



Austrian Development Cooperation with Africa

The three principal objectives of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) – reducing poverty, preserving the environment and safeguarding peace and human security – are also pursued by Austria in its cooperation with Africa. As a member of the European Union, Austria's development activities in Africa are aligned with the EU-Africa Strategy (2007), The European Consensus on Development (2006), the Paris Declaration (2005), the EU Code of Conduct on the Division of Labour in Development Policy (2007) as well as the Accra Agenda for Action (2008). The implementation of the EU-Africa Strategy envisages eight thematic partnerships between the EU and Africa. Austria participates actively in the areas of "Peace and Security" and "Energy" at the level of the African Union, and at the regional level with ECOWAS (West Africa) and SADC (Southern Africa).

Austrian official development assistance (ODA) in Africa was EUR 306.02 million in 2007, EUR 110.73 million in 2008 and EUR 101.47 million in 2009.

In geographic terms, Austria's development cooperation with Africa is concentrated on four priority countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Uganda and Mozambique).

West Africa

In West Africa the Austrian Development Cooperation supports local non-governmental organisations, such as ENDA (Environnement et Développement du Tiers Monde) and SWAC (Sahel and West Africa Club) aiming to strengthen civil society in finding trans-national solutions for regional development challenges. ADC supports the use of alternative sources of energy and enhanced energy efficiency via the ECOWAS Regional Centre (ECREEE) in Praia, Cape Verde and supports ECOWAS in its efforts to safeguard peace and human security and to prevent conflict.

East Africa

In East Africa Austria is well known for its expertise in the sector of Integrated Water Management. ADC contributes to the World Bank's regional "Water and Sanitation Programme". In Uganda Austria supports the national water supply and sanitation sector programme. In Rwanda ADC co-finances the EU programme with its aim to provide access to clean drinking water and sanitary facilities to 200,000 people in a disadvantaged rural region. Other priorities of THE Austrian Development Cooperation in the region are the safeguarding of peace and human security, the development of democracy and the strengthening of civil society. Through educational and information campaigns about basic human rights and the rights of women ADC promotes an inclusive participation of all groups in political decision-making.

Southern Africa

Austrian Development Cooperation supports programmes and projects of the regional organisation SADC, Southern African Development Community, in the areas of the rule of law and energy. ADC also supports for example SADC-CNGO (SADC Council of NGOs) in its efforts to develop a common approach of civil society regarding appropriate poverty reduction measures in SADC member States. ADC also supports regional networks in analysing different approaches regarding questions of land tenure. In the energy sector ADC contributes to the Energy and Environment Partnership with Southern and East Africa (EEP S&EA). The aim of this regional programme is to improve access to renewable forms of energy.

Best practice

ETHIOPIA

Living in harmony with nature

The Simien Mountains National Park in the Amhara Region attracts up to 7,000 tourists every year. Due to its unique beauty, it enjoys special protection as a UNESCO cultural heritage. The life of the 17,000 families settled in and around the park is, however, not easy. Leached soils and overgrazed ranges have led to repeated food shortages in the past.

For many years, the Austrian Development Cooperation has supported integrated development in the region, with considerable success: Farmers have learned to apply biological cropping methods, resulting in sustainable soil improvement. They are now growing a broader assortment of fruits and vegetables, plant more robust grain varieties and produce more milk and meat thanks to modern livestock farming methods. The improved conditions of life make it easier for the villagers to cope with the restrictions that conservation entails. Rangeland has been constricted in the national park to protect vegetation. Trees may no longer be felled for firewood. Tourism, however, affords an additional source of income and the national park administration provides jobs as tour guides or cooks. The overnight fees are also of direct benefit to the villagers.

Project partner: Ethiopian Bureau for Finance and Economic Development (BoFED)

MOZAMBIQUE

CAIA – A community gets organised

A new bridge about five kilometres long provides a speedy link over the Zambezi River. The municipality of Caia has now become a major traffic hub in the region. With the help of Austrian know-how, the municipal authority seized the opportunity afforded by this development. The way has been cleared for 10.8 kilometres of road and 34 large, partly built-up areas have been surveyed and parcelled up into about 600 private properties.

Thanks to the establishment of a land registry, properties are now being registered for the first time with the help of specially trained technicians. Land registration provides legal protection for the population and also earns tax revenue, which can be invested in additional infrastructure measures, such as water and energy supply. The close involvement and extensive information of the population have made a major contribution to project success. Finally, the multipurpose building, Facility Centre Casa Velha, is being renovated and an assembly centre built.

Project partner: ECOTEC GmbH



UGANDA

Clean water for all

The Government of Uganda has set itself an ambitious target: By 2015, 77 per cent of the rural population and the entire urban population are to have access to clean drinking water and hygienic sanitary facilities. With the support of Austria, an extensive regional programme for water supply was launched in Southwest Uganda in 1996. More than 300,000 people are now connected to the mains. Sound, sustainable administration ensures reliable supply. Specially developed dry toilets ensure good hygiene standards. They prevent the contamination of groundwater and human excrement processed to fertilizer is used in farming. The successful programme is now also underway in other regions. Austria is stepping up its support in the North of Uganda in particular. EUR 1.5 million a year is provided for the Water and Sanitation Development Facility there.

Project partner: Ugandan Ministry of Water and Environment

WEST AFRICA

Development needs energy

Life without energy for cooking, lighting, transport, modern data processing and industrial production is almost unthinkable in Austria today. Worldwide, however, 2.4 billion people have neither access to electricity nor other modern energy forms. In Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, only about 23 per cent of the population has access to electricity, most of these living in urban centres.

This is about to change in West Africa. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a regional association of currently 15 countries. Its goal is to establish a common economic area for greater independence and growth. In 2005, ECOWAS adopted a sweeping regional energy programme for rural and suburban areas, where altogether 325 million people live. By 2015, two-thirds of households are to have access to sustainable energy services. About 20 per cent of future investments will be channelled into power production from renewable energy. As of December 2009, the regional ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) assists the West African countries in implementing these ambitious plans. Access to sustainable forms of energy makes things a lot easier. It raises the quality of life in villages and curbs rural exodus. Mechanical water pumps save a lot of time and effort spent on fetching water. Staff in infirmaries and health stations no longer have to wait for the break of day for treatments and vaccines can be kept cool in remote facilities. Costly and environmentally harmful diesel generators can be replaced and small enterprises can operate more economically. Austria supports ECOWAS in implementing its rural energy policy and has played a leading role with UNIDO in setting up ECREEE.

Project partner: Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)