

CONCEPT NOTE

The African Union Green Recovery Action Plan

COVID-19 represents the biggest global economic shock since The Great Depression is affecting Africa particularly hard due to existing vulnerabilities. As a result, food insecurity and debt has been rising, and hard-won development gains are being lost. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds in Africa, the situation remains fluid and rapidly evolving, with measures needed to ensure the trajectory of the recovery remains in line with the Paris agreement and the ambition of COP26.

The AU Green Recovery Action Plan (AU GRAP) was developed by the Commission¹ at pace in 2020 with support from South Africa (as President of AMCEN), UNECA, the United Kingdom and the NDC Partnership. This Action Plan is intended to contribute towards the realisation of AU member States Recovery plans and regional programmes such as the African Green Stimulus Programme (AGSP).

Under the leadership of the African Union (AU) and in partnership with other international partners and organizations, the AU Green Recovery Action Plan (2021-2027) will embolden action on the five priority areas: -

- I. **Climate finance**, including increasing flows, efficiency, and impact of funding.
- II. Supporting **renewable energy, energy efficiency and national Just Transition** programmes.
- III. **Nature-based solutions and focus on biodiversity** through work on sustainable land management, forestry, oceans, and ecotourism.
- IV. **Resilient agriculture**, by focusing on inclusive economic development and green jobs; and
- V. **Green and resilient cities**, including a focus on water (flooding and water resources) and enhancing information, communication and technology.

The GRAP will utilise existing AU mechanisms for communicating with Member States and Regional Economic Commissions (RECs); Contribute towards attaining the targets contained in Agenda 2063: 'The Africa We Want' and to support the Continent to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

A series of consultations have been held including: a) between the AU Commission, member states, and Regional Economic Communities; b) with AU Missions and Focal Points in Addis; and c) a joint AU-UK series of consultations with international partners. Through these consultations, some 'Champions' have made commitments and pledges to support some of the priority areas of the Action Plan.

AUC will provide the overall support to coordinate activities across the thematic areas through a secretariat with resource specialist and experts seconded in to support information management, technical analysis and coordination.

The following roles are envisioned for the different stakeholders: -

¹ AU Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) and Department of Energy and Infrastructure (DIE)

AU Member States:

AU member States will be called upon to support through championing political support for the thematic areas to mobilise, coordinate, and provide technical support for Green Recovery efforts across the continent. They will also be requested to support the action plan by Supporting the development of and integration of Principles of Green Recovery into ongoing and future plans; Monitoring and tracking the implementation of the Action Plan and participate in events related to the Green Recovery Action Plan.

International Partners:

- I. International partners are called upon to support the thematic areas to mobilise, coordinate, and provide technical support for Green Recovery efforts across the continent.
- II. Prioritising investments and technical support for African Union Member states
- III. Supplement:
 - a. Supporting the development of and integration of principles of Green Recovery into ongoing and future plans and investments
 - b. Support to the dedicated technical experts/leads within the AU Commission to liaise with Regional Economic Commissions and Member States on the GRAP;
 - c. Support 'signature' initiatives to push forward dialogue in Africa, including setting up task forces for the different thematic areas for example a Task Force for Climate Finance, Task Force on Renewable Energy or Green Recovery;
 - d. Support to lessons sharing, side events at major events, commissioned reports under the GRAP, and dialogue platforms

Impact of the AU Green Recovery Action Plan:

1. Leverage the convening power and influence of the African Union to support green recovery efforts across regions and member States contributing towards attaining the targets contained in Agenda 2063: 'The Africa We Want' and to support the Continent to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. By 2027, The AU GRAP will galvanise efforts to support green recovery efforts across the five priority areas through international partners, Pan African institutions², Regional Economic Commissions, and African member states by:
 - i. Mobilising resources, and technical support for member states
 - ii. Adopting Green Recovery Principles³ in planning, development and investment strategies,
 - iii. Increase the visibility African stakeholders' international fora.

² Including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and a wide range of regional and continental initiatives, Development banks, the private sector, Regional Economic Commissions, and African Union member States,

³ To be developed with member states and international partners

