



Economic  
Commission for Africa

ACP<sup>C</sup>  
African Climate Policy Centre

**FOCUS** On Climate Change &  
Development in Africa  
A Monthly News Bulletin of Climate Change Issues  
by the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC)

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CCDA-I



First Annual Conference on  
Climate Change and  
Development in Africa

**Development First:  
Addressing Climate Change  
in Africa**

17-19 October 2011  
United Nations Conference Centre ■ Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



## 1st Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa



*The impacts of climate change on Africa are devastating, but the determination of Africans to work together is ever-increasing as seen at the last session of the Clim-Dev. Africa Steering Committee meeting.*

## Laying the groundwork for Africa's offensive against impacts of climate change

The First Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-I) which opens at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 17 October, 2011 represents an opportunity and a challenge for the ECA and other partners of the Clim-Dev Africa programme. It is a challenge because it will be the first time (after ADF7 in 2010) that policy makers, academics and practitioners will be coming together to chart specific policy options that Africa could adopt to deal with the impacts of climate change on its development.

In that respect, the conference's outcomes will determine the extent to which Africa can continue to count on the new African Climate Policy Centre to deliver as a knowledge hub with immediate and remarkable relevance to Africa.

But the conference is mostly an opportunity because it will provide an indispensable outlet for ventilating all the African-focused research findings that that have not always often a good place on the agendas of international climate change forums.



*A Somali woman and a malnourished child exit from the medical tent after the child receives emergency medical treatment from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). UN Photo/Stuart Price*

ACPC and the entire ECA are betting on the fact that, most of the 30 or so academic presentations will be broken down into a key message and three sub messages. Then those messages will be translated into concrete projects for implementation at national and regional levels.

This is what should be un-

derstood as research informing policy. And those would be the concrete results that could directly help African countries as they struggle to whether the adverse effects of climate change on the continent.

For all you want to know on the preparations of this important event, please turn to page 6.

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## Ministers to table statement on climate-smart agriculture at COP17

Africa's agriculture ministers have agreed to draft a statement and an action programme that would be tabled at the Durban conference and hopefully adopted on climate-smart agriculture, according to news reports.

They arrived at the decision at the end of a two-day meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa from September 14-15, 2011.

"The Durban Conference of Parties (COP17) in December will have achieved a major milestone if it ends with a commitment to provide farmers around the world with the technology support needed to engage in climate-smart agricultural practices geared towards addressing food security" Ms Nkoana-Mashabane said.

Organised by the South African Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the meeting got support from the African Union (AU), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) as well as from the World Bank.

The conference also raised awareness of issues relevant to climate change in preparation for the upcoming COP17 to be hosted by South Africa in Durban in December this year.

Ms Nkoana-Mashabane told the African ministers and senior diplomatic delegates that they should plan to lobby the conference to have more than a sentence referring to agriculture in the resolutions because "there was an urgent need of linking food security and poverty alleviation to the broader debate on climate change".

"Agriculture contributes up to 30% of GDP in sub-Saharan Africa and employs about 70% of the labour force", she said.

Nkoana-Mashabane added that up to 80% of the population of sub-Saharan Africa lives in rural areas. Despite contributing only about 3.8% to the global Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, African countries are expected to be the worst hit by the effects of global warming, climate variability and climate change.



*Including agriculture on the climate change agenda is crucial for future food security. This was discussed in a recent minister meeting in South Africa. Photo: courtesy P. Casier (CGIAR)*

"Climate-Smart Agriculture is a new concept ... defined by the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) as production systems that sustainably increases produc-

tivity, resilience through adaptation, reduces green house gases and enhances achievement of national food security and development goals," she explained.

Previous COP conferences have produced no text that considers the negative impact of climate change on agriculture, according to the South African official.

### NAMAs: The link between developed and developing country parties

Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) is a concept that was first introduced in climate change talks within the framework of the Bali Action Plan agreed at the international meeting in the Indonesian city, and which was presented at global climate change meetings in Postdam (Germany), Copenhagen (Denmark), and Cancun (Mexico).

This followed the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

"Although since the NAMAs concept was developed and their legal nature is yet to be determined, it is obvious that developing countries have voluntarily taken NAMAs measures in order to reduce their (Greenhouse Gas) emissions in conformity with the provisions of the UN Convention", the Commissioner affirmed.

NAMAs have steadily been refined through international negotiations to become a promise to serve as a bridge between developed and developing country

parties, following the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities".

In December 2009, the Copenhagen Accord focused significantly on NAMAs, but many questions remained unanswered. For instance, while developed countries agreed to provide US\$30 billion in fast-track financing between 2010 and 2012 and to mobilize US\$100 billion per year by 2020, no decisions were made by 2009 on the modalities and required institutions.

Experts believe that to enable the framework to function, mechanisms must be in place to raise and distribute the funds and with the procedures to measure, report and verify the NAMAs. MRV or Measurement, Reporting and Verification is another concept that has emerged alongside NAMAs. Measurement, Reporting and Verification is important not just internationally but nationally and even locally in that it can help governments to develop effective policies for mitigating the negative consequences of global climate change.

## African environment ministers welcome ACPC, underscore central role

The Fourth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) met in Bamako, Mali on 15 September 2011 to review Africa's common position on climate change negotiations ahead of COP17, scheduled for Durban, South Africa later this year.

The conference brought together some 200 delegates representing countries, international organizations, research institutes, civil society organizations and the newly launched African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC).

Meeting of experts that preceded the ministerial segment discussed a number of "unresolved issues" in the Cancun Agreements, including the comprehensive international Climate Change regime beyond 2012.

It also focused on the prepara-

tions for the United Nations Conference on sustainable development (Rio +20) to be held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with the view to secure renewed international political commitment to sustainable development.

The need to stabilize global average temperatures at levels that are safe for developing countries, particularly in Africa is one of the pressing issues that require urgent attention.

Due to its geographic and physical characteristics, Africa will warm around one-and-a-half times the global level, according to the Inter governmental Panel on Climate Change. More recent studies, based on historical information, project that warming of as little as 1°C could reduce agricultural production by 20% in certain crops and areas, in addi-



South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane .

tion to other potentially significant adverse impacts for Africa and its development.

Other pending issues include finding a way forward under the Kyoto Protocol, how to raise and secure funds needed for the long-term climate financing and the legal form of a new climate agreement.

Mr. Youba Sokona led the ACPC

delegation to the meeting. He was accompanied by Yacob Mulugeta, Senior Advisor on Energy. The two officials briefed the conference on preparations for the planned Africa Pavilion at COP17. Satisfied, the minister welcomed the arrival of ACPC on the climate change scene in Africa, calling on the Centre to help African countries adapt to the nefarious impacts of the phenom-

## Group prods Nigeria's leader to enact climate change bill

The International Centre for Energy, Environment and Development (ICEED) has urged the president of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, to sign into law the Climate Change Bill that was passed by the National Assembly early this year.

ICEED's Executive Director, Mr Ewah Otu Eleri argues that enacting the bill would "provide room for adequate agricultural insurance cover for Nigerian farmers in the event of produce losses due to the escalating global climate change challenges".

Speaking at an agricultural insurance stakeholders meeting in Abuja, last month, Eleri said that "agriculture has more than ever before become highly vulnerable to climate variability such as flash-flooding, droughts and desert encroachment, which together,



Alternative sources of energy is one of the cornerstones of climate change policy formulation

heighten food insecurity and compromise government efforts to reduce poverty and grow the national

economy".

"Climate change impacts are causing serious agricultural disas-

ters to Nigerian farmers who do not have any insurance coverage that would cushion the effect of their losses due to environmental mishaps", he stressed.

"In this country, the insurance machinery for the agricultural sector is near zero level because less than one per cent of farmers in this country have insurance coverage".

He called for a "strong partnership with the Central Bank of Nigeria, (CBN) finance organizations and other key stakeholders and international donor agencies to launch a platform for farmers to recoup whatever they lose due to climate change and then be able to face agricultural and farm produce disasters".

One month on, several Nigerian papers have joined the call for a speedy enactment of the Climate Change Bill.

## ECOWAS urges member states to implement climate change mitigation measures

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has urged member states to implement agreed measures to mitigate global climate change impacts. The call was made in Accra, Ghana by the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Ousseini Salifou.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of a three-day workshop for capacity building for Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) for Member States, Mr. Salifou said that “it is necessary for our region to avoid repeating the negative experience of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and to build capacities for



Member States to have positive influence on the current mechanism to ensure NAMAs implementation”.

The workshop which was held from 31 August - 2 September, 2011 was organized under the auspices of ECOWAS to develop and implement measures for Member States to access available funds for, and assess the status of international negotiations on climate change.

Participants took stock of the ongoing international climate change negotiations and called for a consensus outcome from Durban that would benefit developing countries. In this respect, the Chairman of Ghana's

National Climate Change Committee, Mr. Edward Osei Nsenkryire called for the institution of NAMAs and other climate change response measures that are clearly linked with the livelihoods of people in order to enhance the abilities of African countries to cope with climate change.



Source: ECOWAS Press Release

## South Sudan's weather worries

The newly created Republic of South Sudan may be in for a long dry season, spelling the dangers of prolonged droughts, government officials fear.

Speaking in Entebbe (Uganda) after the release of the forecast of the short rainy season by the IGAD Climate Predictions and Applications Centre – ICPAC, the Director General of Agricultural Production, Mr. John Chuol Dhol warned that the dry spell expected in South Sudan during the short rainy season could see agricultural productivity drop by between 40 per cent and 60 per cent.

“Over ninety percent of our farmers depend on rain-fed agriculture, and this prediction is worrying,” Dhol said, adding that the situation in South Sudan is further complicated by the influx of returnees from the neighboring countries including, Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya, but noted that the South Sudan government is taking advantage of the expertise brought by people who are returning to South Sudan.

“We are currently providing the returnees with seeds and implements for the preparation of land for planting, but with the predicated dry spell during the short rainy season in some parts of our new state, it will be a challenge,” said Dhol.

He urged the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) member countries to allow South Sudan's membership to the regional economic community (REC) so as to enable the new nation to reap the benefits of the expertise in the regional countries.

## Ending vulnerability in the Greater Horn of Africa

Experts agree that reducing the vulnerability of countries in the Horn of Africa to future droughts and extreme weather requires sustained investments in agriculture, agricultural research, improved land use, and smart partnerships with communities and local enterprises.

This is the recommendation issued by a panel of experts at a recent conference on the current food security crisis in the Greater Horn of Africa. They argued that the current famine in the region is as a result of long years of neglect of the root causes of vulnerability in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of the region.

“It is not drought but rather vulnerability to drought that has thrown the region into repeated cycles of food shortages. Yet in contrast to this vulnerability is the fact that the ASALs produce

most of the livestock traded in the region, typically contributing over 40 percent of agricultural GDP to the national economies”, they said in a statement issued at the end of the meeting.

Panelists cited the need for better land use practices, including the development of rainwater harvesting approaches that allow more efficient use of available water. Other solutions include improved crop varieties, animal breed varieties that can thrive in harsh conditions, and development of a market for crops beyond maize which values dry land crops such as sorghum and millet.



The meeting was hosted by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and convened by the African Union – Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the CGIAR Consortium.

## Droughts, famines only require man-made solutions, says leading Kenyan newspaper

As the impacts of climate change are brought to the door steps of many Africans on a daily basis by devastating draughts and floods, the regional media are getting more and more involved in the search for solutions.

In the highly read opinion column, the Daily Nation of Nairobi argues that droughts and famines are among the few categories of disasters that “need man-made solutions” because “...while droughts cannot be avoided, famine can. There are many countries in the world which face extraordinary climatic conditions and others that hardly produce any food”.

The author of the opinion, Wolfgang Fengler who is the World Bank Lead Economist for Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia and Eritrea questions: “How can droughts and famines be avoided? This is the big question many conferences and summits have grappled with in recent weeks”.

“Unfortunately, it will be very difficult to avoid droughts in the future because climate change will put more pressure on scarce land and extreme climate events, both

rains and floods, will likely occur much more frequently -- and even more unpredictably”, he predicts.

Drawing from the resilience capacity of countries in the Arab peninsula, which face continuous droughts, he observes that “the people in these countries seem to be doing fine, as does Singapore, which hardly produces any food and has never faced a food crisis.”

“This is why this current crisis, which started as a result of harsh weather, is really a man-made crisis, especially here in Kenya, where food prices are unnaturally high”.

“Kenya's maize policy is particularly problematic. Significant parts of the country enjoy ideal conditions for growing maize”, the editorial wonders.

“East Africa can easily feed itself. Tanzania and Uganda have surpluses of basic food commodities, and even within Kenya, there seems to be enough food in some regions”.

“Kenya's maize policy is particularly problematic. Significant parts of the country enjoy ideal conditions for growing maize”, the editorial wonders.

## South Africa embraces Climate Reality

South Africans joined millions of others this month in watching the live streaming of SA's representative speaking on climate change, as part of the global Climate Reality Project. The Internet campaign was screened at the Food and Trees for Africa office, in Morningside, where a crowd gathered to view the local delivery of the presentation.

Called “24 Hours of Reality”, the show was broadcast in 24 time zones, in multiple languages, by 24 representatives worldwide. Initiated by former US vice-president and Nobel laureate Al Gore, the project is the first of this scale aimed at raising awareness about the realities of global climate change.

Each one-hour segment ran live at 7pm in the time zone of the host location, with the broadcast starting at 7pm central time on Wednesday, 14 September, in Mexico City, and ending at 8pm on

Thursday, 15 September, in New York City. Aired in cities ranging from Beijing to London to Rio, the event had received over 8.6 million views by the time Gore finished in New York in the early hours of this morning.

The multimedia slideshow, which is available online, focuses on how extreme weather events like floods, fires and storms are linked to climate change and the dire consequences the planet faces.

The presentation explores the connection between climate change and the record number of extreme weather events in recent years, reiterates the scientific basis for global warming, and unpacks some of the denial campaigns backed by major polluters. It also covers new energy solutions and ways of addressing challenges. People can request the presentation to be given in their community by visiting the Climate Reality site.

Dear editor,

**Judging from media reports, the forthcoming Conference of the Parties (COP17), like the two preceding gatherings, is not likely to achieve much. So, why spend money and time going to these meetings?**

Yes, it is often said that “time is money”. In that sense, attending meetings that we know in advance that will produce no results, is like wasting money. However, in the context of climate change, the saying is not strictly true. In fact, it is time that is running against humanity as far as the impacts of climate change are concerned. Reducing green house gas emissions is one of the core issues in climate change negotiations. If agreement is reached and adhered to by all the Parties, the planet, which is our common heritage, would be saved. So, these negotiations are necessary; not just for us, but for the future generations.

Just like the other COPs, the Durban conference (COP17) will continue to chart the way towards climate justice. Finally, it might be too early to predict what the outcomes would be in Durban. There is talk about concrete outcomes on the green fund, for example. If the proposed fund is established, that would be a good step in the right direction. Things are moving; and the world is slowly, but surely coming to terms with the reality that collective action on climate change is the surest way to address its impacts. The option cannot be between negotiations and no negotiations, because not to doing anything about climate change would amount to something like collective suicide.

Dear editor,

**Which African countries are most at risk of climate change; and what should they be doing now?**

Because of the diverse and multifaceted nature of the way climate change affects the world in general and on Africa in particular, it is unlikely that any serious scientist would attempt to draw up a ranking of how our countries are exposed to it. For

example, some countries might be exposed to floods, droughts, the resurgence of mosquitoes, water scarcity, food insecurity, etc. Other parameters include vulnerability to extreme weather, vulnerability to the rise in sea level, human sensitivity, and ecosystem, to the business environment ... Again, there could be comparisons in an important factor such as the adaptive capacity of individual countries.

Therefore, it would be a big and challenge to try to rank countries as such in a general manner, as some would be more vulnerable in some areas than in others. In fact, even the level of exposure of a number of countries to the disasters scale depends largely on how prepared each of the countries is (adaptive capacity, economy, infrastructure, the human resource, etc.) to handle phenomena such as droughts, floods, etc. Climate change scenarios impacts tend to be gloomier for countries of the African region. This mostly reflects their respective resilience capacity to the vagaries of the weather.

According to Saleem Huq, head of the climate change group at the U.K.-based International Institute for Environment and Development; there is simply no objective, scientific way of categorizing a ranking of 100-plus countries in order of most vulnerable countries. “The moment someone comes up with a list, there's a problem”, he rightly points out.

Yet, this question is likely to come up more frequently than before, as the multibillion-dollar Green Climate Fund becomes a reality. Determining which countries are most at risk might have implications for how the Fund will be expected to handle multiple demands from countries and institutions. A number of reports have classified Madagascar, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia and Malawi as being the most potentially exposure countries to climate related events. Other reports have identified new countries such as Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Mozambique etc. The debate is just only beginning...

# Addis Ababa ready to host the First Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa – CCDA-I

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and other partners of the Clim-Dev Africa programme welcomes all participants to its 1st Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-I) which opens at the United Nations Conference in Addis Ababa on 17 October 2011. The following information should be read carefully by all participants.

## Registration and Identification Badges

Participants are required to register and obtain Identification Badges prior to the opening of the meeting. The venue for registration will be the Delegates Registration Bureau. Kindly bring along your invitation letter and personal identification for registration purposes.

## Documents

Participants will be sent the before the meeting the concept note and the draft programme of the CCDA-1. Other documents will be available on the meeting website <http://www.uneca.org/acpc/ccda/ccda1/index.htm> and will be provided at the time of registration. Documents which participants wish to circulate should be handed to the Secretariat.

## Travel

A number of international airlines operate to and from Addis Ababa. Sponsored participants will be provided with round trip air-tickets and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for Addis Ababa based on UN rules for the duration of the meeting. Non-sponsored participants should secure their return/onward air passage prior to their arrival in Addis Ababa. Travel Agencies at ECA will assist with re-confirmation of tickets and provide participants with travel and tour related

## Immigration Requirements

Visas are required for all participants travelling to Ethiopia, except for nationals of Djibouti and

Kenya. This also applies to holders of diplomatic and service passports, as well as United Nations Laissez-Passer. All participants attending the meeting can obtain business visas on arrival at Bole International Airport. In order to assist participants in obtaining visas upon arrival, please fill in the nationality, passport details and, if appropriate, flight details in the registration form. Please note that the Ethiopian Immigration Authority requires that participants carry with them and present to Immigration an official Letter of Invitation for the meeting.

Please note that an Ethiopian visa costs \$ 20 per person and payment must be made in US dollars at the time of issue. No other currency will be accepted. Holders of diplomatic and service passports, as well as United Nations Laissez-Passer, will receive visas free of charge.

## Currency restrictions

Please declare all cash amount exceeding \$3000 or its equivalent in any other convertible foreign currency, and all foreign currency in your possession at the points of entry into Ethiopia.

## Hotel Reservations

Hotel reservations have been made by ECA for all sponsored participants. Details of the arrangements will be communicated in due course. ECA can assist non-sponsored participants with hotel reservations upon request made in time. A list of recommended hotels is annexed to this note.

## Reception on Arrival

Participants will be met on arrival at the Addis Ababa Bole Inter-

national Airport and assisted with the formalities regarding immigration. Flight details including date and time of arrival in Addis Ababa should be sent as soon as possible.

## Transport

ECA buses will transport participants from Bole International Airport, which is located 5 Km. from the centre of Addis Ababa, to their respective hotels. Shuttle buses will also transport participants to and from hotels and the conference venue in the mornings and at the end of daily sessions.

## Health and Health Care Requirements

Prior to entry, visitors to Ethiopia should be in possession of a valid health certificate for yellow fever. Vaccination against cholera is also required for any person who has visited or transited through a cholera-infected area within six days prior to arrival in the country. As Addis Ababa is situated at an altitude of 2400 meters, it is advisable to take precautionary measures to avoid possible health problems that might occur due to high altitude. The United Nations Health Care Centre (UNHCC), situated on the ground floor of the UN Conference Centre provides 24 hour medical services at a reasonable cost (payment in cash). In case of medical or dental emergency, please call the reception desk on telephone numbers (0115) 44 55 02/44 35 48/44 31 35, or 35502/33548/33135, when calling from an extension phone within ECA premises. Participants on special medications should bring enough quantities to last for the period of stay as some of them may not be found in UNHCC or in town.

## Mobile Phone Services

Participants are encouraged to come to Addis Ababa with

their dual band mobile handsets (900/1800 MHZ). Ethiopian Telecommunication Company offers SIM Cards with pre-charged airtime. The total package which costs \$ 50 includes \$ 12 airtime. It takes approximately 2 days to have the Ethiopian Telecommunication Mobile Phone connected. Participants coming from the United States of America should kindly note that they can only use tri-band mobile handsets i.e. (900/1800/1900 MHZ).

## Climate

October is the dry season in Ethiopia, but occasional rainfall is possible. The temperature in Addis Ababa during October can be between a minimum of 5 degrees Celsius and a maximum of 25 degrees Celsius.

## Electricity Supply

Electricity supply in Ethiopia is 220-240 volts, 50 cycles AC accessible via 13-amp, two pin (Italian) socket.

## For further information and assistance

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