

ClimDev-Africa Programme

Conference Summary and Recommendations
The Third Conference on Climate Change and Development in
Africa (CCDA-III)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
21-23 October 2013

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1. The Third Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-II) was held from 21-23 October 2013 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting brought together more than 600 delegates from African Member States, Regional Economic Communities, River Basin Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations, policy makers, the private sector, academia, research, practitioners and development partners. The conference was jointly organised by the three Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) partners, the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), supported by the United Nations family and development partners.
2. The overall objective of the conference was to build on CCDA I and II and stimulate debate among experts and stakeholders on how opportunities in climate change can enhance Africa's transformative and inclusive economic growth and development agenda. CCDA-I and II provided critical input in defining the programme and activities of ClimDev-Africa, including investment in climate science data, information and service delivery in pilot countries, and development of a capacity enhancement programme in climate science research. It also advanced the dialogue on climate information services among stakeholders, including beneficiaries of the ClimDev-Africa programme.
3. The main theme of CCDA-III was *Africa on the Rise: Can the Opportunities from Climate Change Spring the Continent to Transformative Development?* The conference had five sub themes:
Sub-theme one: Climate science, data and services for Africa's adaptation and mitigation
Sub-theme two: The role of policy in building Africa's resilience to climate change impacts
Sub-theme three: Climate Finance: What are the unexplored options?
Sub-theme four: Green economy: Which way for Africa?
Sub-theme five: Is the global climate change framework working for Africa?
4. Mr. Carlos Lopes, UN Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mr. Aly Abou-Sabaa, Vice President for Sector Operations II at the African Development Bank, and Her Excellency Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission, provided opening statements. They reiterated their institutions' commitment to ClimDev-Africa, an initiative to address the impacts of climate change on the continent. Mr. Lopes outlined six recommendations for addressing climate change in Africa, in the context of CCDA-III.
5. The Conference was officially opened by His Excellency Ato Alemayehu Tegen, Minister of Water, Irrigation, and Energy of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia. He emphasised the need to integrate climate change in Africa's development frameworks. He reminded the delegates

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that climate change had set the world on a dangerous path that could only be contained through climate resilient green growth, akin to Ethiopia's. The minister urged the African Group of Negotiators to continue their strong negotiations in the UNFCCC towards a legally binding agreement in 2015.

6. A high level dialogue set the scene for the conference. The dialogue included such distinguished personalities as H.E. Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana, H.E. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and Chairperson of the Mary Robinson Foundation, Hon. Saviour Kasukuwere, Minister of Environment, Water and Climate of Zimbabwe and Chair of the African Ministerial Council on Meteorology (AMCOMET), Hon. Mass Axi Gai, Minister of Fisheries and Water Resources, The Gambia, Mr. Jeremiah Lengoasa, Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and Ambassador Gary Quince of the European Union Delegation to the African Union (AU). The discussion was chaired by Dr. Aly Abou-Sabaa, Vice President, African Development Bank.

7. Sub-theme one: Climate science, data and services for Africa's adaptation and mitigation

The last two decades have seen considerable progress in climate science. However, Africa still faces significant challenges with regard to the generation, analysis and dissemination of climate data and information. Africa's climate systems remain poorly understood and inadequately simulated by climate models. This impedes the continent's ability to generate reliable data and provide sound advice for resilience and adaptation to climate variability and change, and the 'mainstreaming' of climate services in Africa. The solution lies in increased investment in climate data infrastructure, the use of satellite technology to improve observation and data analysis, improved modelling capacity, implementation of policies that enhance access to climate data, and the sharing and multi-disciplinary analysis of this data by researchers in climate science.

Key messages

- African countries need to invest more in climate knowledge and services to address the continent's climate change challenges.
- There is need to improve understanding of the African climate system to ensure the provision of reliable advice for resilience and adaptation to climate variability and change, taking into account the different needs on the continent.
- The gathering of climate data, its analysis and dissemination, require a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder orientation.

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- Climate services do not reach those who need them the most. Identifying the needs of User Communities and meeting these needs is crucial.
- There is a great need for high quality and reliable forecasts and projections with the necessary temporal, spatial and user specificities.
- There are good examples of already implemented projects, programmes and lessons including projects of AMMA and ENACTS, programmes of AGRHYMET, ICPAC and ACMAD centres, together with new programmes such as GFCS and MESA. Any further new initiatives can build on the experiences of these programmes.
- There is a disconnect between research and user needs. Effective collaborative research programmes and better coordination in scientific related investment are urgently needed to enable Africa to deliver as one.

Recommendations

- Fully endorse the Arusha African Climate Conference 2013 (ACC2013) statement, and support outreach for its promotion among various constituencies.
- Promote implementation of the ACC2013 statement to advance climate research for development and knowledge in Africa.
- Propose that African institutions establish sustainable coordination platforms, under the leadership of ClimDev-Africa, WCRP and GFCS, on climate research in support of development initiatives in Africa.
- Promote the scaling out to more African countries of pilot projects being conducted by ACPC under the ClimDev-Africa programme.
- As a matter of urgency, ClimDev-Africa and its Partners should render the ClimDev-Africa Special Fund (CDSF) operational.
- Strengthen efforts made by NMHSs and other key institutions in the areas of data rescue, information management, data sharing, and investment in new data network systems and capacity development.
- African governments should invest more in activities related to climate and set aside appropriate budgets for climate research.
- African institutions and governments should be called upon to improve capacity in climate data modelling, use and application.

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- There is need for stronger coordination among different initiatives, including ClimDev-Africa, GFCS, AMCOMET and other similar initiatives.

8. Sub-theme two: The role of policy in building Africa's resilience to climate change impacts.

Climate change is an additional stress on already stretched production and livelihood support systems. It impacts negatively on livelihoods, food security, ecosystems, land, water and energy. The solution space must contain multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder approaches to the development of policies, strategies and programmes that build the resilience of vulnerable groups, ecosystems and development sectors. It is imperative that climate change is integrated into the sustainable development policies and strategies of African governments.

Key messages

- African countries should mainstream climate change into development strategies and policies, using a multi-sectoral approach rather than confining it to key focal point ministries.
- Africa needs to develop a political and practical understanding of climate change. There is need to enhance social protection and social safety nets to address the impacts of climate change on disadvantaged groups in Africa.
- There is a disconnect between scientific research and policy formulation.
- The role of women in agriculture and climate change, particularly in adaptation and mitigation discourses, is not adequately addressed, and needs to be mainstreamed in national planning and in relevant sector policies.
- Actions to mitigate the effects of climate change should not further increase the current burdens that vulnerable women have to contend with in many of the productive sectors

Recommendations

- Africa's sectoral ministries, researchers and practitioners should ensure that the adaptation, development and diffusion of agricultural technology to address climate change is linked to specific agro-ecological zones.
- Researchers must develop appropriate methodologies for full accounting of loss and damage as a result of climate change. Losses may be economic, social and cultural.

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- Policy makers must be called upon to conduct a systematic review of all existing agricultural and other sectoral policies to ensure that they reflect climate change imperatives.
- All relevant institutions must be called upon to enhance the knowledge and capacities of grassroots farmers for climate adaptation, taking into account indigenous knowledge and innovation.
- Experts must develop policy tools for governments to use in addressing climate-induced poverty, including farmer advisory services, early warning, disaster risk reduction, financial instruments, input credit and risk insurance.
- Relevant actors must enhance the dialogue between farmers, scientists and policy-makers.
- African governments must reinforce the links between NAPAs and national investment plans while increasing investment in agriculture.

9. Sub-theme three: Climate Finance: What are the unexplored options?

Africa's climate change response programmes require multiple sources of finance, including domestic, public and private, bilateral and multilateral. Are there yet unexplored options that can advance Africa's interests in what? For instance, should Africa seek to attract 'smart' money by investing in a different set of policies? Or should it seek to strengthen its position that the world's historical polluters should increase their commitments to climate funds?

Key messages

- As Africa continues to seek international sources of finance, the mobilisation of domestic resources is critical.
- Climate finance is not meeting African expectations. There is a need for more clarity, coordination and complementarities between existing climate finance mechanisms.
- Africa must strengthen its ability to access global climate funds.

Recommendations

- Governments and regional economic communities must foster an enabling policy environment that promotes private sector investments in climate change interventions.

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- African researchers and practitioners should analyse sources of climate finance, access by African countries and related information to support African negotiators and policy makers in their work.
- African negotiators should step up efforts to ensure that different negotiation tracks make available funds to support Africa's adaptation and mitigation programmes.
- RECs should play an active role in preparing member countries to absorb climate finance.

10. Sub-theme four: Green economy: Which way for Africa?

The green economy, as one speaker put it, is not a desktop creation. It is about understanding that the world is approaching a biophysical tipping point and must take steps to address challenges to existing development models, including climate change. Africa's recent economic growth, while encouraging, has often been at the expense of the continent's ecosystems. It is important that the continent now looks at development not just in terms of GDP but also the quality of growth. The planetary scale of climate change today means that 'business as usual' must give way to green growth that is resource use efficient, socially inclusive, ensures equity and enhances ecosystem sustainability.

Key messages

- The green economy is a vehicle to achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty.
- There is no question of a choice between economic growth and environmental protection. The green economy is about achieving green growth while at the same time protecting our environment.
- There can be no food security without conserving our natural environment. The challenge for Africa is to increase economic growth without creating imbalances in the environment.
- Africa, seen as the next frontier of global economic growth, has an opportunity to leapfrog into more efficient eco-friendly technologies. Sticking to old technologies will lock the continent on a pathway to adverse effects.
- African assets are now more valuable because of climate change. For example, carbon stored in Africa's forests and soils can provide financial opportunities under the REDD+ mechanism.

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- Africa's demography is another opportunity, if the right skills are provided and economies are diversified, to make the continent more resilient and sustainable.
- Efficient natural resource use will increase economic efficiency, competitiveness, sustainability and build resilience to climate change as Africa increasingly integrates into the global economy.

Recommendations

- Researchers must tap into the knowledge of African farmers, who are closest to the reality of green growth and efficient technology systems.
- Planners of development programmes and projects should include the valuation of Africa's ecosystems as part of their economic evaluations.
- Planners and experts must build credible, evidence-based, tracking, including an appropriate set of indicators, to plan for the green economy and evaluate if Africa is on course for inclusive green growth.
- Governments must provide enabling policies and regulations to attract investments from the private sector to support green development.
- Governments, partners and development agencies should support sustainable forest management practices.

11. Sub-theme five: Is the global climate change framework working for Africa?

UNFCCC is the only global framework for climate change and related solutions. UNFCCC is an essential platform for Africa to share the huge problems it faces as a result of climate change with the rest of the international community. Africa should thus continue to be part of the global negotiations. There is, however, frustration with both the slow pace of global climate negotiations and the failure of partners to honour agreements. This has led to a serious breach of trust between African negotiators and some of their counterparts from the more industrialised parts of the world. The most challenging aspect of negotiations has been to set the level and time frame for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Although the Kyoto Protocol set the level and time frame for developed countries, little has been accomplished, raising the prospect that reducing emissions may need to go beyond the Kyoto Protocol. The question for African countries is whether this can be achieved within the UNFCCC.

Key messages

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- It has taken 17 years to understand that the problems associated with climate change cannot be solved by a group of countries under the Kyoto Protocol, but must involve all, with common but differentiated responsibilities.
- The segmentation of African states into categories such as developing, LDC's, small islands, is a challenge because it can divide countries and undermine the continent's position in global negotiations.
- The global framework on climate change is slow and has not delivered tangible results to the continent, despite Africa's efforts at addressing the impacts of climate change. The process needs to productively engage with Africa and develop programmes that address Africa's specific needs.
- The Convention creates broad rules that pose a challenge for Africa because of limited capacity to meet them. This limits the benefits of the convention to the continent.
- Africa's participation in the UNFCCC process needs strengthening through robust preparation, supported by science-based evidence on each negotiation track.
- Industrialised countries have the responsibility and obligation to address the causes of climate change and support interventions to address its impacts on Africa.
- An institutional mechanism, rather than a market mechanism, is needed to enhance Africa's resource requirements to address loss and damage in the UNFCCC process.

Recommendations

- ACPC must support African Negotiators as they strengthen mechanisms to agree and advocate common African positions in different UNFCCC processes.
- Africa must formulate, before each COP, realistic budget estimates for urgent step-by-step adaptation.
- Researchers and policy analysts should support the African Negotiators through evidence and science based knowledge.
- National negotiators should enhance domestication of decisions taken at COP's and other global and regional forums into national development agenda.

12. Recommendations on Inclusion

- The poor in Africa suffer most from the impacts of climate change. African countries should adopt transformative and inclusive development strategies.

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- Gender should be integrated into research, policy formulation and implementation of interventions and CCDA should develop a gender policy.
- People living with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and should be included in CCDA activities.
- The capacity of women and youth should be strengthened in the use of appropriate agricultural and livestock production technologies and practices that enhance resilience to climate change.
- African youth should be trained in entrepreneurship to enable them contribute to development and become change agents in adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- The organisers of CCDA III should facilitate the establishment of a network of African farmers, who are bearing the brunt of climate change and need a platform to exchange experiences.

October 23, 2013, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia