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Denton Fires Up ClimDev Partners as Zimbabwe Welcomes CCDA 5



Fatima Denton, Director Special Initiatives Division, Economic Commission for Africa

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 27 October 2015 (ClimDev-Africa) - The Coordinator of the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC), and Director of the Special Initiatives Division at the UN Economic Commission for Africa, has fired up partners of the ClimDev-Africa initiative for a hitch-free 5th Annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA 5) which opens here tomorrow.

As preparations for CCDA 5 get into high gear, Dr. Fatima Denton who heads the Secretariat of the initiative at ACPC, called on the organizing committee of the event to leave no stone unturned to ensure that the established scientific and policy character of the annual event is upheld.

"CCDA is the single most important flagship event of ClimDev-Africa; it is the event during which we call the world into our unique space; and this particular CCDA is distinctively scientific in character in the sense that we received not less than 800 abstracts. We have no right to fail all these experts whose continuous

presence reinforces the notion that CCDA is a-to-go event on climate change in Africa", Ms Denton said.

The theme of CCDA 5 is: "*Africa, Climate Change and Sustainable development: What is at stake at Paris and beyond?*" she recalled, saying it had been so chosen to frame presentations and discussions in ways that concrete proposals could be elicited to strengthen Africa's contributions at COP 21 which opens in Paris, France at the end of this month. The Victoria Falls Conference comes during a watershed year in global climate negotiations and its content and outcomes will impact Africa's position on climate change for the next several years.

The Government of Zimbabwe has thrown its full weight behind the Conference, explains Mr. Washington Zhakata, Director of Climate Change in the Ministry of Climate, Water and Sustainable Development. "The Government is giving

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Why Zimbabwe will welcome CCDA 5 with fervor

VICTORIA FALLS, Zimbabwe 27 October 2015 (ClimDev-Africa) - This year's annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, the biggest climate change event of the continent, convenes at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from 28-30 October 2015.

The 5th CCDA comes at the time when several voices have been raised as to the very future the mighty Victoria Falls because of the toll climate impacts appears to be taking on one of the longest waterfalls in the world.

But this is not the main reason why the Government of Zimbabwe has thrown its full weight behind the Conference, explains Mr. Washington Zhakata, Director of Climate Change in the Ministry of Climate, Water and Sustainable Development.

"The Government is giving this conference the highest priority because it has a clear understanding of the negative impacts

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Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa, Zimbabwe

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(Why Zimbabwe... cont'd from page 1)

that climate change has on its national development. More so, it has the firm conviction of the government that African perspectives need to inform the global response to climate change”, says Mr. Zhakata.

This explains why the government will be represented at the opening session by the Vice President of the Republic, H.E. UPHAM. MUSHINGURI

Appreciating the importance accorded CCDA 5 in Zimbabwe, the chair of the technical preparatory committee, Dr. James Murombedzi, Senior Governance Expert at ACPC says that the Victoria Falls Conference comes during a watershed year in global climate negotiations and its content and outcomes will impact Africa's position on climate change for the next several years.

The conference will end less than two weeks to the opening of COP21 in Paris where governments of more than 190 nations will gather in Paris to discuss a new global agreement on climate change – a global framework for climate governance – that will replace the so-called Kyoto Accord.

According to Murombedzi, this agreement is hugely important in the history of climate governance and CCDA 5 will “seek to make concrete scientific contributions on what Africa needs to do, especially now that it is agreed across Africa that action ought to be taken now, not later”

He reveals that in Zimbabwe, CCDA 5 will aim at two interrelated objectives: review the performance of Article 2 of the UNFCCC and to contribute towards a climate agreement in Paris that will control emissions and provide for sustainable development in Africa in the post Kyoto Protocol era. Article 2 of the UNFCCC sets out the Convention's objective of controlling global warming within acceptable limits; while at the same time ensuring equitable and sustainable development.

“The anticipated outcome will be a better understanding of how Africa can contribute to an effective post Kyoto climate response framework” he explains.

The Climate for Development (ClimDev-Africa) Programme has designed CCDA 5 as a scientific conference of African policy makers, researchers, civil society organizations to provide answers to those development problems of the continent in a climate changing environment.

Murombedzi says a total of 120 sound scientific papers and presentations on 6 key development areas, including climate science, climate governance, renewable energy, climate finance, gender and sustainable development, are ready for Victoria Falls.

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(Denton fires up... cont'd from page 1)

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This explains why the government will be represented at the opening session by the Vice President of the Republic, H.E. Oppah. MUCHINGURI. The 5th CCDA comes at the time when several voices have been raised as to the very future the mighty Victoria Falls because of the toll climate impacts appears to be taking on one of the longest waterfalls in the world.

This meeting is also expected to mark a turning point in the Climate Research for Development (CR4D) initiative in Africa because its first scientific advisory committee meeting has been convened for today, on the sidelines of CCDA5. Expectations are said to be high among African climate scientists, given the number of important

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CCDA 5 innovates, creates solution spaces to sharpen Africa's proposals for COP 21 in Paris

VICTORIA FALLS, Zimbabwe, 27 October 2015 (ClimDev-Africa) – The technical committee for the organization of tomorrow's 5th Annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA 5) has touted the creation of solution spaces at the conference as a key innovation in yearly scientific and policy event.

Presenting the draft agenda to the organizing committee, James Murombedzi, Senior Governance Expert at ACPC, underscored the significance of the innovation, saying reports from solution forums at CCDA 5 would help to sharpen Africa's proposals for each negotiation stream during COP 21 in Paris, come December this year.

The idea of creating solution forums, he recalled, was born out of a desire by ClimDev-Africa to move beyond bemoaning the negative impacts of climate change to retail success stories that demonstrate how local innovations and community-generated initiatives can illustrate that climate change is not always a calamity; and that it often holds a host of opportuni-

ties for every affected community.

The approach was first tested during the maiden session of a series of discussions that were held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 3-5 September, under the theme, 'Democratizing Global Climate Change Governance and Building an African Consensus toward COP 21 and Beyond'.

The forum was called Africa Climate Talks (ACT!), and hosted by the University of Dar es Salaam and the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) as part of the ACPC's ongoing efforts to dynamize Africa's preparations for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP21).

Nearly all the 60 panel discussions of CCDA 5 which kick offs on 28 October 2015 in the Zimbabwean tourist resort city, Victoria Falls under the theme: “Africa, Climate Change and Sustainable development: What is at stake at Paris and beyond?” are planned to be followed by a solution forum.

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(Denton fires up... cont'd from page 2)

outcomes expected from that meeting; the most significant of which will be deliberating on a framework for establishing a multi-institutional and multi-stakeholders platform for the co-design and co-production of climate information and services for development planning.

Another key post-CCDA 5 activity by CR4D will be the initiation of short-term pilot projects across all the regions of Africa. These projects will develop proto-types for improving sub-seasonal to seasonal climate information in partnership with ongoing initiatives within the regional climate centres and national meteorological and hydrological services.

Meanwhile, the technical committee of CCDA 5 has touted the creation of solution spaces at the conference as a key innovation that would help to sharpen Africa's proposals for each negotiation stream during COP 21 in Paris.

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The approach was first tested during the maiden session of a series of discussions that were held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 3-5 September, under the theme, 'Democratizing Global Climate Change Governance and Building an African Consensus toward COP 21 and Beyond'.

In another development, energy specialists and policy makers will have much to talk about at the forthcoming Conference on climate Change and Development in Africa which, according to the organizing committee (CCDA 5).

The draft agenda for the conference proposes to adopt a three-prong approach for a comprehensive discussion on the nexus between energy and sustainable development as a whole. The meeting will discuss the critical role of bio-energy transition and resulting environmental benefits; opportunities for renewable energy for climate mitigation and resilience; and, the policy and regulatory framework required to unlock transformative financing.

Discussions on the policy and regulatory framework required to unlock transformative financing first came to the fore in Africa last July at side event organized by ACPC on margins of the Third Interna-

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A tall agenda awaits energy specialists and policy makers at CCDA 5

VICTORIA FALLS, Zimbabwe, 27 October 2015 (ClimDev-Africa) – Energy specialists and policy makers will have much to talk about at the forthcoming Conference on climate Change and Development in Africa which, according to the organizing committee (CCDA 5).

The draft agenda for the conference proposes to adopt a three-prong approach for a comprehensive discussion on the nexus between energy and sustainable development as a whole. The meeting will discuss the critical role of bio-energy transition and resulting environmental benefits; opportunities for renewable energy for climate mitigation and resilience; and, the policy and regulatory framework required to unlock transformative financing.

Discussions on the policy and regulatory framework required to unlock transformative financing first came to the fore in Africa last July at side event organized by ACPC on margins of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development which took place in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015. It would be recalled that during the side event on the theme "Unlocking Transformative Financing for Renewable Energy and Climate Resilience in Africa: From Evidence to Widespread Replication, Dr. Carlos Lopes, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.

Dr. Lopes cautioned that although Africa is well endowed with all forms of renewable energy resources – hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal, biomass and even marine energy, "we cannot achieve structural transformation and inclusive green

growth if we do not find sustainable solutions to the current energy deficit."

"The African region is brimming with resources, and we know that Africa is now home to some of the fastest growing economies. The question is: can the strength of these rising economies, coupled with Africa's plentiful resources, light up the continent and power Africa's economies to achieve the industrial transformation that we want", he asked.

The objective of the discussion was to frame a replicable blueprint that African countries could use to develop strategies for unlocking and catalyzing public-private partnerships, domestic resources, foreign direct investment and climate finance for renewable energy deployment in support of sustainable and inclusive development on the continent beyond 2015.

It highlighted experiences and evidence on the ground on mobilizing transformative financing to invest in low-carbon, climate-resilient development in Africa, building on lessons learned from renewable energy deployment in countries such as South Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda, among others.

Panelist came from the business world, representatives of international financial institutions, UN agencies and think tanks including Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP; Director, Knowledge, Policy & Finance Centre, IRENA; HelaCheikhrouhou, Executive Director, Green Climate Fund; Solomon Asamoah, Vice President, Infrastructure, Private Sector & Regional Integration, AfDB; Magnus Asbjornsson, Regional Director,

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CCDA 5 to be the launch pad for advancing new frontiers of climate research in Africa, expert says

VICTORIA FALLS, Zimbabwe, 27 October 2015 (ClimDev-Africa) – The 5th annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA 5) which opens here tomorrow promises to be the real launch pad for climate research in Africa, according to sources close to the organisation of the meeting whose theme is: “Africa, Climate Change and Sustainable development: What is at stake at Paris and beyond?”

Richard Anyah, Coordinator of the Climate Research for Development (CR4D) initiative says this meeting will mark a turning point in the initiative’s activities because its first scientific advisory committee meeting has been convened for today, on the sidelines of CCDA5. He says expectations are high among African climate scientists, given the number of important outcomes expected from that meeting; the most significant of which will be deliber-

ating on a framework for establishing a multi-institutional and multi-stakeholders platform for the co-design and co-production of climate information and services for development planning.

Another key post-CCDA 5 activity by CR4D will be the initiation of short-term pilot projects across all the regions of Africa. These projects will develop proto-types for improving sub-seasonal to seasonal climate information in partnership with ongoing initiatives within the regional climate centres and national meteorological and hydrological services, he assures.

Support for these projects is anticipated to come from development partners, some of which are already working with ACPC, such as DFID through their new WISER programme. Once the initiative gets fully operational, it will enhance ongoing and

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(A tall agenda... cont’d from page 3)

Middle East and Africa, Reykjavik Geothermal Limited; Jacques Moineville Deputy Director General, Agence Française de Développement; Andrew Norton, Director, IIED; and Simon Zadek, Co-Director of the UNEP Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System.

The key messages from the discussion included:

- The energy strategy adopted by African countries is fundamental to how the continent responds to climate change while transforming its economies for inclusive green growth.
- The 22% share of renewable power installed capacity in Africa is remarkably low, given its rich endowments and potential thereof. More African countries need to take immediate steps now and put in place appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks to accelerate the uptake of renewables on the continent, resulting in multiple environmental, social and economic benefits, including those arising from localization of the deployment value chain.
- The energy deficit must be addressed at all scales – from standalone home and off-grid systems to large scale interconnected power grids. Africa’s rich and variedly distributed renewable energy resources provide an opportunity for energy security on the continent through socially inclusive energy corridors and interconnected power systems that optimize the continent’s energy resources in favour of higher shares of renewables.
- Policy coherence, certainty and clarity are essential for investor confidence to ensure that transformative deployment of renewable energy takes off in Africa to close the energy deficit, as demonstrated by oversubscription of South Africa’s recent round of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme.
- Structuring the energy market by governments must be integral to national development plans and will only have tangible results by scaling up across the continent.
- It is vital that administrative and policy bottlenecks are removed to reduce high project transaction costs and reduce the project pipeline on the continent.
- Local financial resource mobilization can play a key role in the deployment of renewable energy and climate resilience projects on the continent as demonstrated by the experiences in South Africa and Ethiopia to date.
- Although feed-in tariffs have played catalytic roles in attracting investments in renewable energy projects, public tenders are having a more transformative impact, resulting in falling prices

and value for money.

- The cost of capital for projects in Africa, typically at 15-20% compared to 6-12% in OECD countries is too high - partially attributable to a high level of perceived risks. Reducing this risk level will help accelerate renewable projects on the continent. The Green Climate Fund and other sources of funds could provide pivotal instruments for mitigating these risks.
- In this regard, development banks and DFIs need to up their game and put the “D” in development finance by closing the gap between perceived and real risks on the ground, rather than operating on similar basis as commercial banks.
- Countries need to urgently address the severe lack of capacity in Africa to develop bankable projects, and strengthen the capacities and financial health of national utilities to make them bankable and ready to engage with investors.
- In closing the energy deficit in Africa sufficient attention must be paid in mobilizing substantial investments for sustainable bioenergy development, especially in the context of the energy, food, climate, and land nexus.

Specialists and policy makers going to Victoria Falls will work hard to put some flesh on these messages by way of policy recommendations.

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Africa's high stake in climate change

"For Africa, climate change has massive consequences, the continent contributes the least to greenhouse gases but tends to be the most vulnerable to its consequences. This climate change is a threat to human survival in Africa," said Mr. Emerson D. Mnangagwa, the Vice-President of Zimbabwe, when opening the 5th Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference, in Victoria Falls.

Mr. Mnangagwa pointed out that Africa has a large stake at the forthcoming COP21 negotiations in Paris and at adapting to climate change since it will be the region most affected by the impact of this change.

"Africa is grappling with recurring droughts due to climate change. Africa has the greatest interest in a climate change governance framework," he emphasised and noted that "COP21 represents a unique chance for Africa to assert itself in climate global governance".

Ms. Fatima Denton, the Economic Commission for Africa Director of Special Initiatives Division, under which the African Climate Policy Centre falls, reiterated the significance of the upcoming negotiations for the continent.

"Stakes for Africa at COP21 are high, Africa will be at the receiving end of climate change impact. We need to understand what is at risk," she said to the more than 400 delegates at the conference who included ministers from Zimbabwe, Zambia, the Gambia, representatives from the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and UN agencies and members of the diplomatic corp.

Ms. Denton reminded delegates of the importance of Article 2 of the convention: an article we seem to have forgotten about. "In Paris we demand that the sacred principle of common but shared responsibility be given central place".

The responsibility of change lies with the whole world, believes Ms. Denton. "Are we doing enough to stop the current haemorrhaging of the earth's resources? Are we able to replenish, regenerate our soils to ensure that those most dependent on our natural capital do not find themselves held up in a cul-de-sac that bears no signposts?"

Africa depends largely on its rain-fed agricultural production. However the continent is facing challenges in responding to challenges such as the "alarming rate of degradation of our water resources, soils, food systems, land, forest and air and rainfall and temperatures that we rely on to sustain our people," said Ms. Denton.

"Today is about what Africa can do for itself and with others to be able to act as the main purveyor of climate resilient development services". Ms. Denton asserted Africa is confident enough to tell the rest

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(Denton fires up... cont'd from page 3)

tional Conference on Financing for Development which took place in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015.

It would be recalled that during the side event on the theme "*Unlocking Transformative Financing for Renewable Energy and Climate Resilience in Africa: From Evidence to Widespread Replication*", Dr. Carlos Lopes, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.

The objective of the discussion had been to frame a replicable blueprint that African countries could use to develop strategies for unlocking and catalyzing public-private partnerships, domestic resources, foreign direct investment and climate finance for renewable energy deployment in support of sustainable and inclusive development on the continent beyond 2015.

It highlighted experiences and evidence on the ground on mobilizing transformative financing to invest in low-carbon, climate-resilient development in Africa, building on lessons learned from renewable energy deployment in countries such as South Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda, among others.

On the eve of the opening session a series of pre-events kicked off today at the Elephant Hill Hotel by professional groups and NGOs, including a media training workshop organised by the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA).

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planned priority activities of ClimDev-Africa, that are expected to improve quality, access, and mainstreaming climate information and services for sustainable development planning. Climate Research for Development (CR4D) initiative is a mechanism for integrating the Africa climate research community (scientists and institutions) to deliver on priority end-users' and climate-resilient development planning needs in Africa.

The CR4D advisory committee is made up of a very diverse expertise from climate science policy, climate services and practitioners. It would be recalled that the last big

milestone for CR4D was the Marrakesh (Morocco) meeting that was held during CCDA4 in 2014 when the key sponsors of the initiative (ACPC, WMO, GFCS and AMCOMET) agreed on a governance structure for the CR4D initiative.

In February 2015 there were further discussions in Cape Verde during the third AMCOMET general meeting. This was also the official launch of CR4D and ACPC was tasked to set up a secretariat for the initiative, which started its operations in mid June 2015.

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(Africa's high stake... cont'd from page 5)

of the world that “it no longer has the license to emit on our behalf and that we are prepared to invest in smart development by using our current atmospheric space to green our economies and to build climate resilient infrastructure”.

Institutions such as the African Development Bank “have stepped up support for African countries to build resilience to climate change and to finance green economy

since the global finance architecture does not provide the finances Africa needs,” said Ms. Mary Manneko Monyau, AfDB’s representative in Zimbabwe..

Ms. Denton reminded those present that this 5th Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference is about our collective security, what we can do today so that no one is left behind, global solidarity and addressing our collective responsibility.

“The climate risks that we face are real but the opportunities for change and for

designing a new climate business model are immense,” concluded Ms. Denton.

The 5th Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference titled “Revising Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change” whose main theme is ‘Africa, climate change and sustainable development: what is at stake at Paris and beyond?’ is held from 28 to 30 October 2015.

Day two Highlights: Thursday, 29 October 2015

The 5th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-V) convened for a second day on Thursday, 29 October 2015, at the Elephant Hills Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

In the morning, delegates engaged in a panel discussion, moderated by Edith Adera, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), on the implications of the IPCC’s Fifth Assessment Report to Africa. They heard from experts including: Joseph Katongo Kanyanga, Lead Author, Working Group (WG) I, Zambia; Opha Pauline Dube, University of Botswana, IPCC WG II; Shadrack Mwakilala, Lead Author IPCC WGII; and Chukwemeji Okereke, University of Reading, and Lead Author, IPCC WG III.

James Murombedzi, UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), introduced a video on some key messages from the Africa Climate Talks (ACT!), followed by a keynote presentation by Seth Osafo, African Group of Negotiators, on an African Perspective of climate change negotiations from Kyoto to Paris.

Delegates then engaged in another panel discussion on African Perspectives of Climate Governance since Kyoto. They heard key messages for Paris from: Mithika Mwendwa, Pan-Africa Climate Justice Alliance; Jeremiah Lengoasa, Deputy Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO); Washington Zhakata, Climate Change Management Department, Zimbabwe; and Godwell Nhamo, University of South Africa.

In the late morning and afternoon, delegates convened in two rounds of parallel discussions, addressing: Governance; Climate Science; Climate Change and Forests; Climate Finance; Gender; Climate Change and Energy; and Agriculture. These were followed by field visits in the late afternoon.

IISD Reporting Services, through its ENB+ Meeting Coverage, is providing daily web coverage, a summary report and video coverage of the 5th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-V) - Climate Change and Sustainable Development: What is at Stake at Paris and Beyond? The summary report will be available on Monday, 2 November 2015.

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