



ClimDev-Africa

Second Annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa

Theme:

Advancing Knowledge, Policy and Practice on Climate Change and Development

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | 19-20 October, 2012

Concept Note

Background

Climate change poses a severe threat to the development plans and priorities of African countries. More concretely, efforts in poverty reduction, enhanced access to water and modern energy services, infrastructure development, and improved agricultural productivity to meet the needs of a growing population are likely to be affected by a changing climate. Without mitigating the causes of climate change and adapting to its inevitable impacts, Africa's overall development as well as its current positive economic progress are likely to be severely impacted. The 4th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)¹ projects future warming across the continent in the range of 0.2°C (low scenario) to 0.5°C (high scenario) per decade up to the year 2100. This suggests an increase in climate-related 'shocks' in the region including droughts, storms, flooding, extremes of temperatures and rising sea levels. The last Special Report on Extreme Events (SREX) of the IPCC² also highlighted the importance of addressing both exposure and vulnerability of several key sectors like agriculture and food security, water supply, energy security, regional security and migration, healthcare, and biodiversity to extreme events in Africa. The high vulnerability of the continent to the impacts of climate change is further exacerbated by the low adaptive capacity of African countries. Many of them cannot effectively respond to these challenges due to factors such as weak institutions, widespread poverty, inadequate technologies and social infrastructure, conflicts and limited human and financial capacities.

The imperative for African countries is therefore to chart a new development pathway that promotes climate-resilience and low carbon emission development. Mainstreaming of climate change into policy formulation and development activities will be critical to addressing the

¹ IPCC, 2007. Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, Pachauri, R. K and Reisinger, A. (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 104 pp.

² IPCC, 2012: Summary for Policymakers. In: Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation [Field, C.B., V. Barros, T.F. Stocker, D. Qin, D.J. Dokken, K.L. Ebi, M.D. Mastrandrea, K.J. Mach, G.-K. Plattner, S.K. Allen, M. Tignor, and P.M. Midgley (eds.)]. A Special Report of Working Groups I and II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, and New York, NY, USA, pp. 1-19.



development and climate change issues in the continent. It was highlighted in CCDA-I, held in Addis Ababa in October 2011 that a clear connection between research, policy and practice is required to explore and implement the opportunities provided by adaptation and mitigation strategies. For example, science-based climate information on variability of rainfall patterns is critical in developing and implementing concrete adaptation strategies to cope with water stress and extreme events. Mainstreaming of hydro-met information into national and regional frameworks such as Integrated Water Resources Development and Management for example, is critical in developing effective strategies to address loss and damage. Transforming the challenges posed by climate change into opportunities requires active engagement of all stakeholders in Africa's development agenda including policy makers, academicians and practicing stakeholders. For example, new development paradigms such as the 'Green Economy' also known as 'Climate-Resilient Low Carbon Development' need to be urgently discussed and addressed by all stakeholders in order to avoid discrepancies and ensure effective ownership and engagement of all actors. Indeed, sectoral policies and strategies need to mainstream climate change at the local, national and regional levels also taking into account global policies on finance and technology transfer. The Nairobi Action Plan Framework, for example, needs effective policies to be developed and implemented at the local, national and regional levels. Clearly, there is a need for changes to current institutional and policy frameworks to accommodate global, regional and national strategies to respond to and integrate climate change into the development agenda. It will be critical for instance, to revisit the current climate finance frameworks to address issues such as the accessibility of these funds to African countries.

The second Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-II) conference of the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) provides a forum for dialogue and engagement with various stakeholders involved in climate and development in Africa. The ClimDev-Africa Programme is a joint initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). The ClimDev-Africa Programme is an integrated programme with strong inter-linkages between programmatic activities delivered through the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) and Climate Change and Desertification Unit (CCDU), and investment activities delivered through the ClimDev Special Fund (CDSF), implemented by UNECA, AUC and AfDB respectively. The programme was mandated at regional meetings of African Heads of State and Government, as well as by Africa's Ministers of Finance, Planning and Environment, and responds to the urgent challenge that climate change poses to the advancement of Africa's development objectives. More concretely, it seeks to address the need for greatly improved climate data and information for Africa, and to also strengthen the use of such information for decision making by improving analytical capacity, knowledge management and dissemination activities. Furthermore, African Heads of States general assembly (Assembly/AU/Dec.448(XIX)), July 15-16, 2012 decision on "Africa's preparation for the UNFCCC CoP18/CMP8" requests UNECA, the AfDB and other partners to step up their efforts in terms of providing the necessary facilitation and coordination support towards an effective Africa's preparation for the COP18/CMP8. As such, the CCDA-II provides an important opportunity for coordination of efforts.



The UNECA-ACPC, which is also the technical arm and the secretariat of ClimDev-Africa will host the second CCDA-II conference on October 19 and 20, 2012 at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This year, the theme for the conference is *Advancing Knowledge, Policy and Practice in Climate Change and Development*. The CCDA-II conference seeks to emphasise and advocate the urgency and the need to pursue climate resilient and climate-proof development in the continent through better-informed policies and practices.

The CCDA-II will concentrate on three sub-themes that aim to highlight strategies and demonstrate best practices in the areas of Climate Services Delivery for Development, Sustainable Energy Access for All Africans by 2030 and Outstanding Issues in Climate Negotiations: Relevance for Africa. The rationales for the sub-themes include:

Climate Service Delivery for Development:

- A number of African institutions have started to address the need for improving climate services delivery in Africa. Effective climate services delivery is indeed a prerequisite for managing and/or reducing risks and maximizing opportunities associated with climate. These services ensure climate resilient development and as such facilitate real time adaptation to climate variability and climate change.
- Hydrological and Meteorological (Hydro-Met) observation systems including terrestrial, atmospheric and oceanographic data constitute a crucial element for climate risk prevention and management. As such, Hydro-Met systems currently in operation could be strengthened further and rehabilitated in many cases, and new observation systems need to be added to existing networks. In addition, data analysis and research are essential to understand the effects of climate variability and climate change in short and long terms respectively.

Sustainable Energy Access for All Africans by 2030:

- Development is Africa’s most important priority and access to modern energy services is central to meeting the social and economic developmental challenges in the continent. Access to improved, reliable and secure modern energy services would contribute to expanded production opportunities, improved livelihoods and economic development. Africa faces a severe threat from global climate change which is anticipated to impact key sectors including agriculture, water supply, energy and regional security. In the energy sector, it is imperative for Africa to chart a development pathway that is climate resilient and low carbon. This may include, for example, investing in a mix of renewable energy sources and other sources such as natural gas.
- The UN General Assembly has declared the year 2012 as the ‘International Year of Sustainable Energy for All’. This is aimed at promoting global access to sustainable energy for all by the year 2030, through climate-friendly pathways, investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. This sub-theme provides an opportunity to identify and analyze the critical issues, barriers and opportunities towards ‘Sustainable Energy for All’.



Outstanding Issues in Climate Negotiations: Relevance for Africa

- The ‘Durban Platform for Enhanced Action’ sets a timeframe of 2015 for the Ad Hoc Working Group to complete its work and to be implemented from 2020. The 2015 deadline is relatively short given previous experiences in such negotiations and the challenges faced. Three important challenges that will be addressed under this subtheme include:
 - The cycle of negotiations must not compromise or delay adaptation. Faced with changes such as in the onset, timing and severity of rains, in temperatures, and in the pest and diseases, African farmers are already adapting their productive systems on their own.
 - The overwhelming majority of people across the continent rely on ecosystem services for their livelihoods. This is a fragile relationship between human wellbeing and natural systems and as such there is a pressing need to integrate this into the negotiation processes.
 - Climate negotiations need to be informed by knowledge and science. On-going transaction of ideas between African knowledge institutions (and their scientists) with climate change negotiators is critical in order to arrive at evidence based positions. This requires further work on institutional mechanisms for such an interaction.

Objectives

Overall objective

The conference provides a platform for knowledge sharing and dissemination on ongoing work and emerging issues of climate change and development in Africa. The overall objective is to build a consensus amongst policy makers, academicians and practicing stakeholders on best practices in mainstreaming climate change concerns into development policies, strategies, programmes and practices. CCDA-II builds on CCDA-I to establish the need for integrating research, policy and practice to effectively utilise climate change adaptation and mitigation opportunities in Africa.

Specific objectives

- Identify strategies to bridge the gap between the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) programme and other initiatives in the continent through knowledge sharing and dissemination as well as partnership development.
- Demonstrate lessons from best practices in climate-resilience and low carbon development programmes in Africa.
- Deliberate on the effectiveness of policies on the ground in line with the existing international, regional and national frameworks and contexts.
- Deliberate on the exposure, risk and vulnerability of the continent to the adverse impacts of climate change and the need for sound adaptation and mitigation strategies with emphasis on climate data, information and services in Africa.



- Discuss and debate on the transition to modern energy access in Africa in the context of emerging issues in climate policies and low carbon development paths.
- Support the African negotiation position in the run up to the COP-18 in Doha through the analysis and debate of climate change issues relevant for the continent.

Expected Outcomes and Outputs

Outcomes

The discussions and dialogue during the conference will result in:

- Increased dialogue and communication space for research, policy and practice nexus.
- Informed strategic direction of ClimDev-Africa programme and strengthened strategic alliances and partnerships for Africa’s climate and development agenda.
- Enhanced awareness and understanding of the current institutional and policy initiatives and ownership of the processes of integrating climate change in Africa’s development agenda.
- Increased understanding of existing situation and future needs on climate data, information, science and service delivery in Africa.
- Enhanced understanding of the exposure, risks and vulnerability of the continent to the impacts of climate change.
- Increased awareness on energy sources, development and access as well as the roles in development and economic transformation in Africa.
- Strengthened preparedness of Africa’s negotiators and participants of the CoP18.

Outputs

Key information and reports will be produced and disseminated during and after the conference.

These include:

- Conference report
- Working Papers
- Policy Briefs
- Press releases
- Daily bulletins
- Web publication compendium of the conference proceedings

Theme of CCDA-II Conference: “Advancing Knowledge, Policy and Practice in Climate Change and Development”

Sub-Themes and Topics of the CCDA-II Conference:

Sub-theme 1: Climate Service Delivery for Development

Topic 1.1: Bridging the gaps and best practices for climate science, policy and practice

Topic 1.2: Climate information and analysis for risk management and adaptation

Topic 1.3: Frontiers of research and development for climate science, services and policy



Sub-theme 2: Sustainable Energy Access for All Africans by 2030

Topic 2.1: The state of sustainable energy for all initiative: implications for Africa

Topic 2.2: Water-agriculture-energy nexus

Topic 2.3: Currents in green economy / green growth for low carbon development

Sub-theme 3: Outstanding Issues in Climate Negotiations: Relevance for Africa

Topic 3.1: The state of climate change negotiations and implications for Africa

Topic 3.2: The status of climate finance: key issues for Africa

Topic 3.3: Emerging knowledge, science and partnerships for enhancing Africa's negotiation position