climate change post-2012, based on common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities of countries.
- Capacity for operation and maintenance in the water sector.

EC priorities and action on the way toward 2015 – goal 7: water

- Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans, including the establishment of legal and institutional frameworks, and produce sector investment programs focusing on the water and sanitation MDGs.
- Improve water governance, including through stakeholder consultation; establish appropriate mechanisms of coordination on water issues at national level, and facilitate decentralization of decision making on water and sanitation matters by building local government capacity.
- Develop implementation capacity for operation and maintenance in the water sector.

EC priorities and action on the way toward 2015 – goal 7: energy

- Improve energy governance, assisting in creating the conditions for sustainable use of modern energy services.
- Assist in leveraging funds for the financing of projects and programmes aimed at increasing access to modern energy services, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Increase coordination with related sectors (rural development, water, education, health) in order to increase sustainability of actions aimed at reaching the MDG.
- Strengthen the links between EUEI activities to promote sustainable energy services and major investments in the provision of sustainable energy infrastructures.
- Further develop the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition under which the 88 countries that have so far joined the coalition have agreed to set targets and timeframes for increasing the share of renewable energies in their overall energy mix.

Main EC actions to date in South Africa

- **Support programme to the Water Sector – Masibambane I, II and III**
- **Support to Area Based Management in eThekweni**
- **Support to urban development in Buffalo City and Nelson Mandela**
- **Thematic budget lines – conservation of community land, environment and waste management**
- **EU-SA environment dialogue**

SA progress – Target 9

- New policies and legislation developed to secure sustainability and equitable access to resources
- The range of legislative, policy and institutional developments have served to bring about a new environmental management approach
- about 6% of the land surface of SA is formally conserved through the system of national and provincial protected areas and 17% of the shoreline is formally conserved through proclamation as Marine Protected Areas. The target is to expand the terrestrial to 8% and marine to 20% by 2010.
- Bioregional approach to conservation planning
- Factoring of biodiversity considerations into development plans
- Cross-sectoral programmes – working for water

SA progress – Target 10

- Water: Between 1994 and 2007 access increased from 61.7% to 84.7% of households – MDG target met.
- Sanitation: Between 1994 and 2006 access increased from 50% to 71% of households
- major progress has been made with regards to provision of basic water and sanitation services as access to basic services increased from 59 % of the population in 1994 to 94% of the population in March 2007.
- National Water Resource Management Strategy – establishment of CMA's and WUA's
- Building capacity of local government as WSA's and WSP's

SA progress – Target 11

- Slums equate to townships and informal settlements in SA but have different characteristics – not inner city in most cases
- approximately 2.4 million new houses were built with the assistance of a state subsidy, often on state-provided land, to house those without adequate housing between 1994 and 2006.

Objectives of Panel discussion (1)

- CSO views on SAG policies and actions to reach MDGs
- Role of CSOs in achieving MDGs
- Role of donors can play to achieve MDGs, including improving aid effectiveness

Objectives of Panel discussion (2)

- What is your view on the AAA (Accra Agenda for Action) and aid effectiveness?
- Do civil society organisations consider they are in a position to influence policy regarding MDGs?
Are there effective civil society mechanisms for coordination and engagement with Government?
- Are there examples good partnerships between Government and civil society in support of MDGs?
- What is your view on EC cooperation with Civil Society in South Africa?
- How do you see South African civil society's role and current cooperation in the region?

Introduction of Civil Society speaker

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**Areas of Interest/Expertise: International organisations; global
governance; global environment; South-South relations**