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Understanding key issues in climate change
negotiations: Relevance for Africa

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Africa; A growing continent

Africa has the source of many drivers of economic growth: Abundant natural resources, a large land mass, and a growing youthful population which means an increase in labor force and consumption market.

- World Bank forecast: growth rate of GDP of sub-Saharan Africa to be 5.3 percent for 2012 and 5.6 percent for 2013, higher than the 4.9 percent for 2011. The IMF put its estimated growth rate for the region at 5.5 percent for 2012.
- IMF Report: In the last decade, six out of 10 fastest growing economies were from Africa; the number is expected to rise to 7 in the next three years to 2015

However, it is continent faced with Real Climate Change Challenges



- Particularly Extreme weather events and sea level rise.
- Causing Loss and damages beyond the ability of African nations to cope
- Undoing some development gains achieved so far



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And as a consequence

- African countries are among the most vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change
- Least to tap on opportunities arising from Climate Change mitigation
- Subject to more vulnerabilities



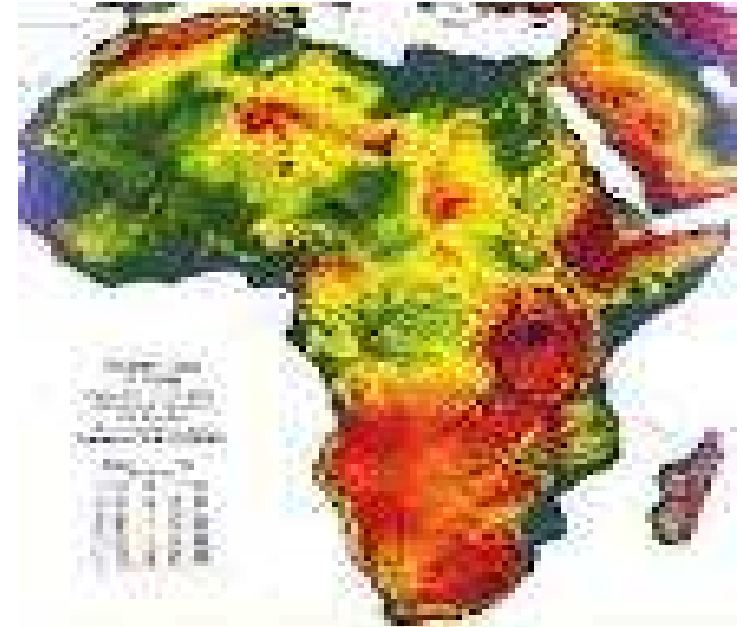
Continued engagement in UNFCCC Process is key

- Thus the need for increased engagement in Multilateral negotiations to be able to adapt and also to take up opportunities arising from mitigation efforts under the UNFCCC



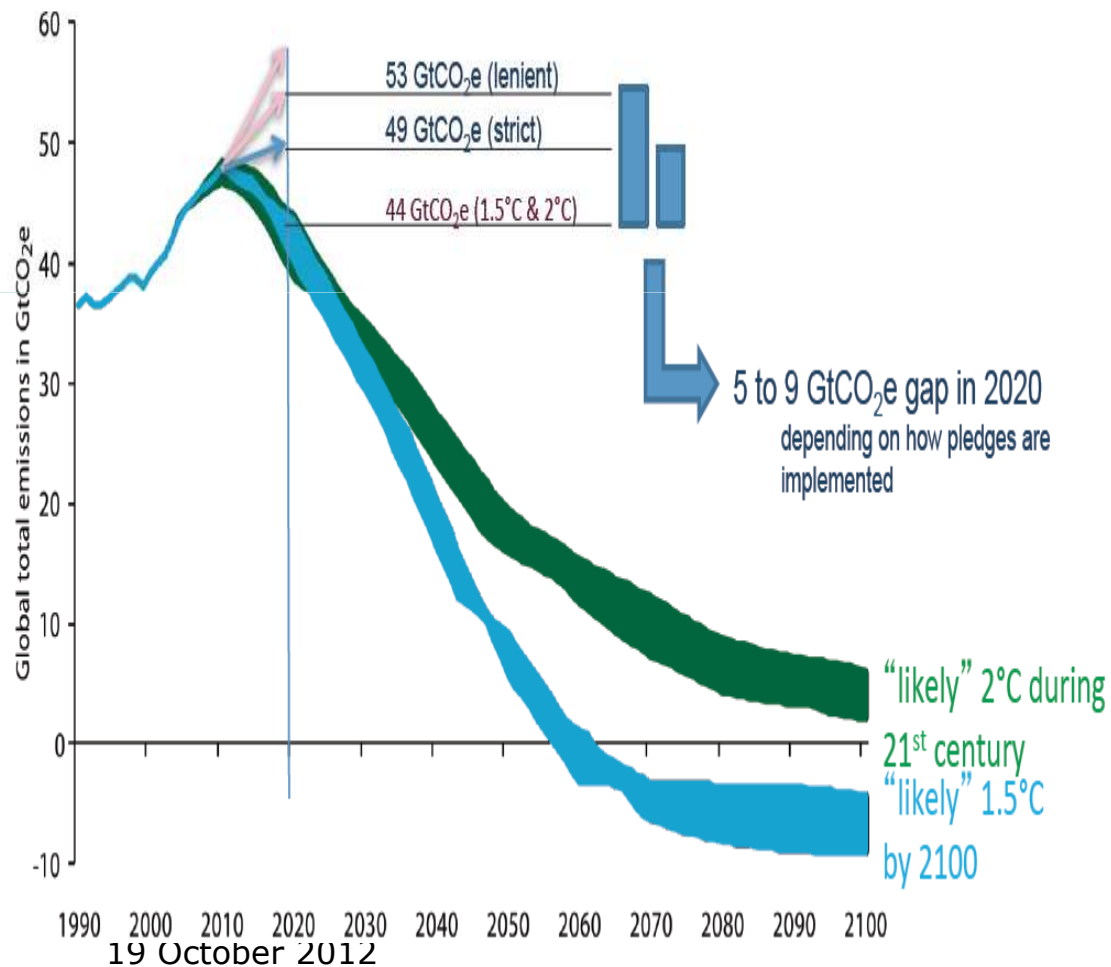
KEY ISSUES UNDER UNFCCC AND THEIR RELEVANCE FOR AFRICA

- Advancing Africa's development agenda within a changing climate - Adaptation
- Mitigating climate change as per the Convention/KP, and through nationally appropriate mitigation actions that can sustain the development agenda for Africa



KEY ISSUES

• Gap of 5 to 9 GtCO₂e/year in 2020 between pledges & levels consistent with 1.5°C & 2°C



○ Mobilizing and providing means of implementation – Finance, Technology and Capacity Building Enhancing actions and collaborative engagement by engaging all parties while respecting the Principles of the Convention – ADP

○

Specific Issues

Supporting Adaptation through National Plans and mechanisms under the Convention is of paramount importance.

2. Key question is clarity on the public sources for funding adaptation
3. Loss and Damage discussions negotiations are increasingly becoming important for Africa





Participating in Mitigation

- A new opportunity for the needed technologies (NAMAs prospect)
- Energy Security through diversification
- Enhanced capacity to adapt
- Engaging and unleashing the potential of the private sector to address challenges of CC on the continent
- Increased FDI and diversified sources of finance through new initiatives e.g offset mechanisms (carbon mkts)

Other areas of particular interest to Africa in the Negotiations

Enhanced Ecosystems and Natural Resources management through international support

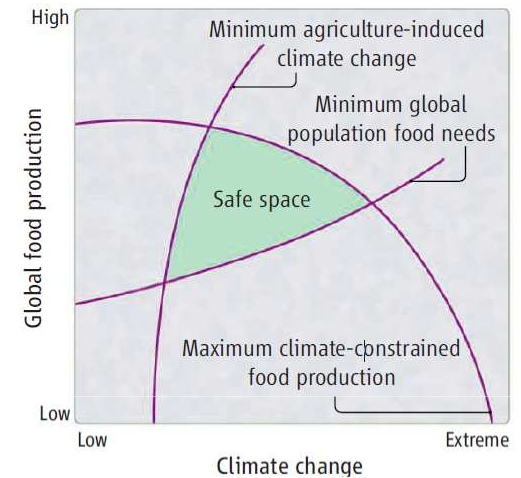
- About 25% of Africa's population (about 200 million people) currently experience high water stress. Sustainable adaptation measures from a Convention perspective remains Africa's focus



Agriculture

Agricultural production and food security are likely to be severely compromised by climate change

- Projected reductions in yield in some countries could be as much as 50% by 2020, and crop net revenues could fall by as much as 90% by 2100. Therefore our engagement in Doha and Beyond should ensure increased efficiency and productivity and in so doing tap on mitigation opportunities



The Forestry Sector and other ecosystems

Changes in a variety of ecosystems are already being detected and new initiatives are in the offing (e.g Blue Carbon)

- By estimation, in the 2080s, the proportion of arid and semi-arid lands in Africa is likely to increase by 5-8% and between 25 and 40% of mammal species in national parks in sub-Saharan Africa will become endangered.
- Deforestation rates, are increasing mainly due to energy needs, agricultural expansion and illegal logging

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The Forestry Sector and other ecosystems

- Therefore Africa's participation in LULUCF related negotiations including REDD+, Aforestation and reforestation has been premised on the fact that Africa needs to be supported financially and technologically to reverse the trend and in doing so the continent can positively contribute to mitigation efforts globally



Means of Implementation

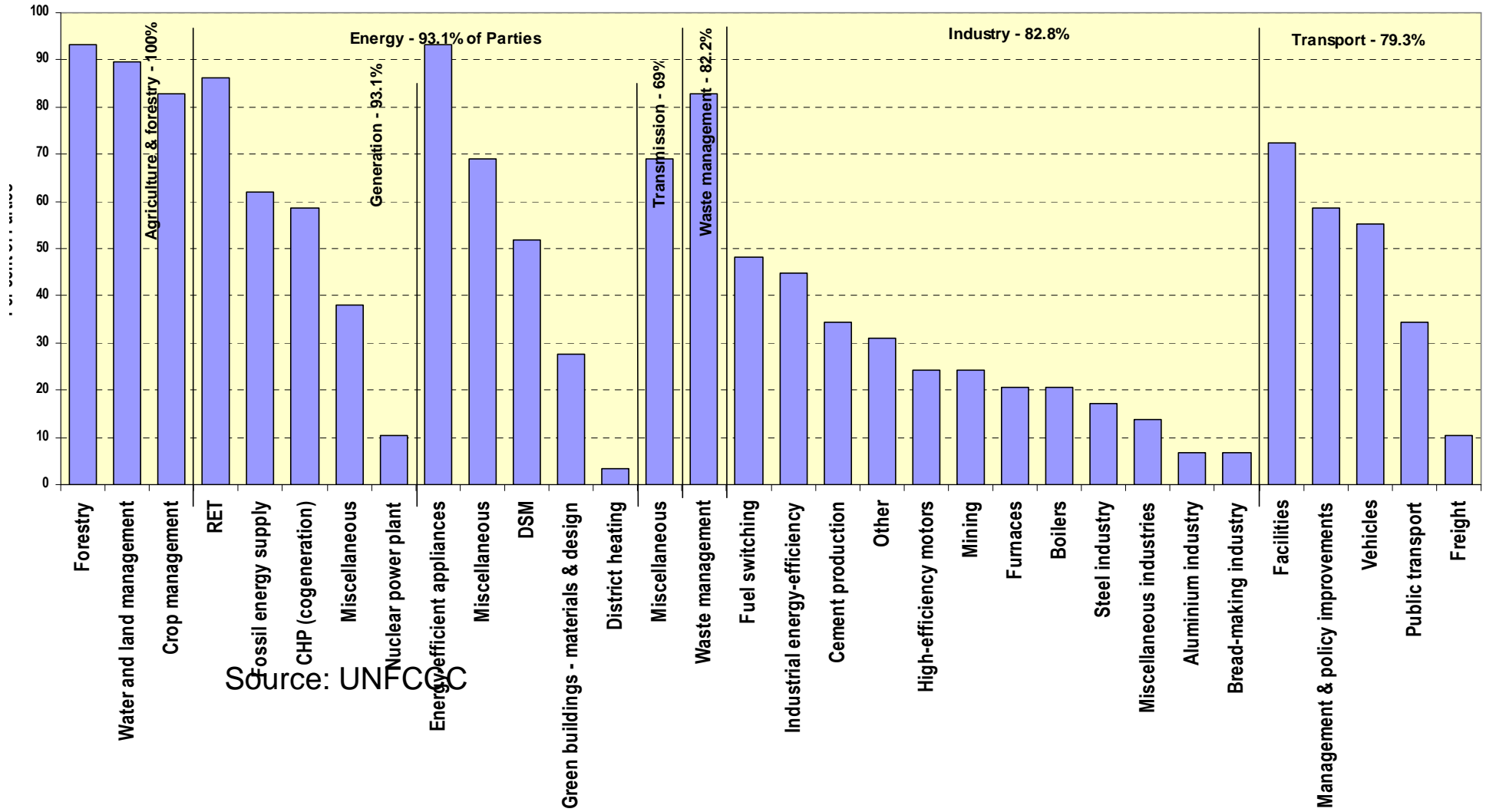
- Financing climate change has been at the centre of debate for many years with financial needs for Africa well articulated almost at every fora. Africa's focus has always remained on **adequacy, participatory governance and reliability of sources.**

Technology needs for Africa

- Should be better attained through centers where endogenous capacity could be unleashed
- IPR may reduce the pace for technology acquisition in Africa
- Going for technologies that can ensure development sustainability and security



Technology needs identified by African countries





increased Capacity Building: Education, Training and awareness

- Under Article 6 of the Convention, Africa will continue to ensure that there is increased support for capacity building in the various areas.
- Under SBSTA the NWP provides and opportunity in this regard

Examples of the education, training and awareness-raising collaborative actions reported by Nairobi work programme partner organizations in Africa

A. Enhancing the assessment and understanding of impacts and vulnerability to climate change	A.2 Promoting the understanding and awareness of impacts and vulnerability to climate change	Unlocking Africa's climate science: Understanding the findings of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IP CC AR4)	Sahara and Sahel Observatory (Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel) (OSS)
B. Improving the ability to make informed decisions on adaptation planning, measures and actions	B.1 Promoting the development, dissemination and application of methods and tools	African regional 'training of trainers' course on ecosystem and community-based adaptation	Wetlands International
	B.2 Facilitating communication, dialogue and cooperation among different stakeholders	Raising awareness in Africa through a regional policy brief entitled Making African Forests Fit for Climate Change	International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IU FRO)
	B.3 Enhancing adaptive capacity through technical and institutional capacity-building	African Climate Change Fellowship Program.	START Currently, 45 fellows from 18 African countries are working on various projects supported by the fellowship programme



Conclusion

Increased engagement by African countries in UNFCCC process remains the best multilateral approach to address the challenges of Climate change

- Will require continuity of African Negotiators and diplomats as well as policy makers to ensure maximum and informed projection of the African agenda. But more importantly to ensure that all other actors on the development agenda do come on board (Climate change is more than environmental issue it is a developmental issue)

Thank you



23 May 2012

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