



First Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-I) Conference

October 17-19, 2011

Background

A strong consensus has emerged among scientists, policy makers and development practitioners that climate change poses complex challenges and opportunities to the development plans of countries in Africa. The IPCC assessed that temperature rises are likely to progressively increase in Africa and other climate related effects such as variability in precipitation patterns and the frequency of extreme weather events will place considerable pressure on livelihoods and economies across the continent. Responding effectively to these challenges needs to happen in alignment with national and regional strategies for development, poverty eradication, economic growth and the enhancement of human wellbeing, while increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change. This principle is in line with the New Partnership for Africa's Development's (NEPAD) vision of eradicating widespread poverty in Africa, putting the continent on a path to sustainable growth and development, and enhancing Africa's integration in the global economy. Achieving these requires intensified regional economic integration in Africa through the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to address the problem of fragmentation and issues related to economies of scale.

The development challenges for Africa will be significant as the continent faces complex economic, social and technological choices, together with uncertainties in understanding future climate changes and their impact on key development sectors such as agriculture, water and energy. The overwhelming need for action on development in Africa should take place in the context of these and other drivers of changes, in full view of the threats that climate change is likely to impose on economic and social systems, then making appropriate provisions for them. Moreover, global policies on finance and technology transfer provide the opening to transform climate challenges into development opportunities in Africa and 'leapfrog' the carbon-intensive phase of development and move directly to cleaner and more advanced transport, energy and land-use solutions. For African governments and the RECs, it means proactively shaping the development of national and regional infrastructures and services and avoiding unsustainable technology 'lock-ins'. In essence, the 'development first' approach epitomizes the organizing principle of pursuing development strategies with concomitant climate change compatibility whilst enhancing the capacity of African countries to implement climate resilient strategies.

The Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev Africa) Programme calls for the organization of an annual conference which serves as an annual stakeholder forum on *Climate Change and Development in Africa* (CCDA). The ClimDev Africa Programme is a joint initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). The programme has been mandated at regional meetings of African Heads of State and Government, as well as by Africa's Ministers of Finance, Economic Development and Planning, and Ministers of Environment, and responds to the urgent challenge that climate change poses to the advancement of Africa's development objectives. More concretely, it seeks to address the need for greatly improved climate data and information for Africa, and to also strengthen the use of such information for decision making by supporting analytical capacity, knowledge generation and sharing activities.

As the Secretariat of ClimDev Africa Programme, the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) will host the inaugural CCDA conference between 17th and 19th October 2011 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The theme for the conference is **Development First: Addressing Climate Change in Africa** to reflect the need for integrating development and climate policies, and emphasize the importance of an African ownership of its policy formulation and decision making process.

The CCDA Conference will bring together three groups of participants for a productive dialogue, to share lessons, identify current gaps and future needs, and discuss a range of potential solutions that make meaningful impacts. These will include: i) high-level decision makers from African member states and the RECs, and representatives from regional and sub-regional climate and multi-disciplinary centres, multilateral organizations, and bilateral organizations; ii) an international field of researchers, scientists, and science and technology specialists from institutions currently engaged in advancing knowledge in climate change with a particular focus on Africa, and iii) representatives from the practitioner community, including private sector, community based and civil society organizations, including NGOs, media and independent writers on climate change and development issues.

Objectives

Overall objective

The overall objective of the conference is to establish a forum for dialogue, enhance awareness raising, mobilize effective commitment and actions through bringing together policy makers, academicians and practicing stakeholder with the aim of effectively mainstreaming climate change concerns into development policies, strategies, programmes and practices in Africa. CCDA also aims to strengthen Africa's position and participation in international climate change negotiations with a view to ensuring adequate reflection of the continent's concerns and priorities in a post-2012 international climate change regime.

Specific objectives

More specifically, the CCDA-I will:

- Deliberate on existing policies, science, knowledge and research concerning development and climate change issues across the continent;
- Demonstrate the compelling evidence and impacts of climate change and the need for adequate climate data, information and services to better inform adaptation and mitigation policies and practices;
- Identify policy and institutional innovations and best practices required to advance climate resilient and low carbon development in Africa;
- Promote sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learned in mainstreaming climate change concerns into development policies and practices;
- Inform the African negotiation position in the run up to the COP-17 in Durban through the analysis and debate of climate change issues relevant for the continent;
- Identify mechanisms for sustained sharing of knowledge on climate change and development in Africa among policy, research and practitioner communities;
- Build and strengthen strategic alliances and partnerships to further Africa's climate change agenda;
- Identify gaps and needs to build coherence between the ClimDev Africa Programme with other initiatives across the continent.

Expected Outcomes and Outputs

Outcomes

Discussions and dialogue during conference will result in:

- Enhanced knowledge for application in climate resilient and sustainable development for policies, planning and practice;
- Enhanced support for rethinking Africa's development priority in the context of climate;
- Better informed African decision makers and practitioners on the necessity of climate science, data and information;
- Increased dialogue and communication space for research, policy and practice nexus;
- Enhanced Africa agenda in the Durban climate change negotiations;
- Strengthened strategic alliances and partnerships for Africa's climate and development agenda;
- Improved delivery of roles and effectiveness of ClimDev Africa programme.

Outputs

Key information and follow-up products that will be produced and disseminated during and after the Forum will comprise the following:

- Conference report
- Press releases
- Daily bulletins
- Web publications Compendium of the conference proceedings.

Theme of CCDA-I Conference:

Development First: Addressing Climate Change in Africa

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

Sub-theme 1: Climate Science, Data, Information and Service Delivery

- Topic 1.1: Climate science
- Topic 1.2: Lessons learned from various initiatives
- Topic 1.3: Data and information

Sub-theme 2: Climate Resilience Development and Adaptation

- Topic 2.1: Socio ecological resilience and climate vulnerability, including health
- Topic 2.2: Climate change and water in Africa
- Topic 2.3: Climate change and agriculture in Africa

Sub-theme 3: Low Carbon Development in Africa

- Topic 3.1: Green economy in the context of Africa
- Topic 3.2: Energy access and poverty
- Topic 3.3: Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) and Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

Sub-theme 4: Economics and Finance

- Topic 4.1: Economics of climate change in the context of Africa
- Topic 4.2: Climate finance
- Topic 4.3: Roles and experience of RECs and Member States in climate change