

AFRICA



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POST COP 21



AFRICA'S MOMENT: IMPLICATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT FOR AFRICA

The impacts of Climate Change in Africa are complex and unpredictable. Over the past decade almost every region in Africa has experienced a greater frequency of uncertain extreme weather events such as drought or floods. The challenges present an enormous opportunity to create and implement inspired strategies that utilize new approaches after the Paris agreement that can foster unprecedented regional cooperation and idea sharing. The potential for lasting change is limitless and opens up new approach for the continent to tackle climate related challenges.



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AFRICA CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

SUPPORTING AFRICA TRANSITION TO A MORE CLIMATE RESILIENT & LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT

The contribution of Africa to global greenhouse gas emissions. is minimal. However the combination of certain geographical and economic factors and its dependence on natural resources make Africa the continent most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

The vulnerability compromises the continent's development and threatens millions of Africans and their livelihoods. According to current estimates, the negative effects of climate change are already reducing Africa's GDP by about 1.4 per cent and the costs are rising from adaptation to climate change are set to reach an annual 3 per cent of GDP by 2030.

In 2011 the African Development Bank mobilised \$US 596 million for its regional member countries and another \$US 925 million for mitigation projects. In 2012 the figures increased for both adaptation and mitigation to \$US 523 and \$US 1,708 million respectively. This was made possible by climate finance instruments administered by the bank such as the Climate Investment Funds(CIF),the Global Environment Facility(GEF),the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) , the Africa Water Facility (AWF) and the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF)

The Africa Development Bank also has a ten-year strategy plan 2013-2022 which is focused on greener growth. The bank's board of directors approved the creation of the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) in April 2014. The fund was created to mobilise activities that account for climate change in African countries and thus become a catalyst with a scope broad enough to cover wide range of climate-resilience and low carbon activities.

The Italian government during the just concluded COP 21 meeting boosted the fund by contributing 4.7 million euros to the Africa Climate Change Fund to support African countries in building their resilience to the negative impacts of climate change and transitioning to sustainable low-carbon growth.This is in addition to 7.4 million euros to the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa .

COP 21 FUNDS BOOST

The new amount which brings the total contribution to the ACCF to over 9.4 million euros is avote of confidence in the work that the fund is doing to support African countries. The ACCF already has approved projects in Mali, Swaziland,Kenya and Cape Verde as well as one regional project.

The direct beneficiaries of the ACCF include African governments, NGO's, Research

Organizations and regional institutions. The eligibility of the NGO's and research organizations for ACCF will depend among other things , on their credibility and their outcomes in terms of financial governance.

OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND

- » Assist African countries to access larger amounts of climate finance and use funds provided more effectively.
- » Help African countries to account for climate change in their growth strategies and policies by means of upstream diagnostics and providing technical assistance.
- » Facilitate African countries development of investment plans and climate-resilient and low carbon development.
- » Provide capacity building in climate change and green growth for African countries and stakeholders at national and regional levels.
- » Help African countries prepare for climate change conventions...[Read More](#)

The Implications of Paris Agreement for Africa: Seizing the moment



At COP 21 Paris last year, nearly 200 countries unanimously adopted a historic climate deal that commits all countries to emissions cuts and prioritized climate change adaptation. One of the takeaways include working towards keeping global temperature increases „well below“ 2°C.

Another positive – especially for Africa – is a commitment to balanced allocation of finances towards climate change adaptation and the mitigation needs of developing countries.

OPENING THE DOOR TO INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

Despite the fact that Africa has a vast amount of renewable resources, energy poverty on the continent is high – over 60 per cent or 621 million people have insufficient access to energy.

The situation is even worse in rural areas, where 70 per cent of Africa's poor reside. Here, grid access is estimated at only 1 – 8 per cent. This unavailability constricts inclusive development. To make matters worse, Africa's poor, living on less than USD 2.50 a day, pay up to 20 times more (an estimated US\$ 10 billion annually) on unclean sources for lighting than rich households connected to the grid. This further entrenches the poverty cycle.

However, a proposal out of Paris to mobilize resources in solar investment is an opportunity that governments in Africa can tap through relevant policy, while

attracting sizeable investments to bridge this gap. Countries need to start by formulating policies that incentivize investment in off-grid and mini-grid clean energy solutions and to expand energy access to vulnerable poor rural communities, spur rural industry and create jobs without piling up carbon.

This should be done concurrently with policies to dis-incentivize over reliance in fossil fuels. It is worth noting that oil subsidies in Africa cost an estimated US\$ 50 billion every year, and 65 per cent of subsidies in Africa benefit the richest 40 per cent of households. Considering that this amount equals 5.7 per cent of Africa's GDP and exceeds the regions spending on health, scrapping subsidies and redirecting funds to low carbon initiatives is a worthy policy move toward more economically inclusive and environmentally sustainable societies.

Reversing this through investing in off-grid and mini-grid clean energy solutions, which are the most economical solution for electrification in remote areas will improve household savings and create jobs, thus combating poverty while reducing emissions.

OPTIMIZE THE AGRO-VALUE CHAIN TO CREATE WEALTH AND COMBAT POVERTY

The Paris Agreement expressed the need to restore degraded lands in Africa. Agriculture is not only a source of food but of livelihoods. The sector employs up to 64 per cent of

the population, 70 per cent of Africa's poor who reside in rural areas and depend on agriculture, and women produce up to 80 per cent of the food. Investments to enhance productivity in this sector will ensure not only food security but inclusive growth, opportunity and poverty reduction.

Optimizing the agro-sector in Africa through applying Ecosystem Based Adaptation approaches (EBA) that enhance ecosystems is a potential solution to achieving climate adaptation without further escalating greenhouse gases.

Embracing EBA for on-farm production can enhance yields by up to 128 per cent, lower climate induced crop failure risks and enhance farmer incomes at lower environmental and financial cost. Forward and backward linkages of ecological approaches to supply and demand side value chains and value addition enterprises can create as many as 17 million jobs and catalyze an agro-sector projected to be worth US\$ 1 trillion by 2030.

The World Bank reports that in Africa, a 10 per cent increase in crop yields translates to approximately a 7 per cent reduction in poverty. Growth in agriculture is at least two to four times more effective in reducing poverty than in other sectors... [Read more](#)

FIVE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES TO MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE ACTION



An unprecedented coalition of the world's leading financial institutions have officially signed on to five voluntary Principles to Mainstream Climate Action into their operations.

The landmark move was undertaken by 26 financial institutions, from both the public and private sectors, from developing and developed countries. By signing onto the voluntary principles, the financial institutions (which together are worth a total value of more than US \$11 trillion) are pledging to continue to integrate climate considerations into their investments and advisory functions, in an effort to scale up their efforts to address climate change thereby "greening" operations over time.

The Principles highlight practical, operational approaches to integrate climate into the core investments and advisory functions of a financial institution. They outline how financial institutions can:

1. Commit to climate strategies,
2. Manage climate risks,
3. Promote climate smart objectives,
4. Improve climate performance, and
5. Account for climate action sectors.

These Principles have been developed based on practices implemented by financial institutions worldwide over the last two decades. A related publication also released during the UN conference on climate change (COP21) compiles emerging practices illustrating some of the many ways financial institutions currently integrate climate change considerations into their core activities...[Read More](#)

WHY IS COP 21 IMPORTANT FOR AFRICA?



Climate change has significant and unequivocal implications for Africa's development, and poses complex and changing challenges for Africa's peoples and policy makers. Addressing climate change has become central to the continent's development agenda. It is proven that poorer countries and communities will suffer earliest and hardest from global warming because of weaker resilience and greater reliance on climate sensitive sectors like agriculture.

Over the last decade or so Africa has generally been experiencing high levels of economic growth. The implications of climate change for the sustainability of this growth, or its translation into development, are immense. The principal climate change concern for Africa is its implications for development and the wellbeing of societies and ecosystems.

Given this background, what is the world doing about climate change and why is the Paris Conference of Parties (COP 21) so important, especially for Africa?

The UNFCCC COPs have become important spaces for the continuing global effort to refine and strengthen the international collaborative and regulatory framework on climate change and to improve global climate governance.

The COPs are attended by all governments parties, many non-state actors including the

private sector, civil society representatives as well as bilateral and multi-lateral institutions. COP 21 scheduled for Paris is particularly significant in that it will usher into existence the post-Kyoto Climate order, set to come into being by 2020.

The evolving global climate governance regime requires that Africa develop ever more nuanced and sophisticated responses to guide the continents engagement at all levels of the climate response. While initially African participation in the COPs was fragmented and uncoordinated, it has increasingly become more organized.

Recognizing that Africa stands to be most affected by climate change while contributing the least to greenhouse gas emissions, member States of the African Union have progressively begun to articulate a common position on climate change and to develop common positions in the negotiations through a streamlined coordination mechanism involving the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), AMCEN and Government on Climate CAHOSCC.

The governance of climate change adaptation on the continent requires a review of the nature and trajectory of growth and development processes, the democratization of global systems to achieve equity, and the realignment of decision making processes...[Read more](#)

NAMIBIA COMBATING LAND DEGRADATION WITH TOOLS FOR LOCAL-LEVEL DECISION MAKING



Often described as “the land between two deserts”, Namibia is the most arid country south of the Sahel. In order to prevent land from becoming barren and the desert from encroaching, over the past 15 years Namibia’s government has pursued bottom-up approaches to natural resources management, particularly within the agricultural sector.

Since 1996, regular meetings known as “Forums for Integrated Resource Management” have enabled farmers and extension service providers to exchange locally-relevant information which in turn informs decision making for sustainable crop and livestock management. Central to the forums’ success is a decision support tool known as “local level monitoring” in which farmers identify and monitor critical indicators such as rainfall, livestock condition and fodder availability.

Additional information concerning marketing of livestock, animal health and nutrition, rotational grazing and other rangeland management practices was provided by government agricultural extension workers through the forum. Together, this information has enabled farmers on the ground to make appropriate decisions for sustainable natural resource management.

In general the forums have been successful not only in building institutional capacity and social capital at the local level, but also in nurturing a feeling of inclusiveness and trust between remote rural communities and central government. The decision has succeeded by giving ownership to those involved...[Read More](#)

Jobs For Youth who Reverse Cereal Grain Postharvest Loss



PHL OVERVIEW by William Lanier

Development testifies about increasing grain yields, but youth continue to migrate away from grain growing towards cities. However, if „Postharvest and related input loss“ (PHL) was reversed, the benefits of micro-finance, mechanization, seed, fertilizer, pest management would be reason for youth to remain growing.

Youth will be interested to know that some PHL is of wet, densely nutritious (fruits and vegetables) and some PHL is dry, high calorie. Dry calories from grains power most of the physical labor needed to grow and harvest food like fruits, vegetables and livestock.

Encouragingly, though, tackling [dry grain calorie] post-harvest loss is not rocket science. It does not require technological breakthroughs or years of high level scientific research as do some of the other challenges we face“ (Cousins, 2014).

Entrepreneurs who reduce PHL during grain harvesting, drying, aggregation have first: a rural job producing safe food for the people who grow it; then a regional business plan that delivers moisture testing and storage services; and finally develop policy to ma-

nage global ecosystem services that bear the cost of production, optimally.

Around the world, testing moisture content provides a robust way to assess suitability of cereal grains for storing as safe food. Moisture content can forecast insect infestations and aflatoxin levels. Australian farmers have recently commented: „Moisture levels are what determine when we harvest! They have a major bearing on the sell price of the grain. Accurate calibrated moisture measurements are made on a regular, almost hourly routine with the results governing the harvest and storage decisions for that moment“ (Parker, 2015).

Entrepreneurial youth who are familiar with mobile phones will be interested to learn about hand held moisture meters. Moisture meters are like a „cup with screw lid“ (Image 1) or probe „PHL meter“ (McNeill, 2015) and have apps that determine the moisture content for many cereal, oilseed and pulse crops. Meters can help growers determine when to harvest, store safely and market optimally. ...[Read more](#)

SOUTH AFRICA: ECOSYSTEM-BASED PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE



South Africa is one of 17 megadiverse countries on the planet, home to three biodiversity hotspots and almost 15% of known coastal and marine species. Over the last decade,

South Africa has incorporated biodiversity information into spatial and development planning, and created a national strategy for expanding protected areas to conserve biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience.

Biodiversity sector plans, which include maps of critical biodiversity areas and ecosystem support areas, are being used in seven of the country's nine provinces. These plans are designed to guide land-use planning and decision-making by all sectors that impact biodiversity such as housing, agriculture, conservation and industry.

Systematic biodiversity planning has also been used to map 44 important areas that capture the full range of South Africa's biodiversity patterns and ecological processes and could form the basis for expansion of the country's protected estate.

This trial developed into a five year programme of participatory research at sites in northern and southern Malawi, which was then expanded into a country-wide study involving around 1,000 farmers. ..

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Increasing Food Security: Mali's National Meteorological Service Helps Farmers Manage Climate Risk



In 1982, Mali's national meteorological service initiated a project designed to provide farmers with seasonal climate information. The project responded to the critical link between climate and agricultural production, dramatically illustrated by a series of severe drought events that plagued the Sahelian region throughout the 1970s and 1980s. By providing farmers with information at critical points in the growing season, the project aimed to help rural communities manage the risks associated with variable rainfall.

Effective communication of information has been a major factor in this project. Climate information is processed by a working group into 10-day bulletins and 3-day weather forecasts. The former are given to national policy makers working on food security, and are broadcast through television and radio. The weather forecasts are downscaled to target regions and broadcast in local languages by radio stations, enabling them to reach rural farmers. However, obstacles still remain, such as low literacy among farmers and difficulties in translating technical terms into local languages.

Farmers who have participated in the project consistently report higher yields, and correspondingly higher incomes, from fields where agro-meteorological information is used. The evidence suggests that farmers affiliated with the project are able to use climate information to take more risks, invest in new technologies, and seek information from other sources in order to increase production and, ultimately, income.

Recognizing the important interaction between meteorological factors and agriculture, the agrometeorological project was the first in Africa to supply climate information directly to farmers. It was also the first to teach farmers to measure climatic variables themselves, and the first to help farmers develop the skills necessary to use climate-related information in agricultural decision-making

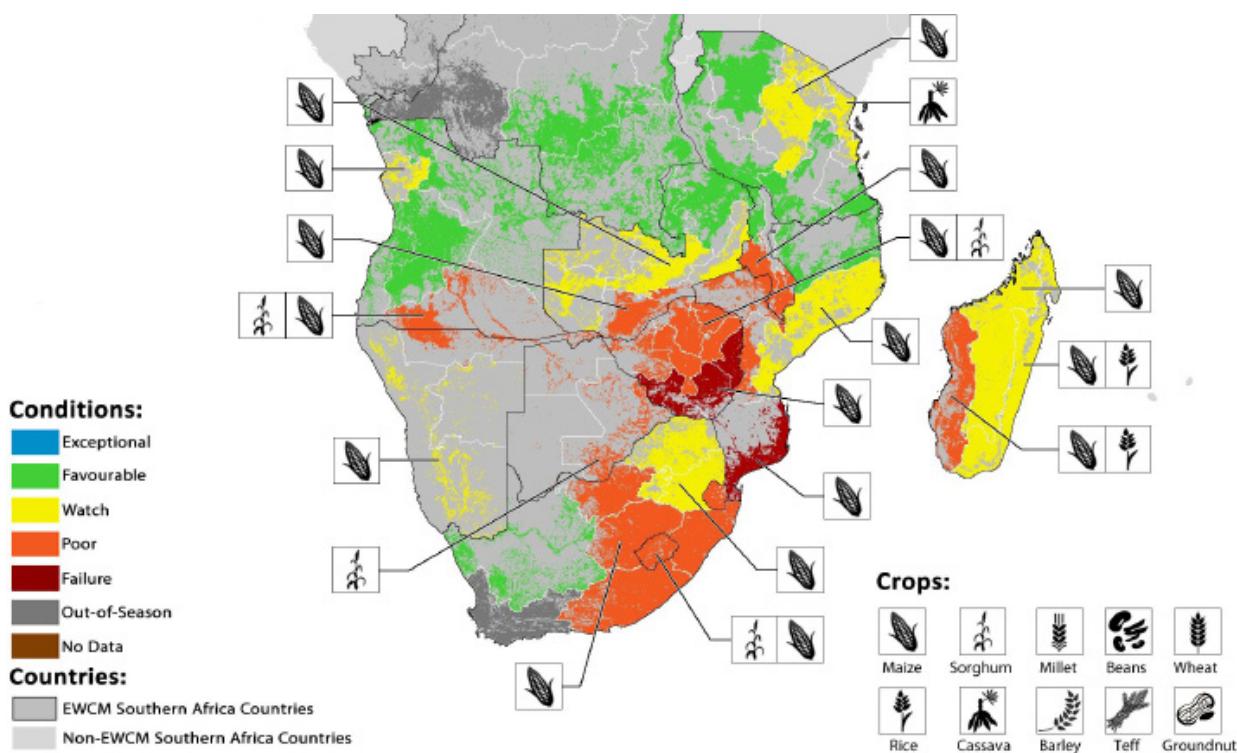
And while the project was originally a modest one – dependent almost entirely on external funding – the last decades have seen it grow with government support. At present, Mali's agrometeorological project is a large-scale government-sponsored program involving government agencies, research institutions, media outlets, extension services, and farmer groups...[Read more](#)

EVENTS

MARCH	1-3 BONN, GERMANY 9TH Meeting of the Adaptation Committee	2-4 AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND Global Climate Observation : The Road to the Future	8 YEONGSU-GU, SOUTH KOREA 12th Meeting of the Board fo the Green Climate Fund.	14 MASERU, LESOTHO African Workshop on the Use of the 2006 IPCC guidelines for National GHG inventories
APRIL	4-8 GENEVA, SWISS 37th Meeting of the OEGW of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol	11 NAIROBI, UN HQ,KENYA 43rd Session of the IPCC	21 NEW YORK CITY , US UNGA High level Thematic debate	22 NEW YORK CITY, US High-Level Signing Ceremony for Paris Agreement
MAY	3 WASHINGTON DC, US Forest Carbon Partnership Facility PC21	10 ROTTERDAM, HOLLAND Adaptation Futures 2016: Practises and Solutions	23 UNEP HQ,NAIROBI KENYA 2ND Meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA)	

CLIMATE WARNINGS

The severe drought attributed to El Nino continues to significantly impact croplands across the region, as crops enter the critical growth stages. Planted area is considerably down and poor conditions are affecting broad areas in the region.



PUBLICATIONS

[SMALL ISLANDS DEVELOPING STATES AND CLIMATE CHANGE](#)

[CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION IN THE TOURISM SECTOR](#)

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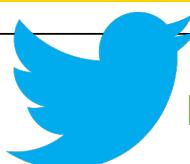
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