

Knowledge Management as an Enabler of the Paris Agreement Implementation in Africa

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Time: 6.00-7.30pm

Venue: Africa Pavilion, COP22, Marrakech

Organizers: Economic Commission for Africa, UN CC: Learn

Introduction

Numerous ongoing projects are making good progress in installing climate observation networks which will plug the climate data gap in Africa. Significant resources through projects like TAHMO and ClimDev-Africa will facilitate more climate data for early warning, modelling and research in the African continent. In many cases however, volumes of historical data still remains on paper and thus beyond reach for these purposes. These challenges have hampered access to climate information and knowledge available to vulnerable communities, thus exposing them to avoidable climate change impacts.

In the realm of research and as cited by IPCC assessments, the level of accessible climate literature from Africa continues to be significantly low. According to Mail & Guardian, *“Sub-Saharan Africa only accounts for under 1% of the world’s research output, despite having 12% of the world’s population”*

Is the foregoing the full story? It is true that Internet penetration in Africa lags the rest of the world. While Africa accounts for 15.0% of the world's population, only 6.2% of the World's Internet subscribers are Africans. According to Pingdom.com *“Only 0.27% of the world’s top 1 million sites are hosted in Africa”*. This state certainly impacts the access and findability of climate knowledge and research produced in Africa. Indigenous knowledge that communities have relied upon for generations in addition remains masked because its purveyors lack channels to codify and share the knowledge.



Implementation of the Paris Agreement will entail data collection to monitor progress, and sharing of good practices, lessons, needs, challenges and opportunities at sub-national, national and regional levels. In Africa, the multiple emerging initiatives like the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) and Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) will require information and knowledge sharing to ease coordination in support of the NDCs.

Guiding questions

- In implementing the Paris Agreement, how can knowledge workers contribute to the processes that facilitate informed decision making and enlighten communities that bear the brunt of climate change impacts?
- Regionally, what would be the strategies for capturing, organizing, packaging and sharing knowledge among decision makers, researchers and practitioners?
- Which partnerships would be needed to facilitate the knowledge pipeline?
- How can the information and knowledge needs of communities that are vulnerable to climate change impacts be best captured?

Moderator: Mr. James Murombedzi, Economic Commission for Africa, Ethiopia

Panelists:

- Ms. Claire Mathieson, Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), South Africa
- Mr. Zachary Atheru, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), Kenya
- Mr. Bob Natifu, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda
- Mr. Linus Mofor, Economic Commission for Africa, Ethiopia
- Mr. Antonio Palazuelos Prieto, SIDS Youth AIMS Hub, Cabo Verde (TBC)
- Mr. Edward Awafo, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

Respondents:

- Ms. Janet Strachan, Low Emission Development Strategies – Global Partnership (LEDS-GP), United Kingdom