

**INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS**  
(National Environmental Management Act (Act 107, 1998) Chapter 6, paragraph 26, Reports)

2011 – 2012

MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT (SIGNED, RATIFICATION/ACCESSION)	CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES	PREPARATION AND CO-ORDINATION	STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE AND SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION	KEY OUTCOMES
<b>OCEAN AND COSTAL MANAGEMENT</b>				
<b>Antarctic Treaty</b> Signed: 1 December 1959 Ratified: 23 June 1961	XXXIV Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)  19 June - 01 July 2011 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA	<p>The opportunity provided by the Meeting was also utilized to discuss future potential joint ventures with the other Antarctic Programmes and informal discussions with our Brazilian and Indian IBSA colleagues.</p> <p>The delegation comprised of officials from Department of Environmental Affairs, Department of International Relations and Cooperation and Department of Science and Technology</p>	<p>The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties meet annually to discuss matters relating to the governance and protection of the Antarctic continent and take the necessary decisions in accordance with its mandate. As an original signatory to the Antarctic Treaty, South Africa abides by the rules and guidelines of this Treaty and its various Conventions, as well as the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty on environmental matters. Compliance to Measures, Decisions and Resolutions of the Treaty is captured in the strategic objectives of the Branch: Oceans and Coasts in particular the activities and operations of SANAP in the Antarctic and Southern Oceans.</p>	<p>This Meeting adopted a number of Measures, Decisions and Resolutions (MDRs). Those MDRs, which do affect South Africa, will have to be implemented accordingly. The acceptance thereof will serve to formalize the process through the Antarctic Treaty System.</p> <p>The final adoption of Annex VI to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty: Liability Arising from Environmental Emergencies in (Sweden) 2005 and the decision to record the intention to review on an annual basis steps towards entry into force of the Annex was accepted. It now has to put the legal processes in place to ratify the Annex.</p> <p>The existing Antarctic Treaties Act (Act No.66 of 1996) has to be amended to incorporate the adoption of Annex VI and the promulgation of appropriate Regulations to give effect thereto. South Africa did not meet the 5 year time frame to ratify the Annex. South African's national legislation shares a number of similarities with the United Kingdom's system. Since the UK is further advanced with regard to incorporating Annex IV into national legislation, important lessons</p>

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				<p>can be learnt from them. This may expedite the local process. The UK is prepared to provide South Africa with advice and copies of relevant documentation if required.</p> <p>The development of a National Policy on Antarctic tourism has become critical. This policy should take cognisance of not only all the Treaty Decisions, Measures and Resolutions but also more specifically the ratification of Annex VI. An 'independent/objective' permitting structure should be developed simultaneously. Most tourism to the Antarctic is ship based. This does not affect South Africa in any significant way. However, with regular flights between Cape Town and Antarctica during the Austral Summer, Antarctic has become very accessible to South Africa and to international tourists (via South Africa). A robust permitting system is therefore crucial. Various private companies (national and international) have expressed interest in developing a potentially lucrative tourism industry from South Africa. Even the City of Cape Town is keen to promote tourism to Antarctica.</p> <p>International developments on bio-prospecting resulted in the ATCM trying to fast track the development of a protocol/framework for bio-prospecting in Antarctic. South Africa has to develop as a matter of urgency a position in order to not only participates in the debate but to ensure the preservation of potential future benefits.</p>

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Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP)				The utilisation of this forum for bilateral and multilateral discussion is vital for South Africa to ensure joint and collaborative logistic cost sharing ventures which will result in more cost effectiveness of SANAP. A current MOU between SA and India on co-operation in Antarctic science and logistics exists. The establishment and enhancement of personal contacts especially with those nations already operating as well as those still planning to operate from Cape Town is essential to the future collaborative efforts of South Africa in Antarctica and for the promotion of the Cape Town Gateway concept.
	<p>Twenty Third (XXIII) Annual General Meeting of the Council of Managers of National Antarctic</p> <p>01-04 August 2011, Stockholm, Sweden</p>	<p>A workshop on “Inland Traverses in Antarctica” was held on the Sunday prior to the start of the COMNAP AGM. A number of representatives of suppliers/manufactures of vehicles, sledges and other equipment also attended this Workshop. This was extremely useful since the latest technology developments were applied on these traverses and a number of best practice principles emerged from this.</p> <p>Delegates from Brazil, India and South Africa (IBSA) held</p>	<p>The annual COMNAP Meeting provides the opportunity for national programme and logistics managers to share knowledge and experience to facilitate the Antarctic Treaty principles of international co-operation. It serves as a forum to develop practices that improve effectiveness of activities in an environmentally responsible manner; providing opportunities and systems for information exchange and providing the Antarctic Treaty System with objective and practical, technical and non-political advice drawn from the National Antarctic Programs’ pool of expertise.</p>	<p><b>The following were outcomes and follow up activities for the meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COMNAP has no official standing at the IMO. National Programmes are therefore encouraged to liaise closely with their countries representatives to the IMO to push the COMNAP agenda (particular regarding the Mandatory Polar Code). In this regard meetings with the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA), the Hydrographer, Department of Transport and other officials will be conducted prior to the next IMO meeting in London.</li> <li>- The Accidents, Incidents and Near-Miss Reporting (AINMR) system is still regarded as useful and members are encouraged to provide as much (non-confidential) detail (even photographs) as possible. Members regard this as a useful tool with a focus on lessons learnt. The assurance is given that these</li> </ul>

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		another informal meeting in the margins of the Meeting with regard to the establishment of a dedicated IBSA-Antarctica forum.		<p>reports will only be available on the 'members-only' part of the website. SANAE IV Station and SANAP role-players are briefed and the relevant forms are made available.</p> <p>The ageing vehicle fleet has to be replaced as a matter of urgency. The department is exposed to high potential risks and liability should vehicles fail and compromise staff safety. New fuel efficient vehicles will result in significant savings in the long term and also more importantly reduce the risk to the department. Furthermore South Africa's carbon footprint will be reduced.</p> <p>Replacing the out dated heavy sledges with lighter ones will increase the payload percentage significantly and contribute to energy savings and a lower carbon footprint. These sledges should be procured with the new vehicles. Funding for a staged replacement of vehicles (and sledges) will be available as from 2012/13 financial year and liaise with the departmental oil pollution section, SAMSA and the port of Cape Town to ascertain Cape Town's oil spill combating capability and capacity.</p>
<b>The London Convention and 1996 Protocol</b>  Ratified: 1978 (Convention) Acceded: 23 December 1998 (Protocol)	34 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific Group under the London Convention and the 5th meeting of the Scientific Group under the London Protocol.	The meeting was attended by officials from the branch: Ocean and Coastal Management within the Department of Environmental Affairs	DEA mostly issues permits for the disposal of dredged material, vessels and platforms, and occasionally spoilt cargo. On occasion, the department receives applications for artificial reef creation. South Africa's ports are undergoing rapid expansion to accommodate much larger vessels and to improve maritime trade.	<b>The following national action will be carried out in light of the decisions reached:</b>  - Complete the mandatory annual report for 2011 and submit to the London Convention Secretariat by November 2011.

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	11-15 April 2011, Tallinn, Estonia		<p>With the promulgation of the ICM act, the department has seen increased enquiries regarding fishing permits. Currently the department has neither guidelines nor a permitting assessment process in place for fish waste. The scientific group has undertaken the task to develop assessment guidelines and a fish waste action list to assist contracting Parties in regulating this waste type. In South Africa we have seen increased incidences concerning the discharge of blood-water (fish waste) into coastal areas.</p> <p>Furthermore, occasionally each year permits are granted to the South African Navy for the scuttling of decommissioned vessels. A landmark application will also be made by PetroSA for the dumping of part of the Oribi/Oryx oil field and platform located along the Southern Cape. In view of the aforementioned, it is important for South Africa to keep abreast of developments within the Convention and Protocol, since guidance is provided on an on-going basis to effectively control dumping operations.</p> <p>The Protocol also places a strong emphasis on marine pollution prevention. In this context, South Africa is expected to promote waste prevention and alternative uses of the above-mentioned substances where feasible and practicable, so as to avoid the need for marine dumping. This is an important strategic issue requiring further study and discussion with key stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitor progress with the development of 'low-tech' guidance for assessing dredged material (WODA). The guidance, once produced, has the potential to save costs associated with dredged material assessment, and may benefit South Africa's commercial ports who are required to assess the quality of material proposed for disposal.</li> <li>- Review and provide input into the development of specific waste assessment action levels and action lists for the disposal of fish waste and implement the revised generic waste assessment guidelines.</li> <li>- Monitor progress with implications of the amendments to allow trans-boundary movement of CO2 streams.</li> <li>- Monitor progress made in the development of a new reporting format for dumping reports and database development for dumping reports.</li> </ul>
The central international legal arrangement for the protection of whales is provided by the 1946 <b>International</b>	63th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC)	Vice-Chair and Acting Chair of the Commission, Ambassador Anthony Liverpool had announced his resignation to	South Africa took a leading role in pushing the developing international standards and practises for the economic and environmental sustainable development of whale watching. South Africa co-presented a proposal to strengthen the role	<p><b>The following are key outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It was recommended that all companies implement appropriate monitoring and mitigation plans. Ship strikes and entanglements are a threat to the</li> </ul>

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<b>Convention for the Regulation of Whaling</b> (ICRW) which came into force in 1946.	Jersey, Channel Islands, United Kingdom	<p>take effect on the opening day of the meeting. Despite repeated calls for proposals for a Chair no volunteers came forward. After an extensive debate the Commissioner from South Africa was the only candidate who was acceptable by consensus to act as Interim Chair for the four days of the Meeting.</p> <p>Opportunity was taken to hold discussions especially with like-minded countries that attended the meeting, but also with others, to seek support for South Africa's position in further building an Environmental Agenda at the International Whaling Commission</p>	<p>of the IWC in providing advice on the management and development of whale watching and in particular focussed on how to increase socio-economic benefits. The Commission had an extensive discussion of this issue, noting that it is important that the expanding whale watching industry around the world is carefully managed so as not to cause adverse effects on cetaceans. The Commission agreed to form a Conservation Committee standing working group to develop a five-year strategic plan for the management of whale watching, which includes South Africa.</p> <p>South Africa also took a leading role in developing template Conservation Management Plans that would focus on the recovery of endangered Cetaceans. These templates were accepted and the Commission agreed to work together to try to mitigate anthropogenic threats to endangered populations.</p>	<p>endangered western North Atlantic right whale population which numbers around 300-400 animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Although all governments recognized the importance outlined in the report, there were both critical and supporting comments about the quality of the report.</li> <li>- After considerable work, the Committee agreed by consensus a Resolution on improving the effectiveness of operations within the IWC that also incorporated some changes to its Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations. The Commission agreed by consensus a Resolution that reiterated that it condemns any demonstration at sea that are a risk to human life and property and that this is not the way to pursue the resolution of different views regarding whales and whaling. It also recognises the importance of the International Maritime Organisation with respect to safety at sea; and encourages all governments to fulfil their obligations under IMO and UNCLOS.</li> <li>- The election of a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission will be undertaken by postal ballot.</li> </ul>
Antarctica Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)	<p>Thirtieth Meeting of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctica Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)</p> <p>25 October to 05 November 2011, Hobart,</p>	The meeting was attended by officials from Department of Environmental Affairs in the Branch Ocean and Coastal Management.	South Africa's interest, especially that of the Department of Environmental Affairs, within CCAMLR is to highlight issues on the threat, protection and conservation of biodiversity, whereas that of Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is that of "resource use", ecosystem approach to fisheries and all issues related to fisheries stock assessment. South Africa should support a balanced view towards conservation and resource use. Such a position is usually	South Africa supported the establishment of eastern Antarctic planning domain by Australia and France and will collaborate with France on a possible project on bio-regionalisation of the Del Cano rise region and a possible spatial assessment for the implementation of a representative set of MPAs between Prince Edward Island and that of Crozet. South Africa also support the General Conservation Measure developed by Australia

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	Australia		supported also by the Scandinavian countries.  The specific purposes of the delegation, led by DEA, was to contribute to topics of interest to South Africa within the Southern Ocean and to provide a wide exposure of South African scientists and managers to the activities being undertaken with CCAMLR.	as a framework for the establishment of CCAMLR MPA.  South Africa has also engaged with developing countries such as Argentina, India, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Namibia on a capacity development funding application to GEF. SA has requested the Secretariat to coordinate and communicate further developments of the GEF proposal with other member states (listed above) that are eligible for GEF funding.
<b>BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION</b>				
<b>UNCBD</b>  United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity  Preparations undertaken in respect of South Africa becoming a Party to the <b>NAGOYA PROTOCOL on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity</b>	The Protocol was adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which took place in Nagoya, Japan, from 18-29 October 2010. It was opened for signature by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2 February	Legal opinion was sought as follows:  (a) Chief State Law Advisor, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, was consulted with a view to possible conflict with domestic law of the Republic;  (b) Chief State Law Advisor, Department of International Relations and Cooperation was consulted to confirm whether the Nagoya Protocol is "technical, administrative or executive";	The objective of the Protocol is the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components. South Africa therefore attaches great importance to the Nagoya Protocol since it will enhance the implementation of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004: Regulations on Bio-prospecting, Access and Benefit-Sharing. The regulations came into force on 01 April 2008. The Protocol also reaffirms the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources.	

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<b>Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks</b>	<p>2011 to 1 February 2012. South Africa signed the Protocol on 11 May 2011 in New York.</p>	<p>(c) Department of Environmental Affairs legal services on whether or not the Protocol contradicts with the national environmental legislation and policies.</p> <p>Consultation was also undertaken with the task team on Global Governance Committee on 25 March 2011, and the International Cooperation, Trade and Security Cluster of 05 April 2011.</p>		
	<p>The MoU was concluded under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals and opened for signature in Manila, Philippines from 10 to 12 February 2010. South Africa signed the MoU in New York on 11 May 2011</p>	<p>Legal inputs were received from the Departments of International Relations and Cooperation, and Justice and Constitutional Development, Chief Directorate: Legal Services of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Oceans and Coasts Branch, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.</p>	<p>It is crucial for South Africa as a sharks range state to cooperate in the conservation of sharks. There are a small number of regulations that pertain to sharks in South Africa. The life history of sharks is such that they are very vulnerable to overfishing. Typically, sharks grow slowly, mature late and give birth to few young. These characteristics mean that only a small proportion of a given shark stock can be caught on a sustainable basis. Also, if a shark stock has been overfished, it takes a long time to recover.</p>	

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<b>Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding further promotion on South-South and Triangular Cooperation on Biodiversity Development at Regional and Global Levels</b>	<p>South Africa has taken the leadership, as the chair of the Group of 77 and China in 2006, in identifying the need for Strengthening South-South Cooperation on biodiversity for development as a key mechanism for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, through the vision of Mr Dumisani S. Kumalo, the former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations. With the full support of subsequent chairs of the Group and its Secretariat, and the collaboration of South Africa, a consultative process was led over four years, resulting in the Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for</p>	<p>Given the pivotal role of South Africa in the Convention on Biological Diversity as a mega-diverse country and as a regional leader, and in view of the urgent need to strengthen South-South and similar triangular cooperation in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the Convention, the then Executive Secretary of the Convention, Dr Ahmed Djoghlaif, submitted a draft MoU in support of the Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, stressing issues on which the Department of Environmental Affairs can play a definite role.</p> <p>Legal opinion was sought as follows:</p> <p>(a) The Chief State Law Advisor from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development was consulted with a view to possible conflict with domestic law of the</p>	<p>The objective of the MoU is to further promote South-South and triangular cooperation on biodiversity for development at regional and global levels.</p> <p>The Republic and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will initiate and implement mutually agreed activities aimed at promoting and facilitating South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development. To this end, they agreed to collaborate to undertake the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Organizing joint regional workshop(s) and other capacity building activities on the trans-boundary management of biodiversity, through regional mechanisms such as SADC's Biodiversity Strategy, NEPAD, the African Union, and the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Commission;</li> <li>b) Sharing experience and lessons learned with neighboring countries on the development of appropriate incentives and fiscal policies for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, for instance by applying lessons learned in optimizing the financial contribution and community engagement in tourism and visitation through SANParks;</li> <li>c) Jointly promoting international scientific collaboration in the areas of biodiversity through sharing the latest information from South Africa's leading research and scientific organizations;</li> </ul>	

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	<p>Development that has been adopted at the First Forum on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, convened in Nagoya, Japan, on 17 October 2010, just a day prior to the start of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at the same venue. The adoption of the Plan was also seen as a milestone towards a successful outcome of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Plan was also welcomed by Parties at the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity as an important contribution to the imple-</p>	<p>Republic of South Africa. Amendments proposed by the Chief State Law Advisor have been discussed and agreed with the Secretariat of the Convention, and subsequently incorporated;</p> <p>(b) Department of International Relations and Cooperation was also consulted on whether the MoU is in contradiction with other Republic international obligations.</p> <p>(c) Department of Environmental Affairs legal services on whether or not the MoU contradicts with the national environmental legislation and policies.</p> <p>Subsequently, the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs signed the MoU on 20 September 2011.</p>	<p>d) Promoting the awareness, knowledge and appreciation of biological resources at various levels through joint campaigns and celebrations of the International Day for Biodiversity at major regional events, such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).</p>	

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	mentation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.			
<b>UNCCD</b>  United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification  Signed: 9 January 1995 Ratified: 30 September 1997 Entry into Force: 29 December 1997	Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)  10-21 October 2011, Changwon, Republic of Korea	The stakeholders consulted during the preparations of the 10 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the COP and other associated meetings are, Department of Agriculture Forest and Fisheries, Fisheries section, Provincial Departments, Oceans and Coasts Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), Birdlife South Africa and Natural Resource Management Programme.	<p>As a developing country, South Africa's over-riding priorities are poverty reduction and socio-economic development. In this context, the country's immediate priorities include the urgent delivery of basic human development services to the poor and most vulnerable, and include ensuring access to housing, water, sanitation, food security, energy, transport, education and public health services. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that the ability to deliver on these fundamental developmental priorities, at all levels, may be persistently undermined by the short, medium and long term impacts of desertification, land degradation and climate change.</p> <p>The highlight of the negotiations at the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties was the assessment of the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018 - The Strategy). Other issues for deliberation included mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention, programme and budget for the biennium 2012-2013, financial performance for the Convention trust funds, and the follow up to the assessment of the Global Mechanism.</p>	<p><b>The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)(The Strategy)</b></p> <p>The Conference of the Parties approved the strategic orientation of the Committee on Science and Technology, the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, the Global Mechanism and the Secretariat. The Committee on Science and Technology, the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, the Global Mechanism and the Secretariat were requested to utilize the work-plans organizing their work in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the Convention and decisions taken by the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, and in line with the guidance outlined in the Strategy. Affected country Parties and Regional Implementation Annexes were urged to intensify their efforts to align their national, sub-regional and regional action programmes with The Strategy.</p> <p><b>Mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention</b></p> <p>Decision 3 of COP10 is about the improvement of the mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention. It requires the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to strengthen their cooperation at regional level through ensuring the effective</p>

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				<p>implementation of region-specific issues of the joint work programme, and facilitating cooperation among affected country Parties within the regions, It also requires the affected country Parties to work closely with other Parties within their regions, and invites the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism to work in a cooperative and coordinated manner within the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of their respective regions in order to define and implement their respective common regional priorities as delivered for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties, It also requests the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue to support, within their respective mandates and available resources, the implementation of regional priorities as identified by the regions. This decision also emphasized the role that needs to be played by the developed country Parties, international organizations, the private sector and civil society in continuing to provide technical and financial support to the Regional Coordination Units, including through voluntary contributions to the Supplementary Fund and contributions in kind, as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Programme and budget for the biennium 2012-2013</b> By Decision 10 of COP10 the Programme and budget for the biennium 2012–2013 was approved in the amount of EUR 16,128,344. The proposed staffing for the programme budget was also approved. Within this decision, also, the indicative scale of contributions for 2012 and 2013 was also adopted, it was also emphasized to all the Parties to the Convention to note that contributions to the core budget are expected on</p>

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				<p>or before 1 January of each year, in accordance with paragraph 14(a) of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties.</p> <p><b>Financial performance for the Convention trust funds</b>  The following reports were considered and taken note of: the financial statements for the bienniums 2008–2009 and 2010–2011, the report on financial performance and the reports on the implementation of the work programmes for the biennium 2010–2011 of the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism, and the status of contributions as at 15 September 2011; 21 Parties have paid their contributions to the core budget in a timely manner and were thanked for their commitment to their obligations and Parties that have not paid their contributions to the core budget were requested to do so without delay, bearing in mind that contributions are expected on or before 1 January of each year. The Executive Secretary was requested to continue to report on the implementation of any arrangements regarding outstanding contributions, pursuant to decision 9 of COP9.</p> <p><b>Follow up to the assessment of the Global Mechanism</b>  Through Decision 6 of COP10 it was decided that the accountability and the legal representation of the Global Mechanism shall be transferred from the International Fund for Agricultural Development to the UNCCD Secretariat. It was also agreed that the Global Mechanism is accountable to and reports to the</p>

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				Conference of the Parties under its mandate, and was decided that all issues related to the implementation of the Convention will be reported to the Conference of the Parties through the Executive Secretary. It was also decided that the Executive Secretary shall assume overall management responsibility, including coordinating reporting on, inter alia, accounting, performance and activities of the Global Mechanism, to the Conference of the Parties.
<b>UNCMS</b> Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals  Entry into Force: 1 December 1991	Tenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)  20-25 November 2011 Bergen, Norway	The delegation comprised of officials from Department of Environmental Affairs. The following stakeholders were consulted during preparations for CMS COP 10, Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Provincial departments in Limpopo Province, Endangered Wildlife Trust and Birdlife South Africa.	As a Party to the CMS, South Africa is obliged to engage with the international community on measures to protect species of special concern, and implement those decisions taken at a global level nationally. The purpose of the visit was to attend the following meetings: 17 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Council, 38 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of CMS, 39 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee of CMS and 7 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee.	<p><b>Future shape and budget</b>            Two draft Resolutions in this regard were finalized. Draft Resolution 10.9 (Future Shape) listed a set of activities according to priorities assigned by the Parties, and divided into short-term and medium to long-term activities and draft Resolution 10.1 (Budget) included estimates for fixed and variable costs based on the scenario of a 5.3% increase.</p> <p><b>Synergies and partnerships</b>            The final resolution requests the CMS Secretariat to continue developing effective and practical co-operation with relevant stakeholders and urges Parties to establish close co-operation with focal points of other relevant conventions.</p> <p><b>Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services</b>            Needs for research and policy guidance related to migratory species to representatives of IPBES needs to be communicated, as well as the Parties to make funds available to support the four functions of IPBES</p>

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				<p>(assessment, policy support, capacity building and knowledge generation) were some of the issues contained in the resolution.</p> <p><b>Strategic Plan</b> An updated strategic plan for the period 2012-2014 was adopted. With regards to the 2015 to 2023 Strategic Plan, Terms of Reference for the Inter-sessional Working Group on the Strategic Plan were finalised and a new strategic plan for the period 2015-2023 will be drafted for consideration at CMS COP11. South Africa was selected to be part of this Group.</p> <p><b>Climate change and migratory species</b> A draft message to Durban (COP17) as well as a draft resolution urging Parties to employ adaptive management measures and ecosystem based approaches in addressing climate change impacts was put forward for adoption.</p> <p><b>Migratory terrestrial mammals</b> A report on the review of Migratory terrestrial mammals was presented and adopted.</p> <p><b>Migratory aquatic species</b> Reports on a review of freshwater fish, migratory marine turtles, assessment of by-catch in gillnet fisheries, programme of work on cetaceans, and underwater noise were presented and adopted.</p> <p><b>Wildlife disease and migratory species</b> A recommendation for a scientific Task Force for Wildlife diseases and ecosystem health was adopted.</p>

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				<b>Measures to improve the Conservation status of Appendix I species</b> The following conservation issues were dealt with and considered for submission to MOP5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Modus operandi for conservation emergencies - such as outbreak of avian influenza in 2005 etc (<i>i.e.</i> calls on Parties for a dedicated fund)</li> <li>- Critical sites and ecological networks for migratory species (emphasising the link between species and their habitats)</li> <li>- Barriers to migration; such as Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate the impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region</li> </ul>
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>				
<b>UNFCCC</b> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  Signed: 15 June 1993 Ratified: 29 August 1997 Entry into Force: 27 November 1990.	The Seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Seventh Meeting of the Parties (CMP 7) of the Kyoto protocol  28 November to 09 December, 2011,  Durban, South Africa	The delegation comprised of officials from Department of Environmental Affairs, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Energy, Department of Transport, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Water Affairs, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Health, SSA, BUSA,	The Durban Package comprised of 4 main elements, viz. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Securing legal multilateral rules and commitments through a 2<sup>nd</sup> commitment period under Kyoto for those willing. (Canada, Japan and Russia indicated they will not take on this 2<sup>nd</sup> commitment period);</li> <li>- An AWG-LCA decision which operationalised Cancun institutions, including a process on sources of finance; the African priority for comprehensive adaptation under a new Adaptation Committee; Technology and REDD+ mechanisms; Forum on Response Measures; modalities and guidelines for the transparency for both developed and developing countries.</li> <li>- The operationalization of the Green Climate Fund; and</li> <li>- Negotiation of a new legal regime applicable to all Parties</li> </ul>	The Durban Conference adopted 19 COP and 17 CMP decisions. Although these cover a wide range of topics, the final high level Durban Package unlocked an outcome that strengthened the multilateral system by significantly advancing the global effort needed <b>now</b> , and also sets a new path for the development of a fair, inclusive, ambitious and legal <b>future</b> multi-lateral, rules-based climate system.  <b>It is recommended that cabinet consider, approve or give guidance on South Africa's strategic positioning in relation to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An intensive process of consultation, lobbying and</li> </ul>

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		OneWorld group, Water Research Council, ESKOM, NBI and University of Cape Town.	by 2015, to come into effect by 2020, under an AWG on a Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (AWG-DP). This includes a work programme to address increased ambition.	<p>active diplomatic leadership by South Africa as COP President, with particular focus on engagements with Qatar, Algeria and Saudi Arabia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To support this leadership with robust lobbying and negotiation of South Africa's substantive positions, with engagements with Africa, BASIC, G77 plus China and other groupings in the informal and formal processes.</li> <li>- A South African bid to host the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and its' Secretariat subject to further investigation of budget and other implications by National Treasury.</li> <li>- Alternatively, to lobby for the GCF Chief Executive and/or a position on the GCF Board and an office bearer position on the Board.</li> <li>- To consider the advantage of bidding for the chair of the AWG-DP in 2012, given our position and influence as COP President, as opposed to 2015, when negotiations on the future agreement are scheduled to conclude.</li> <li>-To consider the advantage of South Africa bidding for membership on other bodies within the climate change process and the timing thereof.</li> </ul>
<b>CHEMICALS AND WASTE</b>				
<b>Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants</b>  Signed: 23 May 2001 Ratified: 04 November 2002	Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention	During the meeting, South Africa engaged mainly through the Africa Group, which met on a daily basis to formulate a negotiation position and	The meeting discussed, among others, Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) elimination, sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls until phase-out, listing of chemicals in annexes of the Convention, technical assistance, regional centres, development, review and	<p><b>The most important outcomes of the meeting are the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The decisions to allow the continued use of DDT for malaria vector control until appropriate and cost effective alternatives are available. This was the most</li> </ul>

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	25-29 April 2011, Geneva, Switzerland	provide feedback on developments during the meeting and also to actively engage in relevant contact groups. South Africa deliberated and issued statements on key issues during the plenary.	submission of national implementation plans, non-compliance, budget, financial resources, BAT/BEP etc.	important decision of the meeting since malaria kills thousands of people in Africa. South Africa also has malaria transmission in some areas of Limpopo, Kwazulu-Natal, and Mpumalanga. - The endorsement of the South African hosted Basel Convention Regional Centre, known as the Africa Institute, to also serve as a Stockholm Regional Centre - The listing of technical endosulfan and its related isomers, in Annex A with exemptions for specified crop-pest complexes. With regard to the work programme on endosulfan, the COP decided to undertake a work programme to support development and deployment of alternatives to endosulfan. - The COP encouraged Parties to ensure that waste materials containing BDEs listed in Annexure A are not exported to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and encouraged Parties to take appropriate steps to facilitate this.
<b>Rotterdam Convention (PIC)</b> Convention on Prior Informed Consent  Acceded: 4 September 2002 Entered into force: 24 February 2004	The 5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure on Trade in certain Hazardous Chemicals  20-24 June 2011, Geneva, Switzerland.	South Africa engaged mainly through the Africa Group which met on a daily basis to formulate negotiation position and provide feedback on developments during the meeting and also in relevant contact groups. South Africa also issued statements on key issues during the plenary. The delegation comprised of officials from Department of Environmental Affairs and	The meeting discussed, among others, listing of chemicals in annexes of the Convention, technical assistance, non-compliance, budget, financial resources, Chemical review Committee, synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, information exchange, etc. COP5 focused on current chemical regulatory processes and their relationship to the definitions of banned or severely restricted chemicals in Article 2 of the Convention; status of implementation of the Convention; and possible approaches for dealing with chemicals recommended for listing in Annex III by the CRC.	<b>Status of Implementation of the Convention</b> In the final decision, the COP, <i>inter alia</i> : - Parties requested to defer the draft text on asbestos to COP6 - Invited Parties to notify the Secretariat of final regulatory actions; - Requested the Secretariat to prepare guidelines to assist Parties in preparing notifications of final regulatory actions with particular regard to the term “severely restricted chemicals”; and - Requested the Secretariat to carry out work on industrial chemicals within available resources.

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		Department of International Relations and Coordination.		<p><b>Chemical Review Committee (CRC)</b>  The discussion revolved around the appointments to the CRC, nomination of governments to designate experts, and reports of the CRC. CRC Chair presented the reports of CRC5, CRC6 and CRC7, and Parties provided views on improving the CRC's functions, including improving the number of notifications submitted in the future, using regional studies in notifications, and supporting the role of observers in the work of the CRC. The COP decided to appoint 17 experts to serve as members of the Committee to serve for a period of four years.</p> <p><b>Consideration of Chemicals for inclusion in Annex III to the convention</b>  - <b>Alachlor</b>  The COP considered the draft decision on the inclusion of alachlor in Annex III, the Annex of chemicals subject to the PIC procedure. The COP agreed to the listing without debate.  - <b>Aldicarb</b>  The COP considered the draft decision on the inclusion of aldicarb in Annex III the Annex of chemicals subject to the PIC procedure. The COP agreed to list aldicarb.  - <b>Endosulfan</b>  COP5 addressed the proposed inclusion of endosulfan in Annex III. The Secretariat recalled COP's acceptance of the recommendations regarding the inclusion of endosulfan in Annex III at its second and sixth sessions.  - In the final decision on the 3 above listed chemicals, the COP decided to amend Annex III of the Convention</p>

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				<p>to include them and have the amendment enter into force for all Parties as of 24 October 2011.</p> <p><b>Non-Compliance</b> In plenary, Parties re-opened the debate on non-compliance with some countries supporting adoption of the draft text contained in the annex, whilst others opposed the adoption of the draft text, stating that the issue was conditional on establishing a technical and financial assistance mechanism that works jointly between the chemicals and wastes conventions (UNEP's financing options process). An agreement was reached to accept to use the contact group's last draft text as a reference to the work to be continued at COP6, and that the text be annexed to the COP5 meeting report, "bearing in mind" that it is the Co-Chairs' text. Non-compliance will be discussed again at COP6.</p> <p><b>Financial Resources</b> In the final decision on progress made in the implementation of decision on possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms, the COP:  - Takes note of the actions taken by the Secretariat pursuant to decision on possible options for lasting and sustainable financial mechanisms, and of the progress made in the implementation of UNEP GC decision on the Consultative Process on Financing Options for Chemicals and Wastes.  -Encourages the Secretariat to seek further synergies among the three conventions in the area of chemicals</p>

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				<p>and waste management; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requests the Secretariat to continue its collaboration with partners, including the GEF and UNITAR in order to ensure that the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention are taken into account in technical assistance projects and activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Technical Assistance</b></p> <p>Delegates agreed to expand the mandate of the contact group on budget to address technical assistance.</p> <p>In the final decision on technical assistance, the COP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requests the Secretariat to facilitate assistance to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, in the implementation of the Convention, particularly with regard to activities included in the annexes to this decision, which are contained in the budget for the biennium 2012-2013, and specifically prioritizing activities related to the chemicals newly listed in Convention Annex III;</li> <li>- Invites developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to provide information to the Secretariat on their technical assistance needs and the difficulties and views in this regard and also invites developed country Parties to provide information to the Secretariat on the technical assistance that they have available to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;</li> <li>- Invites Parties and others in a position to do so to contribute to the Convention's Voluntary Special Trust Fund in support of technical assistance activities, and to provide technical assistance to developing countries and</li> </ul>

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				<p>countries with economies in transition to implement their obligations with regards to chemicals newly listed in Convention Annex III</p> <p><b>Information Exchange</b> In its decision, COP5 approved the draft strategic plan for establishing procedures for the operation of the Rotterdam Convention component of the joint clearinghouse mechanism, and invited Parties and other stakeholders to contribute through voluntary means, the development of the Rotterdam component; and decided that all new phases in the development of the clearing house mechanism functions of the Rotterdam Convention should be implemented as part of the development of the joint clearing house mechanism, and that future activities under work-plans and progress reports should be presented for consideration by the COP as joint activities of the three conventions.</p> <p><b>Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions</b> The decision states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The COP welcomed the establishment of the Executive Secretary of the three conventions;</li> <li>- Authorized the Executive Secretary to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariats in a flexible manner within a budget ceiling, and requests him to propose, in consultation with the Bureau, the organization of the Secretariats by 31 December 2011, to be implemented by 31 December 2012;</li> </ul>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decided that the COPs of the three conventions should be held in a coordinated manner and requests the Executive Secretary to schedule such meetings in a way that facilitates such coordination;</li> <li>- Approved the proposed cross-cutting and joint activities for inclusion in the programmes of work of the three Secretariats for 2012-13; and</li> <li>- Decided to convene in 2013, at the same venue and back-to-back with a COP of one of the conventions, ExCOPs with the main focus on draft decisions on the review arrangements; the proposal for the organization for the Secretariats; draft proposals for joint activities for 2014-2015; budget related to joint activities and possible necessary amendments to the budget of the three conventions for the biennium 2014-2015; and the outcome of the UNEP Executive Director's Consultative Process on Financing for Chemicals and Wastes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Programme of Work and adoption of the Budget</b> In the final decision on financing the budget for the biennium 2012-2013, the COP, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requested the Italian Government to repay the balance of its host country arrears according to the residual balance of €525,583.89 by 30 April 2012;</li> <li>- Requested the Executive Director of UNEP, on an exceptional and as-needed basis, to authorize the loan of financial resources up to a maximum of US\$500,000 to enable the continued, uninterrupted operation of the Secretariat pending receipt of Italian host country arrears repayments;</li> <li>- Authorized the Executive Secretaries to determine</li> </ul>

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				<p>the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner remaining within the overall budget for this biennium; and</p> <p>- Noted Switzerland's suggestion to allocate 50% of its annual host country contribution to the General Trust Fund and 50% to the Special Trust Fund and decides to consider this suggestion further at COP6.</p> <p>The COP also decided to amend the financial rules for the operation of the COP, its subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat. The rules contain sections on scope, financial period, budget, funds, contributions, accounts and audit, administrative support costs, and amendments.</p> <p>Developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition were further requested to provide information to the Secretariat on their technical assistance needs and the difficulties and views in this regard, and also invited developed country Parties to provide information to the Secretariat on the technical assistance that they have available to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. South Africa will communicate its needs to the Secretariat with regard to technical assistance. South Africa will continue to submit final regulatory actions to the Secretariat, as it has been doing this in the past.</p>
<b>Basel Convention</b> Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of	Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel	South Africa engaged mainly through the Africa Group, which met on a daily basis to	The aim of the meeting was to discuss, inter alia, the Strategic Framework for the Basel Convention; Basel Convention Regional Centres; Cooperation and Coordination among the	<b>Strategic Plan and new Strategic Framework for the Basel Convention</b> During the meeting some issues were raised related to

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<p>Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal</p> <p>Acceded: 5 May 1994.</p>	<p>Convention</p> <p>12-17 October 2011, Cartagena, Columbia</p>	<p>formulate a negotiation position and provide feedback on developments during the meeting. The South African delegation also participated in various contact groups to advance the interests of the country and the Africa Group.</p>	<p>Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions; ship dismantling, technical matters; and financial matters. The aim of the Basel Convention is to ensure that the trans-boundary movement of hazardous and other wastes is handled in an environmentally sound manner, minimizing the adverse effects on the environment and human health. South Africa has promulgated a plethora of legislations that are aimed at protecting the environment and human health from mishandling of wastes. It has also ratified the Basel Convention, and the issues discussed at this meeting were within the objectives of the government.</p>	<p>the development of the appropriate means of implementation to implement the Framework; capacity building and technology transfer as key priorities; The discussion focussed on the goals, indicators, and means of implementation sections of the Framework. The COP adopted the Framework, which contains the vision; guiding principles; goals; means of implementation; indicators for measuring achievement and performance; and evaluation. The meeting decided to adopt these elements as contained in the Draft Strategic Framework for 2012-2021 for the implementation of the Basel Convention.</p> <p><b>Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres</b> During the meeting the discussion revolved mainly around the strengthening of the Regional Centres. In the decision on BCRCs, the COP, <i>inter alia</i>: requests the BCRCs to submit to the Secretariat business plans for 2012-2013; requests the BCRCs to submit activity reports for consideration at COP11; and urges Parties and signatories, especially donor countries, and other donors, to provide adequate, sustainable and predictable financial and technical support directly to the BCRC's activities and projects.</p> <p><b>Cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions</b> The Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions developed recommendations on enhancing synergies among the</p>

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				<p>three conventions. These recommendations were adopted by the Conferences of the Parties of these conventions. Subsequent to this a The Extraordinary Joint Conference of the Parties to Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions was held in February 2010, in Bali, Indonesia. At this meeting decisions were taken on joint managerial functions; joint activities; joint services; the synchronization of budget cycles; joint audits; and review arrangements. Progress report on the implementation of the above decisions was provided, and it was further emphasized that there is a need to move away from theoretical approach to synergies, and move towards the actual implementation.</p> <p><b>Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative (CLI) to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention</b> The decision on the Indonesian-Swiss CLI to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention includes addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment. The COP agreed that without prejudice to any other multilateral environmental agreement, that Article 17(5) on entry into force of amendments should be interpreted to mean that ratification by three-quarters of the Parties that were Parties at the time of adoption of an amendment is required for that amendment to enter into force.</p> <p>The decision also called for the development of guidelines for ESM, whereby the COP mandates a technical expert group to develop a framework for the ESM of hazardous wastes, taking into account the</p>

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				<p>elements listed in an annex, to be submitted to OEWG8 and COP11. On further strengthening of the BCRCs, the COP requested the Parties to integrate a number of activities into the plan for the development of BCRCs, including regional meetings to assist Parties in ratifying the Ban Amendment or national measures to prohibit imports, and disseminate guidance on ESM through their training, assistance and awareness-raising activities. With regard to combating illegal traffic more effectively, the COP, requested the Secretariat to further strengthen its collaboration with the World Customs Organization on the harmonization of customs codes; and to collect and disseminate examples of best practice in enforcement and practical arrangements, such as procedures for take-back in case of detected illegal traffic. Assisting developing countries that are facing specific challenges with regard to prohibiting the import of hazardous wastes was also mentioned.</p> <p><b>Capacity Building</b> In the final decision on capacity building, the COP requested the Secretariat to continue facilitating capacity-building activities and pilot projects in focal areas, if funds are available; continue efforts to strengthen further the independent operation of the BCRCs; increase efforts to link the BCRCs to processes to develop project proposals under multilateral agencies, to replicate concepts and tools developed under the Convention, and to act independently to support and execute projects at the regional, sub-regional and national levels; increase</p>

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				<p>efforts to develop cooperation and strengthen collaboration with international organizations and key partners dealing with waste disposal and minimization issues.</p> <p><b>Scientific and Technical matters</b>  The COP adopted five decisions on technical guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In its decision on waste tyres, the COP, adopts the technical guidelines for the ESM of used and waste pneumatic tyres; requests the Secretariat to disseminate the technical guidelines; invites Parties and others to submit comments on their experience using the guidelines to the Secretariat; and requests the Secretariat to compile these comments for consideration at COP11.</li> <li>- In its decision on mercury, the COP, adopted the technical guidelines for the ESM of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury; requested the Secretariat to disseminate the technical guidelines; and invites Parties and others to submit comments on their experience in using the guidelines and requests the Secretariat to compile these comments for consideration at COP11.</li> <li>- In its decision on POPs, the COP, welcomed decision SC-5/9 of the COP to the Stockholm Convention on POPs on measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes and decision SC-5/5 on a work programme on brominated diphenyl ethers and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride; decided to include in the OEWG work programme for 2012-2013 activities.</li> </ul>

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				<p>COP decided to extend the mandate of the small inter-sessional working group, and invited Parties and stakeholders to nominate experts to participate in the group, and requested the group to prepare a draft programme of work by for OEWG8.</p> <p>- In its decision on co-processing and cement kilns, the COP, adopted the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound co-processing of hazardous waste in cement kilns; invited Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat comments on experiences using the guidelines; and requests the Secretariat to compile these comments for consideration at COP11.</p> <p>- In its decision on e-waste, the COP, decided to establish a small inter-sessional working group to monitor and assist in the preparation of the technical guidelines; and invited Parties and stakeholders to nominate experts to participate in the group.</p> <p><b>National Legislation, Enforcement of the Convention and efforts to Combat Illegal Traffic</b></p> <p>In the decision on national legislation, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic, the COP, urged Parties to fulfill their obligations under the Convention, including, in particular to promulgate, update or develop stringent legislation on the control of trans-boundary movements of hazardous wastes, to incorporate into their national legislation appropriate sanctions or penalties for illegal traffic in hazardous wastes and other wastes covered by the Basel Convention. Parties were urged to improve cooperation and coordination among entities working to prevent and combat illegal traffic in hazardous and other</p>

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				<p>wastes at the national level, including through the development of cooperative agreements between those entities.</p> <p><b>Financial matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial rules</li> </ul> <p>In the decision on financial rules, the COP decided to adopt rules, consistent with those of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. These rules entail, <i>inter alia</i> the establishment of a General Trust Fund for the Convention by the Executive Director of UNEP and managed by the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; the establishment of a Technical Cooperation Trust Fund by the Executive Director of UNEP and managed by the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The decision also states that the resources of the COP shall comprise of contributions made each year by Parties on the basis of an indicative scale adopted by the COP; additional contributions made each year by Parties; contributions from non-Parties, as well as governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations; the uncommitted balance of appropriations from previous financial periods; and miscellaneous income.</p> <p><b>Resource mobilization and sustainable financing</b></p> <p>The COP emphasized the importance of strengthening linkages with, building on and coordinating resource mobilization strategies and development assistance programmes of other relevant multilateral agreements, international organizations, multilateral and regional</p>

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				development banks and other donor agencies. The COP welcomed efforts by the Secretariat, BCRCs and Parties in coordinating resource mobilization activities with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements; welcomed the Consultative Process on financing options for chemicals and wastes; and requested the Secretariat to continue and increase its efforts to build the capacity for the BCRC to mobilize resources; facilitate discussions with the GEF and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals; strengthen cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations and donors; take into account the outcomes of the Consultative Process; and report to COP11 on progress made in mobilizing resources.
<p>Montreal Protocol Protocol for the Protection of the Ozone Layer</p> <p>Ratified: 15 January 1990 Acceded: 15 January 1990</p> <p>Vienna Convention</p>	<p>Joint 9th Meeting of the Vienna Convention COP and Montreal Protocol MOP 23</p> <p>21-25 November 2011, Bali, Indonesia.</p>	<p>South Africa engaged mainly through the Africa Group, which met on a daily basis to formulate a negotiation position and provide feedback on developments during the meeting.</p>	<p>The visit was aimed at participating in the discussion of MOP23 in order to ensure that the interests of the country are protected when making decisions on chemicals which are used in the country. The discussion at MOP 23 also focussed on financial and technical assistance for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, and as a developing country South Africa needs this assistance. In addition the Meeting also discussed the amendment of the Protocol to include HFCs, which South Africa asserted that these substances fall within the mandate of the Kyoto Protocol and not of the Montreal Protocol. Therefore they should be handled under the Kyoto Protocol. Parties discussed, inter alia, issues related to the financial mechanism; hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs); and environmentally sound management of banks of ozone-depleting substances (ODS). Parties also considered issues</p>	<p><b>Replenishment of the MLF</b> The MOP decided to adopt a budget for the MLF for 2012-2014 of US\$450 million on the understanding that US\$34.9 million of that budget will be provided from anticipated contributions due to the MLF and other sources for the triennium, and that US\$15.1 million will be provided from interest accruing to the Fund during the 2012-2014 triennium.</p> <p><b>Proposed amendments to the Montreal Protocol</b> Co-Chair suggested Parties raise issues related to the proposals in the ODS Alternatives Contact Group, and Parties agreed.</p> <p><b>Updating the nomination process and recusal guidelines for TEAP</b></p>

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			concerning exemptions for ODS uses, including essential- and critical-use; laboratory and analytical uses of ODS; and use of ODS as process agents.	<p>In the final decision, the MOP decided to request TEAP to reflect a balance of appropriate expertise in TOCs and temporary subsidiary bodies, to update and publicize a matrix of needed capabilities and expertise, and to standardize the information required for potential nominations of experts. The final version includes the compromise text, requesting TEAP to ensure that all nominations are agreed to by the national focal points of the relevant Party, and undertaken in full consultation with them.</p> <p><b><i>Issues related to exemptions from Article 2 of the Montreal Protocol</i></b>  <b><i>- Nominations for 2012 and 2013 for essential-use exemptions</i></b></p> <p>The MOP authorized the levels of production and consumption for 2012 necessary to satisfy essential uses of CFCs for metered-dose inhalers, and requested the nominating Parties, ie China, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Russian Federation, to supply information to the MTOC to enable assessment. They also encouraged Parties to source from stockpiles where possible, consider domestic regulations, and speed up transition to alternatives.</p> <p><b><i>- Nominations for 2012 and 2013 CUEs</i></b>  In the final decision, Parties adopted a decision on critical use exemptions for methyl bromide in 2013 in several categories including strawberry runners, ornamentals, and mills and food processing structures, requesting the TEAP to analyze the impact</p>

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				<p>of national, subnational and local regulations and law on the potential use of alternatives, and to include members with relevant expertise in developing the MBTOC's recommendations.</p> <p><b>- Global laboratory and analytical-use exemptions</b> In the final decision on this matter, Parties agreed to a grace period for individual Parties using carbon tetrachloride (CTC) for the testing of oil, grease, and total petroleum hydrocarbons in water, requesting Parties to report on such use; and requested the TEAP to review the reports, advise on transition to non-ODS, and continue reviewing international standards that mandate the use of ODS.</p> <p><b>- Sustained mitigation of ODS emissions from feedstock and process-agent uses</b> In the final decision on process agents, the MOP, decided to: update Table A (list of controlled substances) and Table B (emission limits), urge those Parties yet to submit information on process agent uses to do so no later than 31 March 2012; reminded Parties that have provided information indicating that they have process agent uses to provide further information, in particular on controlled substances and process agent applications in accordance with decision X/14; urged Parties listed in Table B to revisit their maximum values and to report to the TEAP on how those values might be reduced, particularly in view of the process agent uses that have ceased; request TEAP, as further uses cease in the future, to consider corresponding reductions in make-up or consumption</p>

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				<p>and maximum emissions accordingly in future proposals concerning Table B, consider the use of CTC for the production of VCM for the purpose of calculated levels of production and consumption, on an exceptional basis, to be a feedstock use until 31 December 2012.</p> <p>With regard to the decision on feed-stocks, the MOP decided to request TEAP, in cooperation with the SAP, to continue to investigate the possible reasons for the identified feed-stocks discrepancy, considering in particular the extent to which the discrepancy could be due to incomplete or inaccurate historical reporting of CTC produced; uncertainties in the atmospheric lifetime of CTC; and CTC from unreported or underestimated sources from both Article 5 and non-Article 5 Parties.</p> <p><b>- Environmentally sound disposal of ODS</b> The MOP decided to approve the highlighted destruction processes in the annex for the purposes of paragraph 5 of Article 1 of the Montreal Protocol, as additions to already accepted technologies.</p> <p><b>- Treatment of ODS used to service ship</b> In the final decision the MOP decided to request the Executive Committee of the MLF to consider asking its senior monitoring and evaluation officer, when carrying out the evaluation approved at its 65th meeting on methyl bromide projects in Africa, to consider options for a strategy to achieve the sustainable use of effective alternatives to methyl</p>

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				bromide in Africa, and requested TEAP to consider whether the guidelines and criteria for the preparation of critical use nominations of methyl bromide need any modification to take into account the situation of Parties operating under Article 5 and to report to OEWG 33.
<b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE</b>				
Commission on Sustainable Development	19 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 19)  2-14 May 2011, New York, USA	South Africa participated within the negotiating blocks to advance the African position which took into consideration the regional interests and that of developing nations at large. Furthermore, South Africa coordinated the thematic cluster of chemicals under the guidance of the Group of 77 and China to ensure that sound policy decisions were crafted.	<p>The broad objective pursued by South Africa at CSD 19 was to influence CSD 19 negotiations to ensure that it effectively addresses the constraints and challenges associated with implementation of the thematic areas under review in a forward-looking and action-oriented exercise.</p> <p>The South African delegation to CSD 19 comprised of officials from the national departments of Environmental Affairs, Water Affairs, International Relations and Cooperation, Transport, Mineral Resources and Chamber of Mines. Furthermore, labour movement (COSATU) joined the delegation. The Minister and Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs were both in attendance the High-Level Segment.</p>	<p>The 19<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 19) focused on the thematic cluster of transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and the 10-Year Framework Programme (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). CSD 19 was a policy session meant to agree on policy decisions aimed at expediting implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) targets relating to the thematic areas under review.</p> <p>CSD 19 elaborated on the 10 Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on sustainable consumption and production and its associated means of implementation. The working group for this thematic area agreed on the entire text. The 10 YFP was meant to be the CSD 19 flagship project, and this could be approved at the upcoming Rio+20. The 10YFP was viewed as an achievement for CSD 19.</p>

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INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE				
United National Environment Programme (UNEP)	<p>Special Session of the Governing Council of UNEP and Global Ministerial Environment Forum</p> <p>22-22 February 2012 Nairobi, Kenya</p>	<p>The main purpose of the event was for Ministers and Senior officials to engage on emerging environmental policy issues through a high-level symposium and roundtable discussions on topics that included: Environmental challenges and global responses in 2012; Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; Institutional Framework on Sustainable Development (IFSD); and RIO+20 and to guide the UNEP Executive Director in executing the work programme.</p>	<p>The UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) is the United Nations high-level environment policy forum. It brings the world's environment ministers together to "review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment".</p> <p>The GC/GMEF provides broad policy advice and guidance with the aim, among others, of promoting international cooperation in the field of the environment.</p> <p>The ministerial consultations during the twelfth special session focussed on emerging policy issues under the overall theme of "The environmental agenda in the changing world: from Stockholm (1972) to Rio (2012)". The session also provided the opportunity to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNEP.</p> <p>The twelfth special session of the Council/Forum included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a high-level symposium entitled "Environmental challenges and global responses in 2012";</li> <li>• parallel ministerial round-table discussions on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;</li> <li>• parallel ministerial round-table discussions on the</li> </ul>	<p><b>Environmental Change and Global responses</b></p> <p>The session entitled "Environmental Change and Global responses in 2012", provided an opportunity for structured dialogue and reflection on the current state of the environment with regard to internationally agreed goals, metrics for sustainable development, and preliminary action-oriented proposals to inform the subsequent sessions on the themes of the "green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" and the "institutional framework for sustainable development".</p> <p>Information was disseminated on evidence pointing to continuing environmental deterioration, including an unprecedented rate of biodiversity loss, and that greenhouse gas emissions remained the most significant risk to sustainable development. The importance of the upcoming UNCSD to focus on priority issues across the most critical sectors, including water, agriculture and energy, and agree on concrete steps forward in terms of the policies that are needed, was underlined.</p> <p>Key findings and recommendations presented in the Global Environment Outlook-5's Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) were also presented. The SPM warns of the continued deterioration I the state of the global</p>

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			<p>institutional framework for sustainable development; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a discussion on "Rio+20 and beyond: responding to the challenges".</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the twelfth special session of the Council/Forum included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a dialogue with former Executive Directors of UNEP entitled "1972-2012. A Review of the Evolution of Global Environmental Policy and Institutional Architecture";</li> <li>a dialogue with the UNCSD secretariat and members of the Bureau on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20); and</li> <li>a discussion on the report of the UN Secretary-General High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, "Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A Future Worth Choosing".</li> </ul> <p>The consultations were informed by three papers prepared as background for the participants, the GEO5 Summary for Policy Makers, as well as the outcome of the 13th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum. The following Ministers and officials attended:</p> <p>Honourable Edna Molewa, MP, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs; Hon R Mabudafhasi, MP, Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs; Professor Bakane, Advisor to the Minister; Ms Nomxolisi Matyana,</p>	<p>environment, pointing out that internationally agreed goals have only been partially met. In short, the SPM calls for policies that focuses on the underlying drivers of environmental change, rather than solely concentrating on reducing environmental pressures or symptoms.</p> <p>Recommendations of the SPM include the use of timely and accurate data to inform decision-making; reversal of policies that generate unsustainable outcomes; the creation of incentives to advance sustainable practices; urgent and cooperative action by governments to meet the private sector and other relevant actors in policy-making processes. In South Africa, the Green Economy National Plan and NSSD-1 (2011-2014) would be crucial in guiding achievement of sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication</b></p> <p>The Ministerial session on the topic pointed out that the upcoming UNCSD (Rio+20) provides an opportunity to discuss and deliver an action-oriented outcome on green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. To that end, a green economy is viewed as a tool to achieving sustainable development, poverty eradication and job creation, by increasing resource efficiency, supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, and facilitating low carbon development. The</p>

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			<p>Head of Office: Deputy Minister; Ms Dorah Nteo, Chief Director: Information Management and Coordination, Department of Environmental Affairs; Mr Stuart Mangold, Director: Africa and Bilateral Relations, Department of Environmental Affairs; Mr Tlou Ramaru, Director: Sustainable Development and Trade, Department of Environmental Affairs; Ms Noluthando Vithi, Director: International Governance and Relations, Department of Environmental Affairs; Ms Gail Raganya, PA to the Minister; Ms Nomhiki Ludidi, Protocol Officer, Office of the Minister; Mr Peter Mbelengwa, Media Liaison, Office of the Deputy Minister; Ms Nosizwe Vuso, Protocol Officer, Office of the Deputy Minister; Mr Stanley Tshitwamulomoni, Deputy Director: Bio Policy, Department of Environmental Affairs; Mr Gilbert Mosupye, Policy Analyst: International Governance and Relations, Department of Environmental Affairs</p>	<p>importance of Green economy in South Africa has been stressed in the New Growth Path and the National Plan on the Green Economy sheds light on how green jobs can be created.</p> <p>Whilst the challenges to a green economy transition are varied and many, the potential opportunities for integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through the green economy approach are considerable.</p> <p><b>Work by the UNEP on Sustainable Consumption and Production</b></p> <p>The Council acknowledged that further progress in achieving SCP requires a more coherent and sustained approach and the provision of tools, information and capacity-building for mainstreaming SCP at all levels. In this regard, the Council recognised that consumption and production are central to global and national economic activity and that the promotion of SCP and resource efficiency is therefore essential to achieving the sustainable development.</p> <p>The Council decisions in respect of SCP were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reaffirmed the importance of sustainable consumption and production to the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and requests the Executive Director to enhance support for the development and implementation of the resource efficiency/sustainable consumption</li> </ul>

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				<p>and production subprogramme, which encompasses and contributes to work by the United Nations Environment Programme on [the green economy] [in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication] [sustainable development];</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requested the Executive Director to provide support for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, [including target 4 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity], which focuses on the implementation of sustainable production and consumption plans at the national level;</li> <li>- Urged Governments and the private sector to [step up][enhance] efforts to shift to sustainable consumption and production, particularly in sectors with high environmental and social impact, including through efforts to foster innovation and scale up work on corporate environmental and social responsibility;</li> <li>- Requested the Executive Director to continue to play an active role in promoting and facilitating cooperation on sustainable consumption and production at all levels, including by supporting awareness-raising and facilitating financial and technical support and capacity-building for the implementation of policies and actions on</li> </ul>

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				<p>sustainable consumption and production in close cooperation with other relevant entities of the United Nations system;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Also requested the Executive Director further to strengthen efforts to mainstream sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency at the national level, supporting the development of inter-ministerial collaboration and a network of national sustainable consumption and production focal points [and providing necessary capacity-building, policies and tools] [through the joint United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Industrial Development Organization programme strategy for resource efficiency and cleaner production in developing countries and countries with economies in transition];</li> <li>- Further requested the Executive Director to include in the programme of work the promotion of partnerships and initiatives on sustainable consumption and production and to develop such partnerships and initiatives in close coordination with [regional and] other United Nations entities such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the economic and social commissions, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Tourism Organization[, the</li> </ul>

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				<p>Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] and other key stakeholders,]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Called upon the Executive Director to support strengthened [national,] regional [and international] cooperation on sustainable consumption and production in close consultation with all relevant stakeholders[,] [and] to encourage the development and expansion of sustainable consumption and production networks and communities of practice[, including national cleaner production centres,] and] to encourage and support the establishment of [national cleaner production centres] [centres] of expertise on sustainable consumption and production and [the][ facilitate the] development and management of [an online platform] [a clearing house] for sharing information, experience and knowledge-management tools [in cooperation with other regional and global information management initiatives];</li> <li>- Encouraged the Executive Director to support multi-stakeholder partnerships for advancing the implementation of sustainable consumption and production, [in particular by strengthening cooperation with other international organizations, and to facilitate the establishment [and operation] of a United Nations inter-agency [multi-stakeholder] cooperation mechanism on sustainable consumption and production;</li> </ul>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Called upon the Executive Director and member States to enhance the development and dissemination of policy-relevant scientific knowledge on resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, in particular with the support of the International Resource Panel;</li> <li>- Urged Governments actively to support the adoption of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as agreed] by the relevant working group of the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development; and</li> <li>- Requested the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session, in 2013.</li> </ul>

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SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY AND AFRICA				
Southern African Development Community and	<p>Southern African Development Community Senior officials Meeting, Council of Ministers Meeting and Summit</p> <p>11 to 18 August 2011 Luanda, Angola</p>	The delegation comprised of officials from the Department of Environmental Affairs	<p>Main issues of discussion during the meeting were the regional economic integration through SADC economic integration efforts, including trade, FDI promotion and the enhancement of infrastructure. The meeting also discussed regional political cooperation, in support of capacity building for peace and security in the region; review and assessment of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) as well as the upcoming 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol UNFCCC COP17/CMP7.</p>	<p><b><i>COP17, SADC Strategy for COP 17 ,and SADC Regional Programme on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)</i></b></p> <p>Council noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- South Africa will be hosting COP17/CMP7 from 28 November to 9 December 2011.</li> <li>- the need for SADC Member States to continue to support decisions to advance concrete implementation of climate change adaptation measures and actions through a further elaboration of the Cancun Adaptation Framework to match adaptation actions with finance and technology, particularly for Africa and SADC.</li> <li>- in order to achieve a balanced outcome COP17/CMP7 will require the operationalisation of the Cancun Agreements and commitment to deal with unresolved political issues from the Bali Roadmap and Action Plan.</li> <li>- noted that South Africa is engaging Member Parties in working towards a successful outcome in Durban. All Member Parties are therefore urged to participate fully in preparatory processes toward COP 17, which included a number of preparatory meetings.</li> </ul> <p>Council endorsed the SADC Strategy on Climate</p>

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African Union (AU)				<p>Change for COP 17 and the SADC Regional Programme on REDD, as approved by the Ministers responsible for the Environment and Natural Resources. Council further requested support for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, climate change adaptation measures as well as the implementation of the African Union (AU) decision on COP 17/CMP7</p> <p>The SADC Strategy on Climate Change for COP17/CMP7 was elevated to the Summit for endorsement by the Heads of State.</p> <p><b><i>Review and assessment of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP)</i></b></p> <p>Council under Decision 3 noted the Report of the desk assessment of the RISDP as work in progress. They also urged Member States that have not yet completed the questionnaire to do so. Council also directed the Secretariat to revise the Draft Terms of Reference after the Member States have submitted their questionnaires and urged that consultants from the SADC region must be used to conduct the independent mid-term review of the RISDP.</p>
	The 18 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Summit of the African Union (AU)	The delegation comprised of officials from the Department of Environmental Affairs	The theme for the Summit was “ <b><i>Boosting Intra-Africa Trade</i></b> ”. Despite intra-Africa trade being the theme of the summit, this was overshadowed by the dramatic impasse in the AU Commission leadership contest. The election of the AUC chairperson resulted in a draw between the two contestants: H.E. Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma of	<p><b>Executive Council</b></p> <p>- The report of the Special Session of AMCEN was adopted at the Executive Council meeting. It was important for the AU to adopt the report of the AMCEN Special Session at the Executive Council meeting,</p>

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	23 to 30 January 2012 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia		<p>South Africa and incumbent H.E. Jean Ping of Gabon. The next round of AUC Chairperson elections will take place during the next AU Summit in Malawi, in July 2012.</p> <p>The meeting dealt with a number of issues that affect the continent. But what was relevant to the field of Environment was reporting and making decisions on the AMCEN Special Session, the United Nations Convention on Climate Change Seventeenth Conference of Parties (COP 17) and Africa's preparations for the Rio + 20 conference.</p>	<p>since this will contribute to a further strengthening of the linkages of AMCEN with the PRC, Executive Council and the Summit.</p> <p><b><i>Decision on the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 17)</i></b></p> <p>- South Africa is an active member of CAHOSCC and is committed to continue to engage in the CAHOSCC processes. The country also commends all partners that played a role in making COP 17 a great success. It continues to urge member states and other partners to support the Durban outcome and South Africa as the current COP president. South Africa also takes note of the Decision of the Assembly which requests CAHOSCC to nominate three African members to the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). However, this is not consistent with the UNFCCC process, as this will be done through the Africa Group. Hence, South Africa will need to engage with the AU Commission and CAHOSCC on this.</p> <p><b><i>Decision on the Africa Consensus Statement to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20)</i></b></p> <p>- South Africa continues to consult national stakeholders in developing the country position for Rio + 20. The main focus is on the concept of Green Economy whose motto in South Africa is "Towards a resource efficient, low carbon and pro employment growth." The country is also actively engaging on the</p>

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				<p>concept of Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD). This includes, among others, strengthening and integrating the three pillars of sustainable development; establishment of a United Nations specialised agency which will strengthen international environmental governance. South Africa will continue to engage and participate in the African process for the preparations for Rio+20.</p> <p><b>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations</b></p> <p>- South Africa acknowledges the significance of UNEP being located in Nairobi, Kenya making it the only UN institution with its headquarters in Africa. Also the country acknowledges the important role UNEP has played over the period in advancing the environment and sustainable development agenda globally and in Africa particularly. Further to this, South Africa recognises the pivotal role that UNEP has been playing on facilitating the debate on the reform of the International Environmental Governance (IEG) system which has taken on greater significance in the context of reform of the entire Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development. In addition to this, UNEP has been instrumental to advancing the Green Economy Agenda, which also has the potential to deliver benefits for Africa and the developing world.</p> <p><b>African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources</b></p>

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				<p>- Minister Molewa should engage with Minister Nkoana-Mashabane on the way forward regarding this issue and the Department of Environmental Affairs should re-initiate the process and prepare for the convention to be signed during the next AU summit in Malawi, in July 2012. The Department (DEA) should also strengthen communication and preparations with the responsible unit at DIRCO regarding this matter, prior to the summit, to avoid the challenge that led to none signing of the convention during the previous summit.</p>