3. Regulations and legislation

Many countries have been slow to develop and enforce local environment-related health regulations. International conventions may be signed, but are often not fully implemented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International conventions and implementation</th>
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<tr>
<td>1973 CITES (endangered species trade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989 Basel Convention (hazardous waste movement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989 Bamako Convention (hazardous waste movement in Africa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992 UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997 Kyoto Protocol (climate change)</td>
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Countries ratified
Countries with National Implementation Plans

A coordination mechanism should be established to implement laws and regulations effectively.

Congo SANA report: “A specific mechanism is needed to ensure implementation of international agreements, beyond the designated agency focal points.”

A national framework is needed to implement laws and regulations.

Tanzania SANA report: “We need a process cycle to implement international conventions.”

Enforcement of laws is needed.

Kenya SANA report: “Harmonisation and enforcement of laws and regulations concerning drought, flood, disease vectors and drinking water pollution is required.”

Awareness should be created among policy makers and the public.

Gabon SANA report: “(There is need for) a real-time status of the international conventions to provide a clear progress update.”

4. Intersectoral coordination

In all African countries, strategic alliances between environment and health structures are weak or non-existent. Strengthening intersectoral coordination is key.

Why is coordination a problem?
- There is no integrated monitoring and evaluation for health and environment programmes.
- There is no coordinating mechanism for surveillance and research.
- National poverty reduction plans do not feature health and environment goals.
- Institutional arrangements for the coordination of poverty, environment and health programmes are lacking.

What needs to happen next?
- Establish overarching national coordination mechanisms.
- Set up research coordination systems and databases.
- Establish environment and health task teams.
- Improve dialogue between sectors.

5. Institution building

To practically address the challenges of environment and health, countries in Africa need to establish numerous new structures and systems.

What needs to be strengthened and built?
- Observatories for monitoring and surveillance
- Integrated surveillance and research
- Intersectoral coordination mechanisms
- Operational systems working across all levels
- Skilled and educated staff
- Resource centres and libraries
- Clear strategies