BACKGROUND

As a reminder, the Clean Air Initiative in sub-Saharan Africa (CAI-SSA) was established in 1998 by the World Bank to tackle the growing problems of urban air pollution generated by motorized transport in major African cities. The Program is built on a large Public/Private Partnership including African Authorities, NGO’s, environmental agencies, the oil industry, Donors. So far, five in depth studies on air pollution have been carried out (Dakar, Ouagadougou, Abidjan, Cotonou, and Douala) and draft Actions Plans prepared.

Since June 2001, the major effort of the CAI-SSA is to eliminate lead from gasoline in SSA by the end of 2005. During this period (January 2003—October 2003), significant progress have been made in the process of lead phase-out. The Steering Committee, held mid March 2003 endorsed the proposed 2003-2006 workplan (see chapter “The Road Ahead” in the 1998-2002 Progress Report: CAI-SSA Working Paper No. 10). Dissemination efforts have been under way through AFRICACLEAN, a network of African experts on urban air pollution.

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The development objectives for CAI are in line with the Bank’s overall environment and urban strategies which propose a joint effort with national and local governments towards achieving, “livable cities […] ensuring that the poor achieve a healthful and dignified living standard, […] addressing environmental degradation” and the Bank’s seventh Millennium Development Goal, “Ensure environmental sustainability”. The achievements include:

- A continued commitment towards the Initiative by African Authorities, increased awareness about air pollution issues by decision-makers as well as local communities, in particular regarding the dangers of lead, regular flow of communication;
Adoption of sub-regional Action Plans that stipulate a reduction of the level of lead in gasoline to 0.15 g/l in 2002 and complete phase-out by 2005 as major outputs of the seminars organized in Dakar, Cotonou, Nairobi and Cape Town;

Enactment of appropriate national legislation and regulation for more stringent fuel quality and emissions standards as well as monitoring and enforcement of these standards;

Cooperation with sub-regional institutions involved in the harmonization of technical standards (UEMOA, ECOWAS) on oil and distribution.

ACTIVITIES “JANUARY 2003 - OCTOBER 2003”

The activities carried out between January 1, 2003 and October 31, 2003 are in line with (a) the follow up of the Dakar Declaration on the phase-out of leaded gasoline, (b) the overall Development Objectives of the Program and (c) the decisions made at the second Steering Committee held mid March 2003 with the main partners. The activities are:

- Study on urban air pollution in Douala, Cameroon (ongoing), and preparation of a national seminar to be organized in Douala, Cameroon, early 2004.
- Finalization of the work program with AFRICACLEAN, a network of African experts on air pollution initiated in the context of the Initiative. The work program focuses on the production and dissemination of data; the launching of awareness campaigns; the assistance to the coordination of the five working groups set up in the Sub-Saharan African region to eliminate leaded gasoline by 2005; and the overall regional dissemination of information on the Clean Air Initiative and related activities.
- The restructuring of the CAI SSA Website to better reflect the Africa region’s needs. The changes include new home page text addressing the effects of lead on health and the economy, links to conference presentations, action plans, case studies, and useful links. Visit website link: [http://www.worldbank.org/cleanair/caiafrica/index.htm](http://www.worldbank.org/cleanair/caiafrica/index.htm).
- The set up of a Discussion Forum allowing individuals interested in the air quality issues to register online and initiate discussions on relevant issues. This will assist in building capacity in the region.
- The CAI Newsletter, issues No.5 & 6, containing the latest events and news in the region have been electronically distributed. Donors, World Bank staff and ex-participants of past conferences have been encouraged to subscribe to the quarterly Newsletter through e-mail communications.
- A 5-minute short version video (both in French and English) based on the 18-minute long version on “Leaded Gasoline: A Silent Threat” explaining the health and economic impacts of leaded gasoline was produced and posted on the Intranet. These have been posted on the CAI-SSA Website as well.

• Videos on “Leaded Gasoline: A Silent Threat” and Proceedings of the Pan-African Conference on the Phase-out of Leaded Gasoline in SSA (Dakar, Senegal; June 2001) were sent to the World Bank Info Shop and are currently on sale there.

• Production of a new miniature size brochure (English and French versions) advertising the CAI-SSA. This brochure holds a small CD-Rom with the 1998-2002 Progress Report, with the video shortened version, and a selection of presentations from the Proceedings presented at the five sub-regional/regional/national conferences held in Africa to date.

• Regular meetings with partners (coordination meeting in Washington with USEPA, IPIECA, consultants) as well as with key Donors (discussion in Washington mid February 2003 with a delegation from the Belgian Cooperation, meetings with ESMAP, the EU).

• Participation to a special mission in Cotonou, Benin, to identify a component on urban mobility and air pollution as part of the second phase of a World Bank Project on City Management (February 2003).

• Coordination of Action Plans to eliminate lead from gasoline in four importing countries: Mauritania, Mali, Ethiopia and Tanzania. The main issues of this group of activities -funded by ESMAP- are related to technical and regulatory steps to speed up the elimination of lead from gasoline in importing countries. The case studies were followed by national seminars on elimination of lead in the related countries: Mauritania (June 2003), Mali (July 2003), Ethiopia (September 2003) and Tanzania (September 2003), in partnership with the ESMAP Program.

• Organization, in Paris, on March 13-14, 2003 of the second Steering Committee meeting with the main stakeholders of the program. The meeting discussed the progress made by the Program since its inception and approved the 2003-2006 work program, which starts the Phase II of the Clean Air Initiative in SSA. The description of the Phase II of CAI-SSA is included in the 1998-2002 Progress Report (CAI-SSA Working Paper No. 10, see chapter “The Road Ahead”).

• Publication (May 2003) of the Proceedings of the Steering Committee Meeting held in March 2003 (CAI-SSA Working Paper No.12). The Steering Committee endorsed the proposed 2003-2006 work program (“the road ahead”). The publication was largely disseminated to partners and across sub-Saharan Africa, to the World Bank resident missions and the CAI-SSA focal points in the field.

• Production and dissemination of a mini-CD (in French; the English version was produced in January 2003), including a 5 minutes video on lead and various CAI-SSA publications.

• Study on “Progress in West Central Africa towards phasing-out unleaded gasoline in 2005” (July 2003).

• Regular update of the CAI-SSA website:
- Regular meetings and contribution to the Air Quality Thematic Group (World Bank network on air pollution) and inputs to the production of “Guide to policy framework for mobiles sources”.

- Monitoring of the work program agreed in March 2003 with AFRICACLEAN, a network of African experts on urban air pollution set up in the context of the CAI-SSA. The main activities (summarized in a Progress reports prepared in September 2003) are related to data collection from 11 countries (on oil distribution, refineries, lead and sulfur content, fuel consumption by country) and the coordination of the five working groups set up in SSA to eliminate leaded gasoline by 2005. A new website [www.africaclean.sn](http://www.africaclean.sn) has been set up by AFRICACLEAN.

- Regular meetings with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to better integrate air pollution generated by motorized transport into the GEF’ agenda (see the “Climate change mitigation in the Urban Transport Sector” published by the GEF in June 2003). In September 2003, the GEF gave its agreement for an identification mission in Ouagadougou (the mission was held in October 2003) to prepare a GEF Medium-Sized Project on air pollution in Ouagadougou (progress under way, as follow up of the CAI-SSA study on air pollution carried out in 1999).

- Organization, end of August 2003, of a national workshop on urban mobility in Nairobi, Kenya to prepare an urban mobility strategy for Nairobi (workshop’s proceedings available under request). Urban air pollution was identified as one of the key growing problems to be addressed through measures such as traffic management and promotion of public transport.

- Organization, with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), of the sub-regional workshop to eliminate lead from gasoline in Southern Africa. The workshop was held early October 2003 in Cape Town, South Africa.

- Regional study on the level and impacts of sulfur in diesel and assessment of the technical, regulatory and institutional options to reduce the content of sulfur in diesel. The technical report “Improving Air Quality in Sub-Saharan African Cities Through the Use of Lower Sulfur Diesel Fuels, May 2003” was posted in the CAI-SSA website.