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**ClimDev-Africa**

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The first Climate Change and Development  
in Africa (CCDA-1) Conference

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
17-19 October 2011

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

**Concept note**

## Background

A strong consensus has emerged among scientists, policy makers and development practitioners that climate change poses complex challenges to the development plans of countries in Africa. The IPCC assessed that temperature rises are likely to progressively get higher in Africa and that 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 alleviation, economic growth and the enhancement of human wellbeing, while increasing resilience to the physical 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, put the continent on a path to sustainable growth (and development), and accelerate the integration of the continent into the global economy. Achieving these requires intensifying regional integration in Africa through the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to address the problem of fragmentation and issues related to economies of scale.

Clearly, 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 and food security, forests, health, water and energy. The overwhelming need for action on development in Africa needs to take place in the context of these challenges, with 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 a unique opportunity to transform climate challenges into development opportunities across Africa, to 'leapfrog' the carbon-intensive phase of development, and to move directly to cleaner and more advanced transport, energy and land-use solutions. For African governments and RECs, it means having the possibility to proactively shape the development of their national infrastructures and services and avoid unsustainable technology 'lock-ins'. In essence, the 'development first' approach offers the organizing principle to pursue development strategies with ancillary climate benefits and enhance capabilities of African countries to implement these climate resilient strategies.

The Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev Africa) Framework Programme Document calls for the organization of an annual conference which serves as a 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, Planning and 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 improving analytical capacity, knowledge management and dissemination activities.

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

## **Rationale and Sub-themes of CCDA-I Conference**

Africa's major concern is development and as such at the heart of Africa's vulnerability is the low level of socio-economic development. The '**Development First**' agenda brings into sharp focus the critical development challenges that African countries face today against a backdrop of a changing climate that threatens to undermine both human and ecological systems. In essence, it is important to make the case for mobilizing people and resources with a view to creating better adaptive capacities, climate resilient infrastructures and better informed citizens able to respond effectively to current climate vulnerability as well as to the risks associated to longer-term climate change. The 'Development First' agenda is also about charting a new development paradigm for the continent to pursue a low carbon pathway with a view to invest into 'durable' and sustainable infrastructures. Africa has the opportunity to pursue a climate resilient and climate-proof development more so than any other region, primarily because the continents infrastructure is yet to be built.

The CCDA-I is a great opportunity to bring Africa's development agenda to the forefront of climate change discussions in advance of the COP-17 to be held in Durban in South Africa in November/December 2011. As such, the conference will be a vibrant space for dialogues and interactions, bringing together the best minds in Africa and beyond to focus on Africa's climate change and development perspectives, opportunities and actions.

The CCDA-I will focus on four major sub-themes related to advancing knowledge on the development and climate change nexus in Africa and examine appropriate policy options that can integrate climate change and development goals. The themes to be addressed by the conference are:

- Sub-theme 1: Climate Science, Data, Information and Service Delivery
- Sub-theme 2: Climate Resilience Development and Adaptation
- Sub-theme 3: Climate Resilience and Low Carbon Development in Africa
- Sub-theme 4: Economics and Finance

### **Climate Science, Data, Information and Service Delivery**

The climate science topic looks at how climate science is used in Africa, and the level of capacity of institutions and the use of cutting edge science in addressing climate change issues. Science-informed and evidence based policy, planning, and practice will ensure that development is more resilient and less vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, thus fostering sustainable development. However, the use of climate information and science in

Africa has been very weak. On one hand, the climate community in Africa has not been able to provide the appropriate decision-relevant information. On the other hand, even the available climate information is not being used appropriately. Some of the major challenges for the climate community have been critical lack of trained hydrologists and meteorologists, inadequate station network, and very weak communication and computational capacity. From the user side, the main obstacles include lack of appropriate climate information and services, inadequate awareness about the existence of specific climate information, a lack of access to specific data, lack of understanding and capacity to use climate information, reluctance to incorporate climate issues in management practices, and poor understanding on how to deal with scientific uncertainties. In addition there is an urgent need to improve the database, enhance and scale-up information sharing. This includes modern real-time Africa-wide hydro-meteorological networks both using ground-based systems building on growing internet/GSM or other low-cost telemetry and effective use of existing satellite products. These networks and related data should be linked to forecasting and warning systems that make effective use of modern information and communication technologies, and climate risk management decision support tools to improve water resources and disaster management.

This sub-theme and corresponding topics covers and deals with the review and state of climate science in Africa and designed to provide adequate information with respect to the current state of knowledge, the knowledge and capacity gaps and the relevant technological, institutional and policy interventions. As such, this sub-theme is strongly related to a core area of the ClimDev-Africa Programme.

### **Climate Resilience and Low Carbon Development Adaptation in Africa**

Countries across Africa are already subject to climatic stress because of their location in the tropics where there is a high incidence of weather-related shocks. These shocks include drought, storms, flooding and extremes of temperature. The economic impact of these physical shocks on livelihoods is exacerbated further by low levels of development and widespread poverty, which together increase the vulnerability of local communities to the effects of climate variability and change. It is therefore imperative for African countries to move along a development pathway that emphasizes poverty reduction, economic growth and the enhancement of human wellbeing, while increasing resilience to the physical impacts of climate change. Meeting these inter-related challenges creates climate-resilient development. For this to occur, governments must invest in infrastructure and services that provide the means through which social and economic development goals can be achieved. Building climate-resilience implies doing development differently: identifying future opportunities and threats, and then making appropriate provisions for them. To this end, pursuing a low-carbon development pathway offers a practical organizing framework for future development planning in Africa. It provides the opportunity to transform climate challenges into development opportunities. The low-carbon development pathway also creates an opportunity for African countries to strategically modernize and upgrade their water, energy, urbanization plans, agricultural systems, transport, and other critical infrastructure assets.

The African continent does not yet have as much of a sunk cost in carbon-intensive infrastructure as other regions, and is in a comparatively better position to avoid unsustainable technology 'lock-ins'. Indeed, African governments and their Regional Economic Communities (RECs) across the continent can today proactively aim to shape the development of their national infrastructures and services. Furthermore, the co-benefits of low-carbon development patterns are potentially significant across Africa, allowing for the necessary interventions to create multiple benefits for local communities, national governments and RECs. For example, the co-benefits of reduced reliance on fossil fuels include reduced air pollution (indoor and outdoor), enhanced energy security, and lower foreign exchange payments. These co-benefits can facilitate wider development outcomes such as improved urban quality of life, public health and potentially improved balance of payments due to the reduced demand for energy imports.

In most countries, however, these benefits are rarely quantified. Ignoring co-benefits results in over-estimating the economic costs of other environmentally sound development pathways, often at the expense of wider social and livelihood benefits. Achieving the twin goals of moving away from carbon-intensive infrastructure and maximizing co-benefits will require informing policymakers and influencing decision-making at many levels of society. The success of such an undertaking is predicated on how well existing knowledge is mapped out and new knowledge is generated for these purposes. The process of re-framing the policy agenda to respond to needs and priorities must involve supporting institutions at regional, sub-regional and national levels so as to engage actively with existing mechanisms and to encourage existing institutions to play key roles in the framing of new instruments for funding and action. Hence, the importance of putting in place coordination structures to draw together knowledge generation, policy and practice cannot be overstated. In short, African governments and private sector entities must capitalize on existing and emerging climate finance and technology transfer mechanisms to service key development sectors, especially the energy sector. Clearly, the pathway to a low-carbon future will be complex. It will need to be cross-sectoral in character, and assimilate the priorities of the range of stakeholders and organizations with a view to widen participation, create collective ownership, capacity and consensus around the low-carbon development issues. In practice, this will require policies that create an enabling environment for public and private sectors, that facilitate coordinated activities in, and across sectors and at multiple levels with the purpose of ensuring development is at the core of climate action. The principle of working across sectors and disciplines does not come naturally as it challenges entrenched institutional and sectoral behaviors. Achieving these outcomes will necessitate meeting a range of new institutional challenges for which existing African entities may be ill prepared. It is essential to hold cross-sectoral conversations on these institutional challenges in order to advance the low-carbon agenda and to make that agenda compatible with each country's national development priorities.

Climate resilience and low carbon development are the key components of the 'Development First' building blocks. One arm of it is about protecting investments and, by definition, development itself from the impact of climate change and the other arm relates to investing better and smarter with a clear vision of the future. The climate resilience adaptation and low carbon development sub-themes will provide a valuable discussion into the key features that offer meaning to the 'Development First' thinking.

## Economics and Finance of climate change in the context of Africa

Economic impacts of climate change are likely to be much higher in Africa than in other world regions. They could be significant in the short-term, with estimates that the costs could be equivalent to 1.5 - 3% of GDP each year by 2030 in Africa. Despite Africa's vulnerability to climate change and climate variability, there is a distinct lack of economic assessments and implications of the costs of adaptation and mitigation to climate change impacts. This gap requires (i) investigating and building evidence of the costs of adaptation and mitigation, and producing a range of estimates for adaptation and mitigation costs in Africa, and (ii) capacity building efforts aimed at building a deep and talented cadre of African researchers that are able to assess the risks posed by climate change and their economic implications, assess and integrate climate adaptation issues into long-term strategic development planning and to build, strengthen and enhance the knowledge base and research capacity of African institutions. All these activities are crucial to African policymakers, practitioners, and the international climate change community to establish a collective target for financing adaptation in Africa, and for improving the understanding of adaptation and mitigation investment requirements across Africa especially given the 'development first' agenda.

The fact that Africa has contributed the least to historic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is well documented, and yet the negative impacts of climate change in Africa will be severe. The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that by 2020, some regions in Africa could see crop yields from rain-fed agriculture decline by as much as 50%, and some 75-250 million people could be affected by water shortage. Africa will therefore need substantial resources for adaptation to climate change. The World Bank has conservatively estimated the costs for adaptation to climate change in Africa will amount to close to \$18 billion (at 2005 prices). In addition, the costs of putting Africa on a low-carbon growth path could reach \$22-30 billion per year by 2015 and \$52-68 billion per year by 2030. African countries are unlikely to be able to generate these resources from domestic sources, and nor should they have to, given their very low (in some cases: near zero) responsibility for causing climate change and their low own financial and technological capabilities.

Financing climate mitigation and adaptation in developing countries represents a major challenge in the outcome of a post-2012 international climate agreement. The effective mobilization of financial resources is regarded by many as a key area of intervention in order to stabilize the climate for which significant reduction in emissions will be required. Large-scale investments in energy and other key infrastructures will be essential to meet both development and climate objectives in Africa.

In late 2010, the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP-16) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) convened in Cancun, Mexico. The Cancun climate talks concluded with a package, dubbed the 'Cancun Agreements' consisting of a set of decisions

anchoring national mitigation pledges and taking some important steps to strengthen finance, transparency in emissions reporting by all countries and other elements of the multilateral climate framework. The Cancun Agreements build directly on the Copenhagen Accord, hence importing the essential components of the Accord into the UNFCCC and therefore giving it legitimacy and the possibility to implement some of the elements in the Accord. One element of the agreements is that it formalized the finance goals set in Copenhagen to mobilize *fast-start* and *long-term* climate finance. As such, a collective commitment was made by developed countries ‘to provide new and additional resources through international institutions, approaching \$30 billion in fast start finance for the period 2010-2012’. Funding for adaptation will be prioritized for the most vulnerable developing countries, which includes LDCs, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and countries in Africa.

The long-term climate finance would commit developed countries to mobilize \$100 billion a year in public and private finance by 2020 to meet mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries that are ‘particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change’. The decision was also taken in Cancún to establish a ‘Green Climate Fund’, which will manage a portion of the long-term finance. The funds may come from a variety of sources, including public, multilateral development banks (MDB), carbon markets and private capital. The need for scaled up finance, and disbursed through diverse routes was also identified by the UN High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing (AFG).

The economics and finance of climate change sub-theme will offer some insight into the cost of climate change on livelihoods, economic and ecological systems. Furthermore, the economic rationale for an early investment in climate-proofing development as a way to avoid future costs will be explored. The complex discussions around climate finance will also be presented in this sub-theme with a particular focus on the opportunities for a meaningful outcome at the COP-17 in Durban.

## **Objectives of the Conference**

### **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.

The CCDA conference builds directly on the African Development Forum VII; AfricaAdapt symposium, and many African and other forums, initiatives, and activities and outcomes of initiatives including for example the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN); the Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC); the UNFCCC and related instruments; The United Nations Secretary General’s High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing (AGF); the Global Climate

Observation System (GCOS) and its sub-regional climate programme; and the Africa-EU Climate Change Partnership. The conference will help position the ClimDev Africa programme within this evolving knowledge and institutional terrain and how best it can facilitate the interaction between the policy, research and practice communities.

The CCDA Conference will bring together three categories of participants 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 their RECs, regional and sub-regional climate centers, multilateral organizations, and bilateral organizations representatives; ii) an international field of researchers, scientists, and science and technology specialists from research institutions who are actively engaged in advancing knowledge in climate change with a particular focus on Africa, and iii) practitioner community, including private sector, community based organizations and civil society organizations, including NGOs, media and independent writers on climate change and development issues.

### 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.
- Feed into the ClimDev Africa work plan for 2012



## Expected Outcomes and Outputs

### Outcomes

The primary outcome of the 1<sup>st</sup> CCDA Conference will be increased dissemination of knowledge on climate change and development issues pertinent to African stakeholders and institutions actively engaged in this field, and the ACPC and ClimDev Africa are recognized and taken as the major convening initiative of Africa. The deliberations and the events will lead to improved understanding of the array of activities that aim to integrate climate and development concerns within countries and across the RECs, and the range of strategies and policies that underpin these activities. The conference will also stimulate and facilitate longer-term communication and collaboration between researchers and practitioners in their effort to support evidence-based policy outcomes. The conference outcomes will feed into the COP-17 in Durban in terms of supporting the African negotiators in their preparations and improving Africa's visibility at the event. Specifically, discussions and dialogues 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.

### Organization of the CCDA Conference

Based on the above theme, sub-themes and topics, the conference will feature:

- High-level presentations and roundtable discussions on selected topics on climate change and development by senior officials and policy makers from Africa and beyond;
- Panels bringing together experts from governments, international agencies, non-governmental organizations, scientists, and the private sector;

- Parallel sessions on the thematic areas and topics on which the conference is expected to achieve progress.

In order to solicit substantive inputs from various actors strategic approach is taken in that. Contribution will be made from ACPC papers, invited papers from renowned institutions and open calls.

This conference is a ClimDev Africa event. As secretariat, the ACPC will coordinate the preparations and ensure the delivery of a successful conference. This will require establishing working groups whereby each will take responsibility in a specific aspect of the preparations and coordinate their activities with other working groups. The working groups will consist of the following:

- Programme organizing
- Logistics
- Communications
- Finance
- Documentation

It is anticipated that these conference will provide a greater opportunity to broadly introduce ClimDev Africa and requires mobilizing the support from the AUC, AfDB and UNECA divisions and sub-regional organizations as well as stakeholders is paramount to ensure a broader representation of ideas and shared ownership of the conference.

## Agenda

Pertinent documents are prepared and include in

- The annotated agenda – Annex 1
- Detail programme of the conference – Annex 2
- Call for papers Annex 3
- Call for exhibition – Annex 4
- Notes and guidance for keynote speakers, round table discussants, paper presenters, rapporteurs – Annex 5