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Calabash Program – Increasing Capacity of Civil Society in the SADC Region to Participate in Environmental Decision-Making

Project Summary at Conclusion of 2 year Contract Period

June 20, 2005

“Until lions have their historians, tales of the hunt shall always glorify the hunter” – African proverb on democracy

The Calabash Governance Program was awarded the 2005 Core Values Award for **Program of the Year** from the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2)

Calabash Programme Background

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has existed for 30 years. During its evolution, public involvement in the EIA process has become a key criterion that distinguishes EIA as a participatory decision support tool. Consequently, EIA is a suitable and appropriate platform from which to build participatory decision making approaches for the southern African region. Environmental Impact Assessment is one window through which the public has the opportunity to engage a government in decision-making.

However, in southern Africa, there is insufficient public access to information and there are inadequate or weak mechanisms for public participation in decision-making. The Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA), through support provided by the World Bank and Canadian CIDA, undertook 2-year project to develop a process to enhance participation in decision-making in the SADC region Africa. Calabash was not designed to actually do public participation, but rather was structured so that regulators, private sector, practitioners and civil society had the capacity, knowledge and tools to better undertake respective public participation programs on individual projects and programmes.

Governance in its simplest forms describes the relationship among institutions, processes and ideas. It is about the exercise of power, accountability and relationships in pursuit of an organization's mission or a nation's goals. In Africa, achievement of a country's goals are severely challenged due to such issues as resource degradation, HIV/AIDS, water scarcity and conflict. EIA of projects and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of policies plans and programmes, are evolving rapidly to address wider sustainability objectives beyond biophysical concerns. The evolution of these planning tools is recognizing that the public has a significant role to play in the EIA or SEA process to assist a government to achieve its objectives, while at the same time advancing democratic reform and good governance practices. How a respective government engages civil society with respect to decision-making is one measure of how a government is reforming its governance and democratic reform processes. The recent Commission for Africa report concluded that governance is one of the key issues to be addressed by Africa if poverty reduction is to occur.

Many African countries have well written EIA statutes that require the involvement of the public or civil society in the project decisions that affect them. To date, the application and success of public involvement in EA has been most variable due to lack of capacity, information, knowledge and networks in many stakeholder groups. Regardless, EIA presents a very effective and practical tool for African governments to show to the international investment community and the African democratic review teams that democratic principles at the project/programme level are being applied. EIA is one big "window" through which democratic reform can be realized by more participation.

Furthermore, while democracy has been widely embraced by many African governments, regional bodies and international gatherings, it is difficult to assess the extent to which democratic practices have genuinely taken root. One fact is clear - a county's citizens rather than outsiders are best placed to undertake a comprehensive and critical identification of the challenges confronting their country on the path of democracy development and consolidation. And their participation in decision-making is key to democratic reform. Citizens, informed and active EIA can act as advocates for its use in decision-making processes affecting their lives to their political leaders who will then require it of regulatory bodies. Sustainable development can hardly be achieved without stakeholder involvement in the EIA process. EIA with public consultation is an essential part of the process and system needed to make sustainable development happen.

The Calabash project is one step of many to assist the SADC region to move forward on democratic reform by using EIA as a catalyst for participatory decision-making by providing appropriate tools, knowledge and networks to regulators, civil society, practitioners and industry of the SADC region.

Strategy Used to Develop Engagement Capacity in Civil Society

Calabash is about building capacity in PP and civil society engagement in the SADC region rather than doing public participation programmes per se. But, we discovered a huge need in the region for the outputs that Calabash was to develop. Core to the success of the project were 4 preliminary activities. These were:

- The development of a 600 person **Contact Group** in the region who represent those involved in EIA and public participation (regulators, private sector, civil society and practitioners). These people were to be the key “levers” of change for the 14 countries of the SADC region.
- The creation of a **Project Advisory Team** of 30 people from across the SADC region who advised Calabash on a regular basis on how the programme should evolve to meet the needs of the region. These 30 people were drawn from the 600 person Contact List.
- The research and publication of a **Situation Assessment** on the status of EIA and PP in the SADC region. This document proved to be the foundation upon which the programme would be built as it identified the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to PP in the region.
- The development of a **Communications Strategy** which outlined how the outputs of the Calabash programme to be broadcast and made accessible to the SADC region and abroad

The other key element of Calabash’s success was based on the development of partnerships with institutions, agencies and persons who were also working on public participation issues, but perhaps not from the EIA window, but through, for example, democratic reform, the democratic peer review process, United Nations Multilateral Agreements on the Environment and natural resource management. These partnerships were not “formalized” but were purposely kept informal, light and reactive so that Calabash and the other respective parties could work together in mutually beneficial manner to get most development and public participation “reach”.

Calabash was managed by one person, but had 2 other key SAIEA persons for administrative support and advice. For the project to have any effect in 2 years, it had to meet PP needs of the region in a practical and accessible way. For the project funds to be secured from the World Bank, an Inception Report was drafted. But the actual outputs for Calabash could not be determined until there was direct consultation with the Contact Group and the Project Advisory team. Therefore, a key project advisory meeting was held in Windhoek in 2003 to discuss with the Project Advisory Group the outputs that should be developed. Calabash has been developed from the ground up. We researched what was working in the region and developed tools and resources around projects and programmes where public participation was done well. All Calabash products have had input from a range of stakeholders who are actively involved in community engagement to ensure the tools are practical and relevant to the social, cultural, environmental and economic realities of the SADC region.

Below is a brief summary of these agreed programme outputs

- **A Guide to Opportunities for Public Participation in Environmental Assessment Processes in the Southern Africa Development Community.** This handbook contains a clear description of all the rights that communities and the public have to participation in environmental decision-making as conferred by international, regional and SADC region conventions, laws and policies related to environmental impact assessment and decision-making. This document has approached the rights issue from "an opportunity to participate" perspective, and is formatted around several key questions for each SADC country.
- **Generic Public Participation Terms of Reference** for civil society engagement involved in a point EIA (e.g. mine site), linear EIA (e.g. pipeline) or a regional strategic environmental assessment. Also included in the document are guidelines and tips on how to develop **Terms**

of Reference that ensure that all contracting parties achieve maximum satisfaction and results throughout the duration of the relationship for a particular project.

- Research into 6 **case studies** in the SADC region where environmental assessment and public participation done with distinction. Time and time again, studies show that when civil society has a chance to contribute to development planning, the end result is a project or program that has more far reaching direct and indirect development benefits than were originally planned. This is the first time that 6 projects from the SADC region have gone through such detailed analysis.
- **A One-Stop Participation Guide: A Handbook of Public Participation in Environmental Assessment in Southern Africa.** The lessons learned from the 6 case studies were integrated into the handbook methodologies. The Handbook is unique in that it offers tips and the process to follow for public participation from the perspective of the 4 key stakeholders who are part of any Public Participation process: **Regulators, Industry, Practitioners and Civil Society.**
- The handbook also contains a **PP Best Practice Model**, a **PP Review Template** which can be used during the review or planning of a PP programme and a series of template letters which civil society can use to ensure that their voices are heard and respected in a respective public participation process.
- Calabash has also developed an **Electronic Library of Public Participation and Civil Society Engagement tools** from around the world. The library has grouped materials from the SADC region, Africa and International. Over 250 resources and manuals exist on the Calabash site.
- Also available is the 2005 **Desk-Top Calendar**, which devotes text for each month to the benefits of civil society engagement.
- Recently delivered was a **Pilot Course on EIA and PP** in Windhoek for 27 participants from across the SADC region and Africa. It is hoped this course will be offered to a wide range of stakeholders when additional funding is secured.
- The Calabash **website** also has published newsletters, Chat Forum, Calabash Planning workshop proceedings and a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) analysis tool to determine how well environment is being integrated into the PRSP process.
- Lastly Calabash has a **wall poster** in cooperation with the Centre for Public Participation, Durban.

The project out puts are summarized in the following table:

Calabash Milestones Table

Output	Date Achieved
Project Advisory Team	August 2003
Communications Strategy	September 2003
Contact Group	September 2003
EIA/PP Situation Assessment	November 2003
Calabash Planning meeting	November 2003
EIA/PP Case Studies	March 2004
EIA/PP Electronic Database	May 2004
Calabash Website	July 2004
Calabash Handbook Review Meeting	November 2004
Calabash EIA/PP Handbook	December 2004
Calabash 2005 Desktop Calendar	January 2005
EIA/SEA Generic PP TORs	February 2005
EIA/PP Rights to Participation	April 2005
EIA/PP Pilot Course	May 2005
Calabash Wall Poster	June 2005

Analysis of the Calabash Programme's Effectiveness

Consider these comments from Calabash product users:

“Thanks again for updating us and keeping us in the picture on the excellent work done by Calabash to ensure effective public participation in EIA processes. Have had a quick look at the new output. It is great and hope the public and civil society will utilize it to the last dot which offering their input and positive criticism to enable Calabash to adjust, if need be, for the better”.

“Its great to see this progress and at a glance let me say that the Calabash website is probably one of the best resources and reference for information of its kind that I have ever come across. I look forward to seeing it going live so that I can link the members of the CIANEA network to it immediately.

“I am amazed and in awe at the amount and quality of work that has been done by the project in a short space of time!”

“Calabash has grown from strength to strength, identifying and delivering strategic outputs as planned, and generating considerable interest, support and participation around the SADC

region and beyond. It has clearly tapped into a felt need to enhance public participation in development decision-making through EA processes.”

These comments and others like that stem from that fact that Calabash respected the needs of the region and the existing PP capacity that could be built upon. Also, the tools and outputs coming from Calabash were designed to be practical and able to be applied directly to ongoing public participation projects in the region. Calabash was designed to be a capacity building node for PP in the region, and it did not waiver from that core objective. It also sought every opportunity to integrate the outputs and news of Calabash wherever possible through word or mouth, corridor conversations, television and print media and other development interventions in the region. A project such as Calabash cannot have success unless it gets buy-in from local stakeholders, and the outputs match required needs. This was done, the result of which is a PP capacity building programme that well reflects the status, and potential, for PP and EIA in the SADC region.

Analysis of Core Civil Society Engagement Capacity- Building Values

Calabash had a vision and objectives to ensure that the voices of the poor were better reflected in the decision-making process central to EIA and public participation. Therefore, the case studies, the “right to participation handbook, the procedural handbook and the template PP Terms of reference handbook emphasized the critical requirement to ensure that the poor and marginalized are brought into the public participation process through such techniques as providing food, transportation, skills, money, use of appropriate language, community radio and community theatre etc. These tools also ensured that communities’ voices would actually be heard. To do this, Calabash developed practical template letters that communities and Community Based Organizations could write to ensure their issues were respected by regulators and the proponent. These letters also included templates on how communities would like to be consulted and also letters of appeal if communities felt their rights were not being respected. This very much reflects a direct technique and approach in defining how a community or group of people wishes to participate. With respect to meeting the process needs of all participants, the Calabash program developed an EIA/PP procedural handbook, which is unique in Africa. The roles and responsibilities for PP and EIA are not the same for all stakeholder groups in the process. Therefore, the handbook has been designed so that there are 4 key chapters on how PP and EIA s to be done if one is either a: regulator, private sector proponent, civil society or practitioner. This approach has been well received in the region. The handbook also ensures that novel and cultural appropriate techniques are used to ensure those affected participate. In this vein, community radio, use of local language, community theatre and providing the capacity for communities to participate, are directly emphasized. Many communities in the SADC region are barely surviving. If participation is to be ensured then one must use techniques that are quite different for participation of wealthy and educated community.

Calabash also ensures that all products were geared as much as possible to community needs. The ‘rights to participation handbook’ is an example of this. It is quite true that citizens of most countries do not know their “rights” whether they are educated, poor or wealthy. This is especially true for poorer communities who have lived under the yoke of poverty and possible colonial oppression. The “rights” handbook therefore provides CBOs and communities with a simple yet clear identification of the rights they have to participate in the EIA process that might be affecting them. Once they can articulate their rights to regulators, the regulators develop more respect and patience with the communities. In this way, more of an equal footing is achieved. And once the rights are known, Calabash then provides the information, knowledge and skills on how to participate in a meaningful way. With respect to how communities’ involvement affected a decision, Calabash tools, in particular the training course and the procedural handbook detail how post decision follow-up must still be part of the PP process. In fact, Calabash emphasizes that community involvement and participation must parallel the project for its entire life. Again, Calabash tools are designed to instruct the regulator, practitioner or private sector on how the communities and local people are to be kept informed and involved during the whole life cycle of the project through culturally, socially and economically appropriate methods.

Culmination of Calabash Outputs – Pilot training Course

Throughout the 2-year programme, many outputs were developed as described above. However, the true effectiveness of the outputs could not be verified until they were tested a 2 day pilot training course. This course was held in Windhoek, Namibia on May 24 and 25. A careful selection process was held to ensure that the 27 persons who could be on the course represented a range of SADC countries and stakeholder groups. The course resulted in so much interest that other countries outside of SADC attended as well. A core element of the course was the trailing of the Calabash civil society engagement handbook, which was directly linked to all other Calabash outputs.

At the end of the 2 days, participants rated the course as “excellent”. The whole pilot testing process can be viewed as a funnel, where the pilot course is the output of the funnel. At the top of the funnel are all the other outputs such as Communication Strategy Rights to Participation Document and Generic PP TORS document etc.

Now, how does the Pilot Training Course relate to the broader aspect of capacity building in the SADC region? Prior to the course and throughout the development of the Calabash Programme, many partnerships were established from a broad range of industry, civil society, regulators and practitioner groups. Individuals representing these groups became very interested in the Calabash programme and agreed to use Calabash products in their own work, and inform their own respective networks about the effectiveness of Calabash. A list of example partnership organization is attached as Annex A. Many of these organizations agreed at the Pilot Training course that the Calabash programme would be invited to present the course at their own respective institution, and that further discussions with SAIEA and Calabash about formalizing capacity building efforts between SAIEA/Calabash and the respective institutions would be held.

Nico Willemse, a local Namibian, has been identified to manage the evolution and further development of Calabash once the current Project Manager, Peter Croal, returns to CIDA, in July 2005. Nico is now developing a Calabash+2 Funding Proposal to advance Calabash for the next 3 years.

Perhaps one of the key determinants of Calabash’s success is the letter received from Ambassador Susan Sikaneta of the African Union who stated on February 15, 2005: ***“They say great ideas and hard work of a few people can impact the entire world. This seems to be the case with SAIEA. The inclusion (of Calabash) in the Commission for Africa Report on what you are doing not only underlies the importance of the subject matter you are dealing with, but the impact it is having as well as the appreciation of the international community of your commitment. We feel encouraged to be associated in any way with SAIEA”.***

Political support for Calabash and public participation is indeed a milestone that bodes well to take Calabash to new levels of capacity building in the years ahead.

Annex I

Calabash Partner Organizations

South African Council of Churches

SACC held a meeting in Pretoria in March 2005 to discuss how faith can be used to advance the world's environmental agenda. Calabash was invited to the meeting and was given time for a presentation. SACC will be using Calabash materials in its future work.

South African Wildlife College

SAWC is developing new courses on environment and resource management. SAIEA and Calabash materials are to be part of the new programme.

Business Day Africa, Lesotho Council of NGOs

Business Day Africa, and LCNGOs, will publish an article about Calabash in upcoming newsletter editions.

SADC Environmental Education Unit

The SADC EE unit has offered its training facilities in Howick RSA to deliver courses on EIA and PP since they view this as an important issue and they also recognize that Calabash has useful and relevant material to offer the environmental community. Negotiations on this will occur in August 2005

Chumbe Island, Tanzania

Chumbe Island is a UNEP recognized and respected eco-reserve. The director of the Reserve has agreed to apply Calabash material on any matters pertaining to public participation.

Africa Capacity Building Foundation

The ACBF has agreed to publish information about Calabash in an upcoming ACBF newsletter.

International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)/World Bank

Calabash is now part of the ICMM mining and public participation initiative. The ICMM is moving forward on the recommendations of the Metals and Mining for Sustainable Development report (MMSD).

ICMM is extremely keen to ensure that the ICMM and Calabash work on participation is mutually supportive and collaborative in nature. ICMM confirmed that all documentation stemming from ICMM would be sent to Calabash for review and analysis for synergy.

Calabash has worked closely with ERM of Australia to assist them in the development of an EIA Biodiversity guide for ICMM.

Ethiopia Workshop

Ethiopia has just passed a new EIA Act, however, at the moment there is very little cooperation between Ethiopian civil society and govt in the EIA process. The Ethiopia EPA has agreed to use Calabash tools to assist with this. The Ethiopia coordinating committee has been sent regular Calabash project updates to assist with Ethiopia's EIA capacity building work. Calabash continues to provide the Ethiopia EIA committee with news and information about Calabash outputs.

UNEP Geneva

UNEP has embarked on research on Integrated Assessment that will span several countries across the globe. One of these countries is Tanzania, which is also part of the Calabash project. UNEP is also developing a stakeholder consultation document. UNEP has agreed to draw on Calabash material for advice, support and direction. UNEP is also publishing information on Calabash in an upcoming newsletter (NISD)

Answer Web

Contact has been made with the Dutch EIA Commission who is looking for sites where the Answer Web could be used for EIA application. News of the Calabash EIA/PP electronic database has been sent to the Dutch EIA Commission for their use.

University of Montreal

Contact has been made with the University of Montreal (Dr. Pierre Andre) who is doing a study on best practice in public participation and EIA. When this document is finalized it will be added to the Calabash suite of capacity development tools. A completed document should be ready after July 2005.

Community Impact Assessment Network of Eastern Africa (CIANEA)

CIANEA and SAIEA/Calabash are cooperating fully with each other's work. CIANEA is eager to work with SAIEA on the Calabash project to share lessons learned so that respective projects continue to evolve in a positive manner. To that end, SAIEA has now acquired all training and capacity building materials that CIANEA has developed. This suite of tools will form part of the Calabash outputs when suitable adapted and tested. CIANEA made electronic links to the Calabash site when it went live. As well, CIANEA distributed news about Calabash to about 100 institutions and individuals in the Eastern African region.

International Association of Impact Assessment

IAIA is launching an international capacity building program on integrating biodiversity in EA. IAIA has identified SAIEA/Calabash as a node for the southern African region to assist with and pilot future work. Calabash and its outputs will be part of this work. Planning meetings with Jo Treweek who is managing this IAIA work were held SAIEA/Calabash has provided IAIA will comments on their proposal for collaboration. Finalization of this arrangement will occur in August 2005.

AfDB

AfDB wants to use Calabash to assist with PP issues related to water development projects. A meeting was held with AfDB in Windhoek in late September, 2004 The meeting resulted in a direct willingness for the AfDB to consider SAIEA and Calabash for EIA and PP work as needed. In particular, the AfDB would like Calabash to be integrated into the AfDB-Namibia Brukkarros Agricultural project.

NEPAD

NEPAD (Environment Sector) has recognized Calabash as an effective node when needing information, guidance and advice on matters pertaining to EA and PP for projects stemming from NEPAD activities. NEPAD has published news about Calabash. Discussions about NEPAD/Calabash cooperation have begun with the new Director of NEPAD's Civil Society Unit (new NEPAD position).

Environmental Law Institute (USA)

ELI is doing similar work on PP and environmental governance in the southern African region, and has agreed to collaborate and cooperate with Calabash in a concerted way. SAIEA is now developing a proposal for ELI on EIA and Transboundary Impact Assessment. ELI will fund and SAIEA will undertake 2 case studies: Popa Falls and Epupa Fall in Namibia. Calabash materials will be used.

UNECE

Individuals in the Aarhus Secretariat and well as the Espoo Secretariat are eager to support Calabash. UNECE has now added Calabash to the UNECE Clearing House, and has been included in the UNECE newsletter. Negotiations are now under way to advance how Calabash work can be fed into the Espoo and Aarhus initiatives.

FRAME

Calabash is now linked to the network called FRAME: Providing the Framework for the Natural Resource Community to Share Knowledge, which focuses on Southern Africa. Calabash news etc is now provided to Frame for regional dissemination. A news article on Calabash has been distributed via the FRAME network.

Leeds University

Leeds University is doing extensive research on PP and land management in Botswana. The work Calabash is doing is directly related to many of the Leeds outputs. As such the director of the Leeds research has expressed his willingness to collaborate and cooperate with Calabash.

UNDP/GEF Namibia

UNDP/GEF Namibia is eager to work with Calabash on the development of its Public Participation Plan as part of UNDPs work on land and natural resource management. UNDP invited Calabash to a workshop on this issue in September 2004. One of the recommendations from the 3-day workshop is that Calabash and its outputs and resources are to become part of the UNDP/GEF Land Management Strategy.

USAID

USAID is funding a regional programme for the management of the Okavango Basin. A meeting was held on this in JNB in February 2005. Calabash was represented and presented at the meeting. A recommendation was made to use Calabash materials as appropriate in any PP programme.

Mozambique

Reinoud Post of Dutch EIA commission is working with the Mozambiqian Ministry of Environment. (MICOA). MICOA has agreed to apply the Calabash Handbook in the development of its upcoming PP Directive.

UNEP Kenya

The UNEP Kenya office is embarking on strategies and frameworks on how multilateral agreements (MEAs) can be used as more of a catalyst for poverty reduction. Calabash has been invited to participate in this work.

Africa Academy of Sciences

AAS is very interesting in collaborating with Calabash in order that Calabash can assist AAS in moving forward on its mandate of mobilizing science and technology for the resolution of critical cultural, social, economic and environmental problems of the continent.

IAP2

Tisha Greying of Golder Associates is a director of IAP2. She is now working with the IAP2 management team to ensure that Calabash and IAP2 work more closely together as there are concrete overlaps in the respective mandates. Tisha has completed negotiations with the IAP2 Executive to determine how Calabash can be linked. The Calabash website is now linked to the IAP2 website.

University of Guelph – Canada

The University of Guelph is managing a project called Terralingua. The objective of this project is to ensure the world's biocultural diversity. Guelph views the outputs of Calabash as supportive of this project and is eager to work collaboratively.

Convention on Biological Diversity

The CBD has sections dealing with public participation. As such CBD Montreal is eager to link Calabash to the CBD process. When the Calabash website went live on July 1, 2004, CBD ensured that the CBD had a link/descriptor pointing to Calabash.

University of Cape Town/University of Natal (Centre for Civil Society)

UCT is working on a research project called The Role of Civil Society In Environmental Decision-Making in South Africa. There are strong links to Calabash. The key researchers on this UCT project have agreed to collaborate with Calabash. Discussions on developing a PP Framework document have continued. Discussions with the Centre for Civil Society at the University of Natal have also been advanced.

Kenya – Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

This ministry is actively moving ahead on public participation strategies and research for its projects and programmes, and is eager to work with Calabash as it believes the outputs of Calabash will definitely assist this Ministry's mandate.

UNEP PADELIA

Calabash is directly linked in some aspects with the project which UNEP implements on capacity building for the development of environmental law and institutions in Africa (PADELIA). With respect to public participation, the project ensures such participation particularly of NGOs, civil society, women, etc in its various stages of executing the project activities. UNEP is committed to working with Calabash to advance respective mandates.

UNEP – GEO 4

UNEP has begun to develop its next GEO (4) report due out in about 1.5 years. Calabash suggested text re participation and SEA to the GEO 4 planning team, which is now being considered.

UNECA

The UN Economic Commission for Africa is undertaking work on the development of case studies related to EIA. UNECA is most interested in the case study work now underway. UNECA and Calabash will be collaborating on this respectively.

South Africa Regional Poverty Network (SARPN)

SARPN has agreed to circulate news items about Calabash to the SARPN network.

CLEIAA

CLEIAA has agreed that Calabash outputs will contribute to the required outputs of the Marrakech Declaration, and the EIA Capacity Building Strategy for Africa. Peter Tarr discussed this further at CLEIAA/nodes/donors meeting in Marrakech in early October, 2004.

IISD

IISD has agreed to distribute news about Calabash to its international network.

Africa Conservation

Africa Conservation has agreed to link its activities to Calabash when PP and EIA is required to be undertaken.

FAO

The FAO (Communities and Fire Project) is looking at how Calabash and its outputs can be used in its activities with respect to fire management for communities in the developing world.

Hong Kong

The Hong Kong government has developed a 3D imaging tool that can greatly enhance the effectiveness of public participation in EIA. The CD ROM for this has been received at Calabash and was demonstrated at the EIA/PP training workshop given by SAIEA/Calabash to the Southern African Power Pool. There is great interest in this tool and the Hong Kong government has agreed to ensure Calabash could be used as another test site for the product.

Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC South Africa)

HSRC has agreed to link into Calabash outputs with respect to the work it is doing on Land and Agrarian Land Reform.

SADC Regional Environmental Evaluation Committee

SADC Regional EE has agreed that Calabash outputs should be linked into its activities. In particular the SADC EE wants to use its training facilities to put n Calabash EIA/PP courses.

UNDP Kenya (Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI))

UNDP Kenya and its PEI have agreed that Calabash outputs should be integrated into its PEI initiatives. Negotiations on the way forward are underway

UNDP Angola/Namibia/Botswana

The UNDP is keen to link Calabash outputs to UNDPs basin management programme for the Okavango River basin project. A preliminary meeting with UNDP on this occurred with SAIEA/Calabash in January 2005. SAIEA/Calabash was be part of a weeklong UNDP training course in May 2005 held in Windhoek.

Egerton University (Kenya)

Egerton University is leading a watershed project in Kenya called SUMAWA and has agreed that Calabash should be integrated into its requirements pertaining to EIA and PP.

Nigeria

Chief Edward Bristolallogbariaya is doing his PhD on EIA/PP in the Niger Delta and has agreed to incorporate Calabash and its outputs into his research.

IFC

Calabash has initiated discussions on cooperation with the IFC offices in South Africa.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)

INAC has aged to use Calabash outputs and resources as necessary for its work in developing sustainable development strategies with Canada's First Nations.

Centre for Environmental Management (CEM - South Africa)

CEM has agreed to link Calabash to its site and use Calabash outputs and resources as necessary in the development and delivery of its training courses.

World Bank Civil Society Network

The WBCS network in Washington has agreed to send out regular information on Calabash to its local civil society contacts in Africa.

IUCN

IUCN Tanzania has agreed to use Calabash products as part of its Tanzanian reef/fishing programmes. As well IUCN (South America) is interested in using Calabash material in its work.

University of Witswaterand

The Centre for Sustainability in Mining and Industry (CSMI) invited Calabash to a one-day seminar in November 2004 to discuss the social aspects of mining. CSMI has agreed and is keen to form a partnership with SAIEA/Calabash to work on areas of mutual interest. Calabash was presented at the seminar where about 25 people were in attendance from many stakeholder groups.

Media Institute of Southern Africa

Calabash is now mature enough to warrant press coverage in local media. To that end, Zambia and Namibia are the first countries to agree to write a news article about Calabash. Zambia published an article about Calabash in its national paper in January, 2005. An article for the Namibia press will be prepared soon.

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

Requests have been made to the MEA team to publish a news item about Calabash in an upcoming newsletter.

WIMSA

The Working Group for Indigenous Minorities of Southern Africa (WIMSA) is keen to collaborate with Calabash on the use of Calabash tools and outputs for WIMSA's work with indigenous minorities in the SADC region.

EAAIA

The Eastern **Africa** Association for Impact Assessment has linked the Calabash site to its own site.

Applied Environmental Education

This international journal would like to have an article about Calabash. Work on this will begin in August 2005.

OECD

The OECD is developing new guidance material on SEA for International Cooperation. Calabash outputs and comments re the SEA guide are now being considered for incorporation in the OECD guide to be finalized in July 2005.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA)

CEAA is involved in international work on PP. Discussions with CEAA have begun on how Calabash and its outputs could contribute to Canada's EIA/PP activities.

Empowerment for African Sustainable Development (EASD)

EASD discussed with UNEP and also with colleagues at the City of Cape Town and the CSIR the possibility of holding an expert workshop on state of the environment reporting and a training course (presented by the CSIR). The idea is to hold the meeting and training course in Cape Town at some stage next year.

EASD will work with UNEP to ensure that the training material is consistent with the global environment assessment approach and the City of Cape Town as one of the hosts will bring their considerable experience in state of the environment reporting to the table.

EASD thought it would be useful to try and bring Calabash and its networks and EASD networks together and do some joint work. Calabash has been invited by EASD working together with EASD and the City of Cape Town and the CSIR to develop this one-week programme. Discussions began in early 2005.

Rwanda

Rwanda has made some inquiries to Calabash with information on the EIA of underground power lines. Discussions on this began early in August 2004

Queens University, Canada

Queens University (Environmental Studies programme) is keen to work with Calabash as the principal environmental researcher is working on the social/ environmental aspects of mining in southern Africa. Further discussions on this collaboration began in early 2005.

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