



05 December 2011

# Africa Pavilion Daily

This Summary Brief is intended for media representatives. Published by the Joint Communication Sub-committee (AU, AfDB and UNECA) in partnership with Dalberg. The Brief summarizes the daily discussion sessions taking place in the African Pavilion, capturing key discussion points, key implications, and key action items from selected sessions.

The Africa Pavilion, located within the precincts of the UNFCCC, is serving as a platform to have Africa's voice heard. To demonstrate Africa's ability to be part of the solution to the challenges of climate change on the continent, the Pavilion is hosting a full program of roundtables and events during the UN climate conference.

All the events organized in the Africa Pavilion are open to media representatives, who can ask questions to the panelists (interpretation English / French available).

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Agriculture and Food Security across Africa**

### **Desert Room (13.20-15.20)**

- The African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the African Union Commission (AU), organized a roundtable discussion, addressing the issue of agriculture and food security across Africa. The roundtable discussion took place in the Desert Room in the African Pavilion.
- The roundtable discussion was moderated by Ms Angela Hansen, Partner and Director – Agriculture and Food Security Practice at Dalberg.
- The following panelists participated in the event:
  - H.E. Mrs. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union
  - Dr. Sheila Sisulu, Deputy Executive Director for Hunger Solutions in the Office of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme.
  - Mr. Josue Dione, Director, Food Security and Sustainable Development Division, UNECA

- Dr. Ramajita Tabo, Deputy Executive Director, FARA.

### **Key Takeaways from the Roundtable:**

- Recognizing the strategic importance of agriculture for Africa's development, in 2003, African Heads of State adopted the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development program (**CAADP**) as a framework to accelerate agricultural and rural development in Africa.
- It was mentioned several times during the discussion that agriculture needs to be kept high on the agenda in all discussions relating to climate change.
- There are many **technologies and best practices** that enhance agricultural productivity with potential for up-scaling. It was stressed that there are new ideas for the enhancement of agricultural productivity but that they must not override the existing methods that are proving to be successful. This calls for training and empowerment of people at grassroots, especially women.
- There is also a need to establish **appropriate disaster risk management capacity** both at the national and regional levels. A good example that illustrates how the importance of this is the current situation in the Horn of Africa. Information was made available before the drought, but action was not taken as the resources were not available. Acquiring resources is a major concern in Africa.
- It was also noted that **finance** does not have to be acquired exclusively from external sources. CAADP aims to get heads of states and their governments to invest at least 10% of national budgets in the agriculture sector. The private sector also has a role to play as Dr. Sisulu explained, using a current project in Ethiopia as an example.
- The main characteristic of Africa's agriculture is that it is subsistence, rain fed, and based mainly on small land holdings. Dr. Sisulu highlighted that in most African countries, **women** do most of the agricultural work, yet despite women's contribution, their role in agricultural planning and national policy formulation is marginalized. Agricultural policy decisions are often planned and implemented without the participation of women and as a result most policies fail to target the priority areas of intervention that would optimize return of investment.

## **Investing in REDD+ in the Democratic Republic of Congo Desert Room (9.00-11.00)**

- In the morning, eager participants in the extensive African Pavilion program on Climate Change gathered in the Desert Room to take part in a session on REDD+ investment in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The session was planned by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

### **Key Takeaways from the Session**

- The discussion aimed to address the REDD+ process in the DRC, specifically the projects undertaken, the lessons learnt and the future prospects.

- Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) is a 20 year program funded by the United States Government to support the Congo Basin Forest Partnership in conserving the Congo Basin forest (the second largest contiguous tropical forest in the world) and its rich biodiversity.
- There are 6 pilot projects, with an approximate cost of US\$22 million and funded by the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF), that have been launched in the DRC. Two of the projects are operational and the other four projects are being prepared for implementation.
- When there are many projects taking place simultaneously, it gets complicated. Therefore, the DRC decided to use a holistic approach by incorporating REDD+.
- The DRC is currently developing a National REDD+ Strategy which it aims to have completed by 2012.
- REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards consist of principles, criteria and indicators which define the necessary conditions to achieve high social and environmental performance.
- It is a major challenge to launch investment plans. Questions that need to be answered include how to mobilize funding, how to build capacity to absorb funds as well as how to allocate funds once they are secured. Each of these challenges is undergoing a detailed analysis.
- A representative from the World Bank sincerely congratulated the DRC for the progress they have made to date and encouraged them not to give up. She also stated that the World Bank is committed to supporting the work being done in the DRC.
- A representative from UN-REDD also stated that they are committed to continuing to work with the DRC.

## Climate Change and African Forest Resources Desert Room (11.30-13.00)

- Africa Forest Forum hosted an event in the Desert Room, launching a Book and a Toolbox, focusing on climate change and forest resources in Africa.

### **Key Takeaways from the Session**

- The session was divided into two parts, the first being the official launch of the publication *Climate Change and African Forest and Wildlife Resources* published by the African Forest Forum (AFF) and the second illustrating the work that is being done in Madagascar in terms of REDD+.
- In the first part, Prof. Godwin Kowero explained that the book was written for two reasons: 1) To highlight to all stakeholders, the climate change issues related to African forestry and wildlife sectors with the view of increasing these sectors' contribution and 2) to outline the opportunity that climate change brings to sectors.
- The book is aimed at a broad audience consisting of policy makers, general public, academia, research and media.

- The remainder of the session was dedicated to presentations illustrating the work that is being done in Madagascar in terms of REDD+.
- The REDD+ FORECA (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation through Committing Forests as Carbon Pools and Sinks) is a pilot project that was started in Madagascar in 2007. It was the first REDD+ project in Africa.
- A presentation on the *toolbox*, a conceptual approach on how REDD+ programs can be taken from national level to the ground, ended the session. Essentially, it is a bottom-up approach which takes the concerns of the people on the ground level into consideration. It is expressed as a good approach to use to implement REDD+ activities as the local people propose strategies and get performance-based incentives.

## **Climate Change Adaptation and Development: A Mainstream Approach**

### **Rainforest Room (11.30-13.00)**

- Monday's first session in the Rainforest Room was hosted by the African Development Bank. The session focused on Climate Change Adaptation and Development and how to use existing climate knowledge and data in project design and planning.

#### **Key takeaways from the Session**

- The African Development Bank has identified climate change as a threat to Africa's development and aims at supporting climate-resilient development and policies aimed at lowering carbon emissions in Africa.
- The Proposed AfDB E&S safeguards presented at the conference were designed to prevent, mitigate and compensate for undesirable ecological and socio-economic consequences that persist at the regional level on the African continent.
- Such safeguards are also designed to ensure the sustainability of operations and to support sustainable development and promote accountability in the regional and national management of social and environmental impacts.
- Current policy, bank procedures and guidelines and tools do not address issues of climate change, supplementary loans and more.
- The African Development Bank XII and GCI have acknowledged these existing gaps in the current regional system and have committed themselves to the update in their safeguards and procedures. They have done this by preparing and adopting an ISS that promotes the mainstreaming of climate change factors into their processes.
- AfDB highlighted the need for reference documentation to be simplified in order to optimize operational procedures. It also noted that regional and national portfolios need to be diversified in order to increase infrastructure in these areas. Harmonizing existing procedures with MFI's also needs to occur.
- Proposed new elements include single-set operational procedures for public and private sectors deriving from existing cross-cutting policies; integration of social sustainability and ecological considerations and reference to new bank structure, amongst others.

- Project highlights include the support program to preserve the Congo Basin Ecosystems, Lake Chad Basin Sustainable Development Program and others.

## **Launch of Africa Atlas: Development Banks Agree new Partnership for Climate Change in Cities Rainforest Room (13.20-14.40)**

- After Lunch, people gathered in the Rainforest Room to participate in a session focused on the launch of the Africa Atlas.

### **Key takeaways from the Session**

- The primary objective of Africa Atlas was to be a scientifically accurate exploration into the depth and breadth of the issue of climate change. The key question posed at the session was whether Africa is competent to effectively deal with climate change.
- Two key challenges came with compiling and subsequently revising Africa Atlas on climate change: making the data practical and easily understood and making the data reliable.
- The authors of Africa Atlas dealt with these challenges by sourcing primary resource data and performing thorough research on all data received, as well as presenting the data in a user-friendly format.
- The result is a singular source of information that is as usable to the local community as it is to members of national governments.
- The Atlas has simplified regional goals of education on climate change and may assist with issues of resistance to the pro-green movement by national and local government and community leaders.
- Other suggested benefits include the empowerment and uplifting of women in rural communities. The women will gain the necessary knowledge to start combating the effects of climate change within their communities by implementing practical pro-green and sustainability programs.
- Further suggested strategies to achieve the goals of Africa Atlas are to simplify the structure into a booklet format with simplified language and images. This will allow community members to easily understand the content and distribute it amongst the communities.

## **National Appropriate Mitigation Actions Rainforest Room (15.00-16.30)**

- At 3pm, the African Development Bank hosted a session on nationally appropriate mitigation actions, focusing on catalysts for low carbon development in Africa.

### **Key takeaways from the Session**

- Since the Copenhagen and Bali climate conferences, Africa as a continent has continued to actively participate in the reduction of carbon emissions and has taken an active role

in submitting NAMA approved strategies to National governments in the respective states.

- NAMA (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions) can basically be defined as an incentivizing strategy designed to reward complaint countries with National and International funding based on the nature of the projects undertaken, as well as other mechanisms.
- Despite accounting for less than 4% of carbon emissions globally, African leaders and experts have acknowledged the extent to which climate change is impacting them directly. Africa is the frontline continent feeling these effects.
- The benefits of NAMA's include direct reduction and mitigation of Green House Gases and reduction of climate impact. The benefits for Regional Revenue include social, economic and environmental benefits.
- However, statistics show that industry and construction on the continent are the areas of most resistance to the NAMA process and speakers at the conference acknowledged that effective strategies need to be created and implemented in order to deal with this issue.
- Gambia, according to a local expert, has already begun to utilize the benefits of NAMA in order to address regional infrastructure, including using loans to improve and replace its old electricity grid. Further proposed projects include transport, agriculture and waste disposal.
- Practical challenges concern these countries, for example a lack of financing from national government, technical support and internal infrastructure. There is also resistance to the promulgation and ratification of NAMA friendly policies by national governments.
- International expert Masayuki Karasawa suggests that bureaucratic and information barriers be overcome by a consolidated governmental approach. It was further suggested at the conference that the African Development Bank, as opposed to international funders, adopt a more assertive role in spearheading financing of NAMA related projects.

## **Pilot Program for Climate Resilience River Room (9.00-11.00)**

- Early in the morning, Climate Investment Funds (African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank Group) hosted an event titled "Pilot Program for Climate Resilience."

### **Key takeaways from the Session**

- CIFs (Climate Investment Funds) are partnerships between countries and banks and it resulted in PPCR (Pilot Programmes on Climate Resilience).
- PPCRs have helped countries into building climate resilience (e.g. Jamaica, Bangladesh, Samoa etc.).

- In Mozambique (Beira), for example, PPCRs are focusing on urban planning. Because cities are the economic powerhouse on any nation, it is important that the infrastructure is climate resilient.
- Various key needs were mentioned in relation to PPCRs:
  - PPCRs need public-private partnership.
  - PPCRs must reach their target - the most vulnerable groups.
  - PPCRs need to put people at the fore front of the agenda.
  - There must be collaboration with different actors.
  - NAPAs in relation to PPCRs must be boosted.
- It was specified that building capacity among countries to enable them to have access to funds was extremely important.
- The World Bank and the African Development Bank are working hard to make sure that PPCRs are effective.
- Adequate planning is key

## Green Growth: The Potential for Africa River Room (11.30-13.00)

- Before lunch, people assembled in the River Room to participate in a session which discussed the opportunities and challenges that green growth offers Africa.

### **Key takeaways from the Session**

- Lack of energy leads to negative social, economic and political impact. The collective impact reverses development.
- People, economy and the environment are key in green growth.
- Financial institutions are willing to fund Green Growth. This is important for the success of the process.
- Governments are responsible for creating an enabling environment for investors to invest in Green Growth.
- Public funds must be used to build capacity for receiving Green Growth kind of funds.
- Private investors need security on their investments; it's the government's responsibility to grant incentives that will ensure security on private investors. Alterations in policies are needed in order to favour private investments.
- Africa should fully utilize the renewable energy potential that lies in the continent. This calls for a need to improve skills and share information with other developing countries.
- The right institutions and frameworks must be in place.
- Awareness among people should also be a priority which will lead to integrative decision making.

## Get the Inside Scoop: Energy Markets in Africa River Room (15.00-16.30)

- At 3 pm the African Development Bank and the Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo arranged a meeting on energy markets in Africa, focusing on Africa's untapped potential.

### Key takeaways from the Session

- The AfDB joined forces with the Brazilian government to encourage the Brazilians to work with Africa for mutual benefit.
- Energy is crucial for development and Brazil is currently involved in many projects that tackle the issue of lack of energy.
- Hydroelectricity is not fully utilized in Africa and the collaboration is working towards changing this situation. Central Africa has the highest potential in hydroelectricity production.
- African countries need to work together to make use of this potential. The current collaboration between South Africa and Congo (Congo River Hydroelectric Project) is one example of such a collaboration.
- Brazil has been successful in clean forms of energy and it lays an example that Africa needs to follow.
- Currently, most poor Africans use wood for household fuel. This, however, has proven to be unhealthy due to the various diseases such fuel causes.
- There is a huge potential, especially in the sugar industry, for the production of ethanol as an alternative to fossil fuels.
- The AfDB plays a mediation role. It ensures that project proposals for biofuels do not pose a threat to food security. Also it ensures that producers make a commitment to improve food security.



## **Announcement:**

### **African Group of Negotiators at COP17**

The African Group of Negotiators at COP17 held a press briefing today, Monday 05 December 2011.

The press briefing was focused on the African Position and statement at COP17 that has been issued so far on behalf of the African Group.

The press briefing was addressed by Mr. Hussen Alfa Nafo, Spokesperson of the African Group of Negotiators.

The second press briefing of the African Group Negotiators is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 07 December 2011, at 16:30 -17:00**, at the Yellowwood Room, Ground Floor, in the ICC.

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## **Interview Requests**

A wide array of senior officials from the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa are attending the COP17/CMP7 discussions in Durban.

Interview requests can be sought from the communications officers listed below by mail or telephone.

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