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**Eleventh Meeting of Contracting Parties  
to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection,  
Management and Development of the Marine  
and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast  
of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region**

Cape Town, South Africa, 17-21 March 2014

**National Reporting Template**  
**Summary**

The Action Plan and the Abidjan Convention were adopted by the Governments in 1981; the Convention entered into force in 1984. It has been renamed the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region.

The Abidjan Convention covers the marine environment, coastal zones and related inland waters falling within the jurisdiction of the States of the West and Central and Southern African Region, from Mauritania to the Western coast of South Africa inclusive. The Abidjan Convention countries are: Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo (Dem Rep of), Congo (Rep of), Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region in Abidjan was held from 16th to 23rd March 1981. The conference adopted an action plan for the West and Central African Region and two legal agreements:

- The Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region ;
- The Protocol concerning Co-operation in combating pollution in cases of emergency

As at 1 October 1981, the legal agreements have been signed by twelve coastal States of the Region. The Government of the Ivory Coast has been designated as the Depositary for the Convention and Protocol. UNEP has been designated as the secretariat of the Convention and Protocol. The Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution in Cases of Emergency in the Western and Central African Region was adopted in 1985 and entered into force in 1996.

On June 22, 2012, the Protocol concerning the Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Sources and the Activities (LBSA) in the Western, Central and Southern Africa Region was signed and officially adopted by the Contracted Parties, in Grand-Bassam, Ivory Coast.

In accordance to Article 22 of the Abidjan Convention, and the Terms of Reference for Focal Points, the Contracting Parties are obliged to transmit regularly to the Secretariat, information on the measures adopted to implement the Convention and its Protocols in such forms as the meetings of Contracting Parties may determine.

In Decision CP10/6 the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to provide a template for compiling country reports as a means for reporting to the Convention.

The decision CP10/16 urged the Secretariat to organize parallel to COP11, the first meeting of the Science and Technology Committee knowing that one of the topics of the that meeting should be the operationalization of article 22 of the Abidjan Convention with regards to reports on the implementation of the Convention at the level of the States Parties.

A national reporting template for the Abidjan Convention was therefore produced on the basis of the Nairobi Convention national template in consultation with Grid-Arendal.

This national reporting template is aimed at facilitating the transmission of such information from Parties to the Secretariat. The structure of the questionnaire equally allows for easy sharing of information on issues related to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols as envisaged in Articles 16 and 22 of the convention and related protocols.

The national reporting template was approved by the Committee on Science and Technology and the Parties to the Abidjan Convention at the Eleventh Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region, held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 17-21 March 2014

**TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL REPORTING ON THE ABIDJAN CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS AS PER DECISION [COP.11/13]**

***Convention for the Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention)***

***Draft template for national reporting on the Abidjan Convention for the year [xxxx]***

**Introduction**

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The Abidjan Convention covers the marine environment, coastal zones and related inland waters falling within the jurisdiction of the States of the West and Central and Southern African Region, from Mauritania to the Western coast of South Africa inclusive. The Abidjan Convention countries are: Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo (Dem Rep of), Congo (Rep of), Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region in Abidjan was held from 16th to 23rd March 1981. The conference adopted an action plan for the West and Central African Region and two legal agreements:

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On June 22, 2012, the Protocol concerning the Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Sources and the Activities (LBSA) in the Western, Central and Southern Africa Region was signed and officially adopted by the Contracted Parties, in Grand-Bassam, Ivory Coast.

In accordance to Article 23 of the Abidjan Convention, and the Terms of Reference for Focal Points, the Contracting Parties are obliged to transmit regularly to the Secretariat, information on the measures adopted to implement the Convention and its Protocols in such forms as the meetings of Contracting Parties may determine.

In Decision CP10/6, paragraph 4, the Secretariat are urged to organize parallel to the next Conference, the first meeting of the Science and Technology Committee to operationalize article 22. Decision CP10/16 specifies further the importance of operationalization with regards to reports on the implementation of the convention of the State Parties

The national reporting template is aimed at facilitating the transmission of such information from Parties to the Secretariat. The structure of the questionnaire equally allows for easy sharing of information on issues related to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols as envisaged in Articles 22 of the convention and related protocols.

The questionnaire is in two parts:

1. Part A requires the respondent to provide general information on the party submitting the report, such as the name and contact details.
2. Part B requires the respondent to provide information on the measures taken by the party to implement relevant provisions of the Abidjan Convention and its Protocols and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols.

You may add any additional information regarding the specific measures undertaken by your country that merit special attention. All reports should be submitted to the Abidjan Convention Secretariat no later than three months prior to the next Conference of Parties. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact:

Abidjan Convention Secretariat  
II Plateaux-Vallon  
Rue Harris Memel Foteh  
01 BP 1747, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire  
E-mail: [unenvironment-abidjan-convention@un.org](mailto:unenvironment-abidjan-convention@un.org)  
Tel: +225 22514600/+225 22514610  
Fax: +225 22514602

**Part A**

**This part requests the respondent to provide general information on the party submitting the report.**

Country:

Full name of the reporting institution:

Period Reported (DD/MM/YYYY):  
from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title of reporting officer:

Mailing Address:

Tel.: Fax:

E-mail:

Webpage:

Date the report was submitted (DD/MM/YYYY):

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Part B**

This part requests information on the measures taken by the party to implement the provisions of the Abidjan Convention and its protocols and the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the Convention's objectives.

**Section 1: Designated National Focal Point, Institution and Implementation Plans - Article 16**

<b>1. Details of a designated National Focal Point and the alternate for the Abidjan Convention</b>	
<b>National Focal Point:</b>	
Title:	
Name:	
Address:	
Tel:	
Fax:	
Email:	
Website:	
<b>Alternate:</b>	
Title:	
Name:	
Address:	
Tel:	
Fax:	
Email:	
Website:	

**2. Details of a designated focal National Agency/Ministry/Institution or other appropriate authority which serve as a channel of communication with the Secretariat for purposes of this Convention and its Protocols: (Article 16, paragraph 2)**

**National Focal Point:**

Title:	
Name:	
Address:	
Tel:	
Fax:	
Email:	
Website:	

**3. Details of designated partner institutions which collaborate with the focal institution in the implementation of the objectives of this Convention and its Protocols on:**

**a) Protection of marine and coastal environment from land based sources and activities**

Name:	
Address:	
Tel:	
Fax:	
Email:	
Website:	

<b>b) Combating marine pollution in cases of emergency</b>	
Name:	
Address:	
Tel:	
Fax:	
Email:	
Website:	

**4. List the main Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) your Government is a signatory to.**

Title	Date of Signature	Date of ratification	Date of accession
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<b>5. Provide names and contact details of national experts on:</b>
<b>a) Physical alteration and destruction of habitats</b>
<b>b) Wastewater management</b>
<b>c) Marine Pollution</b>
<b>d) Climate change</b>
<b>e) Fisheries and aquaculture</b>
<b>f) Marine protected areas</b>
<b>g) Emergency response</b>
<b>h) Coral reefs</b>
<b>i) Mangroves</b>



j) Sea grass
k) Coastal forests
l) Maritime and Shipping
m) Other

**6. List existing national plans, policies and programmes that address the general obligations of the Abidjan Convention? (Article 4)**

In each category below please provide brief details or copies or links to websites of all of the main plans, policies or programmes that are being used in your country.

Thematic areas	Plans/Policies/Programmes	Source/links
<b>a. Land-based sources and activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollution from point sources</li> <li>• Pollution from diffuse sources</li> <li>• Physical alteration and destruction of habitats</li> <li>• Transboundary pollution</li> <li>• Environmental Impact assessments</li> </ul>		
<b>b. Combating marine pollution in cases of emergency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oil spill contingency plans</li> <li>• Sensitivity mapping</li> <li>• Emergency response</li> </ul>		

If none, please describe why not.

If plans, policies or programmes exist, please specify what existing frameworks including institutions, committees, or partnerships are being used or contributing to the implementation of the Convention.

<b>7. Has your government budgeted for development and/or implementation of the existing plans, policies and programmes that are listed in 6 above?</b>			
<b>a. Land-based sources and activities</b>			
Internal resources (Amount in USD)	.....	(Percentage of total LBA budget)	.....
External resources (Amount in USD)	.....	(Percentage of total LBA budget)	.....

<b>b. Combating marine pollution in cases of emergency</b>			
Internal resources (Amount in USD)	.....	(Percentage of total budget on marine pollution emergencies)	.....
External resources (Amount in USD)	.....	(Percentage of total budget on marine pollution emergencies)	.....

<b>8. Has your country experienced any challenges in the implementation of the above-mentioned plans, policies and programmes?</b>	
<b>a. Land-based sources and activities</b> <b>b. Combating marine pollution in cases of emergency</b>	A=Yes; B=No; a) b)
If yes, please explain.	

**Section 2: Measures to prevent, reduce and combat Pollution from Ships, Caused by Dumping, from Land-Based Sources, from Sea-Bed Activities and from Airborne Pollutants  
- Articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 9**

<b>9. Is there a national definition within existing pollution related to legislation or regulations for: (Articles 4)?</b>	
<b>Article (5): Pollution from ships:</b>	A=Yes; B=No;
If yes, please explain.	

<b>Article (6): Pollution from dumping from ships and aircraft</b>	A=Yes; B=No;
If yes, please explain.	

<b>Article (7): Pollution from Land-Based Sources:</b>	A=Yes; B=No;
If yes, please explain.	

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<b>Article (8): Pollution from sea-bed activities:</b>	
	A=Yes; B=No;
If yes, please explain.	

<b>Article (9): Discharges into the atmosphere:</b>	
	A=Yes; B=No;
If yes, please explain.	

If yes, please provide the text of the national definitions and their sources e.g. legislation, policy paper or document in the table below.

Term	Definition	Source/link
Pollution from Ships		
Dumping of wastes and other matter at sea		
Pollution from Land-Based Sources		
Pollution from Sea-bed activities		
Discharge into the atmosphere		

<b>10. Has your country taken any measures necessary to prevent, reduce or combat the above mentioned sources of pollution in the Convention area?</b>	
	A=Yes; B=No; In preparation
If yes or in preparation, please go to Annex I: If no, briefly state why not.	

<b>Section 3: Co-operation in Combating Pollution in Cases of Emergency – Article 12</b>
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<p><b>11. Has your country jointly with another country or countries developed and promoted any contingency plans for responding to incidents involving pollution or the threat thereof in the Convention area?</b></p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; In preparation</p>
<p>If yes, please list the contingency plans developed and the countries involved and proceed to Annex II.</p>	

**Section 4: Environmental Impact Assessment – Article 13**

<p><b>12. Does your country currently have any guidelines (e.g., EIAs) to assist the planning of major development projects in such a way as to prevent or minimize harmful impacts on the Convention Area?</b></p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; In preparation</p>
<p>If yes or in preparation, please provide brief details of the legislation, policies, guidelines and source If no, describe why not.</p>	

<p><b>13. In regard to the question above, has your country developed procedures for dissemination of information to the Secretariat and, if necessary, for consultations among the Contracting Parties on projects of transboundary significance?</b></p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; In preparation</p>
<p>If yes or in preparation, does the public have access to the archived documents? If they do, kindly provide the link to the site?  If no, describe why not.  If other, specify</p>	

**Section 5: Scientific and Technical Co-operation – Article 14**

<p><b>14. Does your country have technical cooperation agreements with any other Contracting Parties, regional partners or international organizations relating to the objectives of the Convention, such as in scientific research, monitoring and exchange of information?</b></p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No;</p>
<p>If yes, please provide the names of co-operating partners with areas of cooperation covered by the agreements.  If no, describe areas in which such agreements are desired.</p>	



Annex I

**The Protocol concerning the Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Sources and the Activities (LBSA) in the Western, Central and Southern Africa Region**

<p><b>15. Is there a national definition of pollution from "Land based sources and activities" (Article 1) in the legislation of your country?</b></p>	
	A=Yes; B=No; In preparation
If yes, please provide the definition and its source including a list of land-based sources of pollution that are identified in your country's legislation.	

<p><b>16. Are there any other priority substances and activities of LBSA pollution listed in Annex I of the LBSA Protocol that require special consideration in your country?</b></p>	
	A=Yes; B=No; In preparation
If yes, please specify.	

<p><b>17. Has your country developed any plans, policies, programs, and measures to carry out the general terms and objectives of the LBSA Protocol?</b></p>	
	A=Yes; B=No; In preparation
If yes or in preparation, please provide brief details of the plans, policies and programmes and their sources.  If no, please describe why not.  If other, please specify.	

Annex II

**Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Marine Pollution in Cases of Emergency**

<p><b>18. Does your country currently have any national policies, laws, or plans for prevention, reduction and control of oil spill pollution?</b></p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; In preparation</p>
<p>If yes or in preparation, please provide brief details and source.</p> <p>If no, describe why not.</p>	

<p><b>19. Has your country established any national operational measures such as establishing national oil spill contingency plans for responding to oil spill incidents?</b></p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; In preparation</p>
<p>If yes or in preparation, please provide brief details and the source.</p> <p>If no, briefly state why not.</p>	

**Section 2: Communication of information concerning, and reporting of marine pollution incidents – Article 5**

<p><b>20. Has your country established any national procedures on reporting of information regarding marine pollution incidents?</b></p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; In preparation</p>
<p>If yes or in preparation, please provide brief details including the source of the national procedures.</p> <p>If no, describe why not.</p>	

<p><b>21. In relation to the question above, did your country consider the guidelines to be followed in preparing the report pursuant to Annex 1 of this Protocol?</b></p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; In preparation</p>
<p>If yes or in preparation, please provide brief details.</p>	

If no, describe why not.

**22. Has your country experienced any pollution emergencies in the Convention area (including emergencies in which the Convention area is in imminent danger of being polluted or already polluted)?**

A=Yes; B=No;

If yes, please describe the details and answer the question below.

**23. In regards to the question above, did your country respond to the situation by following contingency plans developed by your country or in cooperation with any other contracting parties?**

A=Yes; B=No;

If yes, please specify the name of contracting parties you have worked with and briefly describe the experience.

If no, describe why not.