

African Environmental Society
Statute

PREAMBLE

We the African National and Regional environmental societies, are

DETERMINED to promote eco-friendly development, plans and actions that are to safeguard Africa's environment and to achieve the aspiration of the African Union Agenda 2063.

RECOGNIZING that the environmental challenges experienced in Africa are caused by anthropogenic sources on the natural environment which also has a major impact on human lives that includes deforestation, desertification, soil degradation, air pollution, water pollution, climate change among others.

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the need for positive efforts designed to raise effective awareness on Environmental issues in Africa, and the need to encourage the creation of a knowledge-based and innovative society and to promote the creation, use and exploitation of eco-economy in Africa;

DESIRING to promote environmental protection values and standards in using our endowed resources between/among our people, politicians and decision makers for Africa's sustainable development.

BEING FULLY AWARE of the need to build a robust network of Experts, Societies and Agencies on Environment to provide sound and independent information on the environment; and develop, adopt, implement and evaluate environmental policies in Africa to safeguard our descendant future and resources.

FURTHER RECOGNISING the cross-cutting nature of Environmental issues and the need to have a co-operation in this domain in Africa.

HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Establishment of the African Environmental Society

The society is an African society named as the African Environmental Society, Commonly known as AES. It is a non-profit association of National/ Regional environmental societies in African Union Member States and does not provide any financial benefits to its Members.

Article 2

Mandate of the AES

The AES shall be responsible to safeguard Africa's Environment and other emerging issues related to Environment in Africa and shall promote effective use of eco-economy system as a tool for economic, cultural, social and technological

development of the continent as well as set Environmental standards that reflect the needs of the African Union, its Member States and Regional Economic Communities.

Article 3 Functions of the AES

The AES shall:

- a) Develop and Harmonize a guide line for Environmental standards that reflect the needs of the African Union Member States and its Regional Economic Communities;
- b) Facilitate the use of Environmental standards to promote creativity; eco-innovativeness and eco-economy in the continent;
- c) Facilitate/promote the realization and harmonization of national legislation and regional treaties and Environmental standards on all the AU levels;
- d) Assist African Union Member States upon request in formulating policies and addressing current and emerging Environmental issues.
- e) Initiate and facilitate strategies that shall promote and develop a robust African Environmental system;
- f) Strengthen the existing National Environmental Societies and facilitate their establishment in the Member States, which have no such societies;
- g) Develop policy guidelines using best practices and training modules to support Member States to achieve world-class Environmental protection systems;
- h) Provide a forum for policy discussions and formulation, addressing political issues and developing African Common positions relating to Environment;
- i) Take deliberate measures to promote the protection of the Environment within the AU Member States, including facilitation of bilateral and multilateral agreements;
- j) Collect, process and disseminate relevant information to Member States and support the establishment of continental databases on Environmental resources and Challenges by establishing the African Environmental information and Observation network;
- k) To produce the Africa Environment outlook biennial,
- l) Promote and facilitate positive efforts designed to raise awareness on Environmental challenges in Africa;
- m) Initiate and facilitate activities that strengthen the human, financial and technical capacity of Member States and the African Communities at large;
- n) Contribute to the accelerated achievement of the objectives of the African Union as stated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

Article 4 Membership

4.1 Membership shall be open to all recognized national and regional Environmental Societies that are registered in any of the African Union Member States upon their written request and after submitting the following documents:

- a) Legal registration documents in their respective Member States;

- b) Letter of intent to join the AES that includes their readiness to sign this statute and commitment to the AES objectives, mandate and functions;
- c) Commitment to payment of the annual membership subscription;

4.2 Decision on the Membership to be made on case by case basis according to the predefined criteria that is developed by the AES Bureau.

Article 5 Affiliate Membership

The affiliated members are:

5.1 The African Union Commission Department of Civil Society and Diaspora (**CIDO**) and Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (**DREA**); the African Union Scientific, Technical and Research Commission, African Ministerial Conference on Environment (**AMCEN**) and UNEP to be considered as observers and to be invited to the AES General Assembly and Bureau meetings and they do not have voting right.

5.2 Other Environmental societies/ organizations from outside Africa will pay a membership fee that will be determined by the AES General Assembly. They will be granted no voting right and will be invited to the General Assembly as observers.

Article 6 Headquarters of the AES

The AES to be hosted in its initial phase by the Nigerian Environmental Society and then after the Headquarters to be decided by the General Assembly.

Article 7 Organs of the AES

The AES shall be composed of the following organs:

- a) General Assembly
- b) AES Bureau
- c) AES Secretariat;

a) The General Assembly

- i. The General Assembly to AES is hereby established as the highest executive and political decision making body; the General Assembly shall:

1. Adopt rules of procedures for itself and for any subsidiary body it may establish, as well as financial rules to determine in particular the financial participation of AES Members;
 2. Direct the overall policies of AES, including formulation and review of the AES Work Programmes, approves action plans, funding and resource mobilization strategies and etc;
 3. Elect AES Bureau;
 4. Consider the reports and activities of AES Bureau and take appropriate action in regard thereto;
 5. Consider and decide the budget for the AES and appoint an Auditor;
- ii. The General Assembly shall meet once every two (2) years and an extra ordinary session may be called for when the need arises.
 - iii. The General Assembly composed of all the AES members identified in articles 4 and 5 of this statute while the voting members are those in article 4.
 - iv. Each Member State will be granted one vote only during the voting session, in such case clusters on the national levels are to nominate their voting members; this is to be communicated officially to the AES Bureau prior to the meeting respecting a pre-defined deadline that is to be set by the Bureau.
 - v. The General Assembly forms a quorum ONLY when 50% +1 of the members are present, while in voting simple majority is considered.

b) AES Bureau

- i. The Bureau shall be composed of 10 members to: Chairperson, 1st Vice-Chairperson; 2nd Vice-Chairperson; Treasurer; and reporter and other 5 voting members along with other non-voting members identified in article 5 of this statute;
- ii. The Bureau members should represent Africa geopolitical regions as defined by the African Union Commission which are (East, Central, North, South, and West) i.e. two representatives per geopolitical region “the list of the distribution can be obtained from the commission);
- iii. Members of the Bureau may serve only for two consecutive terms each of two years.
- iv. The Bureau shall perform the following functions:

1. Oversee and follow-up the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly;
 2. Preside over the proceedings of the General Assembly;
 3. Establish or strengthen networks and associations to implement programs identified by the General Assembly;
 4. Coordinate Environmental activities and interventions in Africa in addition to those other activities in Article 3;
 5. To represent the AES in international and regional meetings;
 6. Develop the terms of references and rules of procedures for any ad-hoc committees/ working groups when the need arise.
- v. The Bureau shall meet biannually.

c) AES Secretariat

The structure, function, rules of procedures and appointment of the staff of the Secretariat shall be determined by the Bureau Members in consultation with the General assembly and in accordance with the availability of fund;

**Article 8
Recourses**

The AES Fiscal year is the calendar year while the resources will be driven from:

- a) Its members' subscription are as follows:

Fees	National Societies	Regional Societies
Registration	2,000 USD	5,000 USD
Yearly Membership	1,000 USD	3,000 USD

- b) Voluntary contributions from AU Member States;
- c) Contributions from Development Partners;
- d) Contributions from Private Sector;
- e) National and regional financial institutions and other financing mechanisms;
- f) Any other source of funding that to be approved by the General Assembly;

**Article 9
Working Languages**

The working languages of the AES shall be those of the African Union.

Article 10 Amendments

- a) The present Statute may be amended upon the recommendation of 2/3 of the General Assembly.
- b) The amendments shall come into effect upon their adoption by 2/3 of the General Assembly.

Article 11 Entry into Force

This statute shall enter into force upon its signature by 10 members that identified under article 4 of this document and as of that an interim Bureau to be appointed to register the AES and take other legal and administrative issues along with the performance of the duties identified under article 7 of this statute.

Article 12 Withdrawal

- a) At any time after three years from the date in which the Statute has entered into force a Member of the General Assembly may withdraw from AES by giving written notification to the Bureau and the Secretariat.
- b) Withdrawal shall be effective one year after receipt of notification by the Bureau, or on such later date as may be specified in the notification.
- c) Withdrawal shall not exempt the withdrawing Member from fulfilling any obligations it might have incurred under this Statute.

Article 13 Termination of Membership

The membership shall be terminated if the member:

- a) Fails to attend to its legal and financial commitments/obligations;
- b) Loses the legal recognition/registration in their respective Member States;
- c) Conducts an action that is not in consonance with the African position in issues related to the objectives of AES.

Article 14 Dissolution/liquidation

- a) The AES may dissolve itself by a General assembly decision voted by 2/3 of its members.
- b) In case of dissolution, the AES assets only (excluding liabilities) should be left to the African Union Commission to be used in its programmes/projects on environment.