







Minutes of the Sixth ClimDev-Africa Programme Steering Committee (CDSC6) Followup Meeting

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3rd June 2015

Agenda

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda
- 2. ClimDev-Africa Context & Relevance
- 3. M&E Demonstrating Utility & Operational Effectiveness
- 4. Transitioning from Push to Pull A Programme with Momentum
- 5. Towards Future Pathways of ClimDev-Africa Phase II

1. Background

CDSC6 follow up meeting was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 3rd June 2015, and was chaired by the African Union Commission (AUC). The African Development Bank joined the meeting by video conference from Abidjan. Action points, recommendations, the list of participants and the document list are available in Annexes 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively.

2. Opening of the meeting

In his opening remarks, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNECA, Mr. Abdalla Hamdok welcomed participants to the UNECA and the city of Addis Ababa. He noted that after 4 years of operation, ClimDev-Africa still remains relevant and vibrant. He restated UNECA's expectation that ClimDev-Africa will continue to address the gaps in climate information that hinders effective development planning.

On the Climdev-Africa Special Fund (CDSF), Mr. Hamdok noted that it only became operational in August 2014, with the first call for proposals generating 97 proposals, out of which 68% were considered viable. However, only 10 projects can currently be funded, through the 21 million euros so far mobilized by the CDSF. He emphasized that this is a significant amount, but small given the scale of the challenge. The first call for proposals was for investments of up to \$400,000, which could have discouraged submissions requiring greater investments, such as the meteorological services, from applying. He further observed that thus far, ClimDev-Africa has been operating in only a few pilot countries and has addressed sectoral issues in climate change and agriculture, and promoting appropriate technology to leapfrog to green economies.

Mr. Hamdok emphasized that 2015 is a transitional year for Africa and for the world, citing the three major events that will shape the course of the planet for years to come: in July the Financing for Sustainable Development will take place in Addis Ababa; the Post 2015 Development Agenda UN Summit in September in New York for which Africa has made significant efforts in elaborating a Common African Position for the post-2015 development agenda through comprehensive consultations; and the December 2015 COP21 in Paris.

The Deputy Executive Secretary also underscored that ClimDev-Africa is the only continental programme that has the ambition of becoming the vision for Africa on climate change, and commended the partners' commitment to supporting ClimDev-Africa. He added that ClimDev-Africa should therefore already be developing ideas on how to support Africa in the post Paris governance framework.

Mr. Hamdok reinforced the point that the context for Africa is transformation and that initiatives such as ClimDev-Africa can be positioned to catalyze this transformation and help national and regional players to move towards evidence-based planning and tracking of implementation. ClimDev-Africa is already demonstrating results in terms of linking climate data to policy processes and showing success in placing climate change high on the agenda of African countries, the evidence of which is that since 2009, climate change has been on the agenda of every AU summit, including the summit in June 2015 in South Africa. The challenge is to further demonstrate relevance by action on the ground.

On behalf of the AfDB, Mr. Tom Owiyo thanked participants and recognized the importance of the steering committee follow-up meeting. He noted the full operationalisation of all ClimDev-Africa components and called on committee members to reflect on the potential outcomes of global events in 2015 and the importance of continued support to the African Group of Negotiators (AGN). He expressed the hope that the meeting would enable a timely and important discussion, about the 2015 transition year and reflection on the business plan for next ClimDev-Africa phase.

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the agenda;

Key observations from the 6th Steering Committee meeting in Abidjan were noted:

- 1. Due to the late submission of documents, steering committee members requested to be accorded more time to review the documents. A subsequent follow up meeting of the steering committee was sought to be held in Addis Ababa.
- 2. Decisions on key items on budget, work-plan, and business plan were deferred for the follow-up Addis Ababa meeting.
- 3. The programme was asked to provide a Monitoring Framework and Evaluation Approach (MFEA) progress report and clarify key aspects of the process; operationalization of the CDSF and; human resources and staffing.
- 4. Gaps in communication that led to poor flow of information between the Secretariat, the partners and other steering committee members. It was thus agreed that ACPC would facilitate improved communication and create more opportunities for interaction on ClimDev-Africa activities.
- 5. Three meetings (learning and knowledge sharing meetings) would be convened every year to discuss programme implementation and technical issues.
- 6. Subsequent meetings of the Steering Committee would be held once a year in November. This timing would be more appropriate for reporting on the year's progress and planning for the coming year.

- 7. Development partners stressed the need for clarity on how ClimDev-Africa reports against the logframe, the key indicators, and the use of the logframe as a planning and tracking tool.
- 8. Coordination of support to key constituencies of ClimDev-Africa, particularly to the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) was discussed and clarity sought on the role of different institutions and the operational boundaries. Development partners asked who the other partners were and how support is coordinated. Further, clarity on coordination of mitigation and adaptation plans of African governments post Paris, especially in the context of intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs), was requested.
- 9. With respect to human resources, there was a need to understand the staffing gaps and responsibilities of existing staff of the partner organizations.
- 10. Funds and resource mobilization beyond current funding was discussed.
- 11. The secretariat highlighted key ClimDev-Africa events leading up to COP21 in Paris:
 - Development of an INDC framework and supporting countries in formulating their INDC submissions;
 - Support to the AGN in better articulating Africa's common position for COP21;
 - The launch of initiatives such as the Young Lawyers initiative due to a noted deficit of negotiating skills and the African Youth platform;
 - Regional dialogues titled the Africa Climate Talks in an attempt to democratize the climate governance discussions and extract clear messages to support the AGN;
 - The fifth Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA) conference, which will take place in Zimbabwe shortly before the Paris COP21;
 - The launch of CR4D, which is indicative of the growing momentum and success of ClimDev-Africa. Crucially, it will complement the work of ClimDev-Africa as it is a research programme and there was a clear need to establish a research platform to complement the ClimDev-Africa programme;
 - The African Pavilion at COP21, to discuss key high level and give visibility to climate information issues relating to energy, agriculture and water sectors.

With the foregoing clarifications, the Agenda was adopted.

Minutes of 6th Steering Committee Meeting (Abidjan)

Development partners noted that the agenda in Abidjan was revised and this needs to be reflected in the minutes. The new annual scheduling, including dates, of the steering committee meeting to November needs to be better captured in the minutes. They called for revisions on the following aspects of the action points:

- Action point 2: rephrase to include the request for the work plan report to be in line with the time frame of the work plan.
- Action point 5- share information including newsletters and important documents like the AGN support coordination plan.
- Action point 7 CCDU to clarify who works on fulltime basis on ClimDev-Africa activities, and which activities are part of ClimDev-Africa.
- Action point 8 Update to indicate technical briefing meetings/learning events would be quarterly.

• Action point 9 - staffing details such as positions and functions should be shared.

Members observed that there were other actions discussed but not captured in the table. In the interest of time, it was decided that written comments to the documents provided (including minutes of the CDSC in Abidjan) would be sent to the ACPC no later than 10th June 2015.

Agenda item 2: ClimDev-Africa Context & Relevance

The Secretariat made a powepoint presentation on ClimDev-Africa: Context; History; Vision; Key Activities; Relevance; Lessons Learnt; the transition from the old M&E to the new MFEA and; ClimDev-Africa's Impacts on the Continent.

The main highlights of this report are summarized below.

Poverty reduction was a critical linchpin to ClimDev-Africa's vision at its inception in 2011. This remains true today as climate change cannot be seen in insolation of development. Today, the climate change terrain continue to attract many actors, but the programme is uniquely carving its niche on linking climate information to development. ClimDev-Africa's activities are operationalized through the provision of data infrastructure that supports development by strengthening partnerships between government institutions, private sector, civil society and vulnerable communities and influencing, shaping, orienting and mainstreaming policy decisions to make governments better able to plan for the implications of climate change on development.

ClimDev-Africa reinforces Africa's development agenda by linking to critical sectors, such as agriculture, water and energy to enable better management of the implications and impacts of climate change. The programme enjoys the highest level political buy-in through the strength and comparative advantage of the tripartite partnership of the AUC, AfDB and the ACPC. Over time, the lessons learnt include a strong recognition that the programme was well conceived and designed however, the emphasis on the linear, sequential relationship from result area 1 to 3, did not create the originally anticipated demand from African countries. Understanding and demand had to be created through advocacy and policy to generate interest in Result Area 1 (observation infrastructure and climate data). It was therefore a challenge to meet the programme's ambition to provide "widely available" climate data as articulated in the founding document of the programme owing to the low levels of understanding and demand or pull-factor at country level.

The lengthy delay in operationalization of the CDSF also hindered the injection of funds needed for ClimDev-Africa to function. An additional challenge was the asymmetry between the required staffing levels and the staffing provisions in the initial project formulation. In addition, the original M&E system was also not equipped to track, monitor and evaluate the scale of ambition of the programme needed. The initial M&E also didn't have the ownership by ClimDev-Africa partners that the MFEA now has.

ClimDev-Africa has registered impacts in policy making through facilitating debates and providing the policy spaces needed for key African priorities to be discussed. It has been influencing policy through the AGN, notably via a Loss & Damage input that contributed to official texts of agriculture decisions in the UNFCCC process. At the political decision making levels, a number of Conference of African Heads of State on Climate Change (CAHOSCC),

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), and African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) decisions are linked to ClimDev-Africa work.

There is incremental growth in countries that have the capacity to provide quality climate services to a variety of sectors and momentum is gathering in terms of strengthened early warning and disaster risk reduction (DRR) capability, through the support to Regional Climate Centers (RCCs). These activities resulted in the establishment of the Climate Research for Development (CR4D) through collaboration of ACPC, AMCOMET and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Discussion

Development partners noted that there is a lot of climate change research conducted by ClimDev-Africa which is not adequately applied. Members further sought to understand how lack of human and financial resources constrained the work and progress of ClimDev-Africa.

They also sought to better understand how ClimDev-Africa positions itself with respect to other actors active in the climate change arena, noting that the origin of the programme aimed to fill the gap in linking climate information and development, but now appears to be leaning to provision of CIS. Some specific questions included: *How does ClimDev-Africa position itself in this regard?* and, whether continued research is still relevant or whether ClimDev-Africa should focus on facilitating use of already existing research.

It was emphasized that ClimDev-Africa is relevant and remains a priority programme for Africa. ECOWAS, for example, noted ClimDev-Africa's relevance but encouraged stronger linkages and coordination. ECOWAS reported that it is working with other sub-regional organizations and NGOs on the issues of mainstreaming climate issues and suggested that ClimDev-Africa could provide support on the most appropriate mainstreaming methodological approach to adopt. It was also noted that a well-structured engagement with civil society should be developed.

Agenda item 2: M&E – Demonstrating Utility & Operational Effectiveness

Presentation

A brief history of the M&E demonstrated that there have been two distinct phases in the evolution of the programme's M&E system. The pre-2012 consisted solely of a logframe for reporting and compliance purposes. The M&E during this phase was unwieldy and did not have sufficient buy in from partners. In the post-2012 phase, the Theory of Change (ToC) was introduced through exhaustive discussions by the partners.

The initial logframe was introduced in 2008 before the ClimDev-Africa functional bodies were created. This Logframe included ClimDev- Africa activities and related indicators. However, it became evident that there was a disconnect between the ClimDev-Africa activities and this old logframe. This was in part due to inappropriate indicators which resulted in reporting challenges that made it difficult to clearly see the link between the logframe and ClimDev-Africa activities. In other words, it was difficult to infer attribution and determine causal linkages, and thus the

logframe that was in place then was not really fit-for-purpose. Discussions with donors and partners led to the decision to revise the logframe so that monitoring could be more effectively undertaken. The ToC exercise was then chosen as a way to clearly understand and define the roles and responsibilities of each partner. It is from the ToC that a more comprehensive system has been built which is more commensurate with the scope of the programme. The development of the ToC represents a watershed moment in the evolution of the MFEA, and it was from the ToC that the full MFEA system emerged, in effect replacing the old logframe.

As it now stands, the MFEA is a system that has been shaped by all three institutions for tracking progress against project objectives, systematically and objectively assessing the relevance, performance and success of the programme activities. The MFEA has two mutually supportive and equally important components: The Monitoring Framework (the 'MF') – records and generates data and information to test the hypotheses generated on how activities lead to outputs. The Evaluation Approach (the 'EA') will bring a broader overview of the project efficiency and achievements through various timely evaluation exercises. This is now a considerably more comprehensive and far-reaching mechanism than was in place prior to 2012.

Discussion

The presentation highlighted the utility of MFEA and its development. In their response, the development partners welcomed progress made but asked how practical the MFEA is and how much it will cost. In addition, they requested that logframe should include the core activities that are forseen in each result area, to ensure ease of programme follow-up and coherence between different work plans. As suggested in previous CDSC's and reiterated in the discussion, a log frame should be elaborated for each phase of ClimDev-Africa.

In response, the secretariat stated that the MFEA cost will depend on how the evaluating and monitoring aspects by the three institutions is implemented, and explained that the monitoring will be done by staff while the evaluation will be undertaken by an external organization. In response to other questions, the secretariat described the development of baselines and milestones, with the former being done retrospectively through a mixture of quantitative and qualitative data that incorporates best practices. It was highlighted that the Monitoring and Evaluation Tool (CMET) will provide an online mechanism for institutions to submit data on activities relating to indicators.

Members sought to be updated on how the ToC is taking into consideration different players. The secretariat clarified that this is outlined in the ToC document which would be shared. It further said that the ToC identifies the roles of each partner, including boundary partners such as civil society. In conclusion, the secretariat reiterated the current logframe has been approved by ClimDev-Africa partners and apportions specific responsibilities. The old logframe had important missing pieces e.g. clarity on moving from activity to impact and baselines were inexistent. There was thus a need to go back retroactively and start from scratch. The secretariat would test run the MFEA and report specific indicators in the next meeting.

Development partners accepted that the log frame is a work in progress but called for a clear deadline for completion

Agenda item 4: Transitioning from Push to Pull – A Programme with Momentum

2014 Achievements

Result area 1

In the 3 pilot countries (Ethiopia, The Gambia and Rwanda), support to hydrometeorology institutions continued to shore-up capacity in packaging climate information tailored to enhance decision-making and management practices. The CDSF appraised 5 projects (Mali, Senegal, Niger, Ethiopia and Kenya).

The secretariat was further involved in laying the foundation for launching the activities of the CR4D initiative.

Result area 2

The secretariat presented the work in this result area that included countries' needs assessment with regard to their climate response strategies. This was done in eight countries.

During the reporting period, 17 policy briefs and technical papers were produced as follows:

- BRICS-Africa Partnership for Development Driving Inclusive Growth and Transformational Change
- Unlocking the full potential of the blue economy: Are African Small Islands ready to embrace the opportunities
- Keeping Climate Impacts at Bay: A 6-Point Strategy for Climate-Resilient Economies in Africa
- Climate Change in the African Small Island Developing States: From Vulnerability to Resilience-The Paradox of the Small
- Loss & Damage in Africa
- Summary of Adaptation Gap Report
- Summary of Emissions Gap Report
- Flood Disaster Risk Reduction in Budalangi, Busia County, Kenya

Result area 3

4 high level political decisions calling for ClimDev-Africa involvement or action were made i.e.:

- Malabo Declaration: *AUC Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XXIII);
- SAMOA Pathway, aspect on African SIDS;
- AMCEN and African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) decisions
- 9th General Assembly Decision

72 Press releases and promotional materials were published along with promotion through YouTube, Facebook and Twitter services.

ClimDev-Africa organized activities in 10 events, which included: AGN; Conference of African Ministers of Finance and Planning (COM); CCDA-IV; COP20 dinner dialogue and Africa Day; the third International Conference on SIDS in Samoa and; a side-event UN Climate Summit.

Discussion

The secretariat noted that the CCDU only started its activities in 2013. It was observed that the early ClimDev-Africa activities registered very low disbursement rate. However, subsequent reforms of the management starting in 2014 and refocusing of the three result areas have led to better outcomes.

Development partners sought to understand the period of funding used in computing the disbursement rate. The Secretariat clarified that the table presented included all funds received by ClimDev-Africa since inception. The calculations are based on this and the project year in the table is when an agreement was signed and not when money was received. The purpose for the format was to demonstrate the increase in absorption rate from 2013 to 2014. A second suggestion was to have a table with the activities that were planned in 2014 and briefly identify and compare with the logframe with focus on core activities.

It was proposed that the financial report should comprise:

- 1. A table presenting the expenditure of the year per result area based on the budget foreseen in workplan of that year. The expenditure rate of that year should be calculated
- 2. A table presenting the global expenditure of the year per development partner
- 3. A table presenting the cumulative funds received from development partners since the beginning of the respective agreement indicating the date on which each agreement started, the total cumulative expenditure and the remaining funds including the date by which the funds can be utilised.
- 4. The expenditure rate per development partner's contribution should also be calculated.

Work plan and Budget 2015: Transition Year

The secretariat presented the 2015 transition year budget as follows:

Result Area 1 clusters

- 1. Investment in climate information and services
- 2. Technical assistance to regional climate centres and countries to access and use climate data for decision making
- 3. Climate Research for Development Platform (CR4D)

Result Area 2 clusters

- 1. Institutional strengthening and support
- 2. Climate vulnerability, adaptation and resilience of ecosystem and society
- 3. Energy and Technology

4. Building climate sensitive sector resilience to climate change, ie agriculture, energy, water and health

Result Area 3 clusters

- 1. Climate governance, social integration, human capital and security
- 2. Country Regional Economic Committee and other stakeholder demands
- 3. Policy dialogue, awareness raising and capacity building

Reference was made to programme functioning in terms of investment activities. The CDSF is funding 10 projects selected from the October 2014 call. Development of a resource mobilization strategy is underway, in tandem with the acquisition of resources for implementation of the remainder of 46 CDSF bankable projects. The implementation of the Pan-African Capacity Building Programme has started, in addition to the development of a Fellowship Programme, a Young African Lawyers Programme and a ClimDev-Africa Youth Programme.

In relation to the INDC budget, development partners asked for the work plan to include mechanisms for coordination with other organizations providing similar support. They also indicated that there are repeated activities in the work plan and sought clarity on the stages of implementation (partial, complete or not at all) of such activities.

Lastly, ClimDev-Africa secretariat reiterated that the reason why implementation was previously slow was due to staffing deficits, procurement issues, and emphasized the programme's ambitions can now be realized with better certainty.

Development partners emphasised the importance of prioritizing the work plan in accordance with available funds and that the work plan should explicitly indicate complementary activities for example, complementarity between AUC and AUSP activities.

Quarterly Progress Report (Jan-March) 2015

The secretariat outlined the programme highlights during the first quarter of 2015 which included the appointment of a CDSF Coordinator (January 2015), the approval of a CR4D Coordinator (February 2015), The Third Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology AMCOMET-3 (February, 2015 in Praia, Cabo Verde), The 15th Session of AMCEN (March, 2015 in Cairo, Egypt) and the Third United Nations International Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (March, 2015 in Sendai, Japan).

In March 2015, the budget disbursement rate increased to 85% from 78% at the end of 2015. Agreement between AUC and ECA with regard to the EU support to CCDU is almost finalised.

Agenda item 5: Towards Future Pathways of ClimDev-Africa Phase II

If ClimDev-Africa maintains its trajectory, it can make a business case for low carbon development. As the programme is gaining traction, visibility and demonstrating results, the challenge moving forward is how to manage the pull factor or demand for services by countries which are now able to articulate their CIS needs.

In presenting the business plan, the secretariat noted that part of it was presented in Abidjan. ClimDev-Africa phase II needs to build on and take advantage of existing partnerships. Using the

lessons learned and gaps that are now clearer, techniques can be adopted to improve CIS, which is a very new area. ClimDev-Africa will demonstrate return on investment in CIS through the MFEA.

In terms of sustainability, for phase II, ClimDev-Africa needs to ask key questions regarding bankability. Writing bankable proposals is a key issue in Africa, in addition to building institutional capacity and training needs, and mobilising of resources. Other key questions ClimDev-Africa will be posing are how to optimize capacity and operational work, taking into consideration intended directions and emerging M&E process, resource mobilization and communication, in addition to how to maintain a good database of experts in CIS and policy analysis.

In phase II, communications will be utilized for mapping the policy landscape, and to promote the ClimDev-Africa brand. Its messages were disseminated widely but these message are becoming stale and need revitalizing.

Participants were pleased with the business plan presentation but lamented the short duration available to discuss it. They suggested that steering committee members be invited to the business plan retreat in June 2015. The Secretariat informed the meeting that partners will be holding a retreat to discuss and finalize the business plan.

ECOWAS requested to be more involved in the business plan, while committee members were of the view that the plan should leave a window for incorporating the outcome of the Paris climate agreement, in order to better support countries in implementation. The regional economic communities also urged ClimDev-Africa to consider closer collaboration with them.

Other comments related to the inclusion of a budget estimation for the business plan. On the substantive content, it was mentioned that a shift in emphasis of the ClimDev-Africa programme from cluster 1 of result area 1 "generating robust and credible climate information services which respond to user needs" to the CDSF financing and a greater focus placed upon cluster 2 "delivery of climate data to end users". Policy and research and technical and advisory support to Africa on the implementation of the outcomes of COP21 as regards mitigation and adaptation were suggested as areas of sharper focus.

Annex 1: Action points – please adopt a similar table to present the previous action points.

No.	Action point	Responsible institution	Deadline
1.	In reporting fund utilization, focus only on the reporting year and amount spent during the year, taking into account funds that remained from the previous year.	Secretariat	August 2015
2.	On INDCs, development partners asked for the work plan to include mechanisms for coordination with other organizations providing similar support.	Secretariat	June 2015
3.	The regional economic communities urged ClimDev-Africa to consider closer collaboration with them.	ClimDev-Africa	June 2015
4.	The log frame should include the core activities that are foreseen within each result area, to ensure a good follow up of the programme and coherence between the different Work Plans. To make things easier, the CDSC meeting to elaborate one log frame per phase (for example, there could be a specific log frame for phase II which could be slightly different than the one for phase I in terms of activities).	Secretariat	August 2015
5.	Set a clear deadline for the completion of the logframe (preferably before the end of 2015). Implementing partners should adhere to the logframe thereafter, and the targets and milestones should not in principle be modified from the moment the Work Plan is adopted to the moment the report is presented at the following CDSC.	Secretariat	August 2015

Annex 2: Recommendations

1. Committee members were of the view that the plan should leave a window for incorporating the outcome of the Paris climate agreement, in order to better support countries in implementation.

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Annex 4: Documents

- 01 6th ClimDev-Africa Steering Committee Meeting (CDSC6, Addis Ababa) Agenda
- 02 6th Steering Committee Meeting Minutes (CDSC6, Abidjan)
- 03 ClimDev-Africa 2014 Annual Report
- 04 Understanding the Evolving Narrative of ClimDev-Africa
- 05 Monitoring Framework and Evaluation Approach (MFEA) update
- 06 2015 Quarterly Report
- 07 ClimDev-Africa 2015 Work Plan
- 08 ClimDev-Africa 2015 Work plan Narrative
- 09 ClimDev-Africa Phase II Business Plan Narrative
- 10 CDSC Terms of Reference (for those joining CDSC meeting for the first time)
- 11 ClimDev-Africa Resource Mobilization Concept Note
- 12 Report on the Review of First Call for Proposals for CDSF Funding
- 13 CDSF Climate Data Infrastructure Projects African RCCs For approval
- 14 ClimDev-Africa three tier log frame
- 15 Monitoring framework and evaluation approach narrative
- 16 ClimDev-Africa Framework for Supporting INDCs
- 17 Road to Paris Concept note
- 18 ClimDev-Africa 2015 Major Events
- 19 ACPC organogram