



Economic Commission
for Africa

ACP•C
African Climate Policy Centre

A photograph of a lush green tree with many small white flowers, set against a white background.

Climate change meets policy

A close-up photograph of a woman's face. She has green face paint on her forehead and neck. Her hair is styled to look like a tree with green leaves and brown branches. She has black teardrop-shaped markings under her eyes and is smiling slightly.

**Understanding Africa's place
within the UNFCCC process**

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Why Africa is concerned

- * Africa is most vulnerable to climate variability and to climate change impacts.
- * Climate change impacts challenge Africa's development efforts in almost every sector (livelihoods, socio-economy, security, etc).
- * Climate change is an environmental and global concern needing global and local solutions.
- * Cost of adaptation and of putting Africa on a low carbon growth pathway is estimated at about US\$22-31 billion per year by 2015, and \$52-68 billion per year by 2030.
- * « Climate-proofing » could add 40% to the costs of meeting the MDGs in Africa.
- * This would require international financial assistance of some US\$100 billion a year over the next decade.
- * These costs are low in comparison with the economic benefits of adaptation and mitigation.

Climate Change as a development issue

- * Addressing climate finance implies revisiting current developmental approaches
- * While mitigation contributes to a low carbon development pathway, adaptation is all about supporting climate-resilient development in Africa.
- * Therefore, Africa has an opportunity to integrate climate and development approaches.

1. A long walk

- * A decade after the 1979 World Climate Conference, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted in May 1992.
- * The objective of the Convention and any related legal instrument is: to achieve the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous antropogenic interference with the climate system (Art. 2).
- * This objective is to be achieved by measures guided by the principles of equity and the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective

capabilities of developed and developing countries...

- * At COP-3 held in Kyoto, Japan (1997), the Kyoto Protocol (KP) to the UNFCCC was adopted.
- * The KP aims to reduce emissions of Annex I countries by at least 5.2% below 1990 levels (and in some cases 1995 levels) in the period 2008-2012. Individually, these countries have separate commitments.
- * The 1997 Kyoto Protocol established the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM – Art. 12), enabling projects in developing countries to achieve SD, contribute to the ultimate objective of the Convention and assist developed countries in complying with their quantified emission reduction and limitation commitments.
- * Under the Protocol, countries with commitments are also allowed to participate in emissions trading (ET – Art. 17) among themselves.
- * The UNFCCC Convention recognises common but differentiated responsibility.
- * KP needs review: in the review, developing countries are also being required (and have committed) to reducing GHG emissions.

Coalitions in the Climate Change Regime and how they could affect Africa

- * The negotiations take place among 194 countries. It is impossible to negotiate with each country individually. This means that countries try to develop coalitions with other countries.
- * Coalitions can be power-based (e.g. G-77 versus non-G-77; see Section 7), issue-specific (e.g. Alliance of Small Island States – AOSIS), institutionalized or formal (e.g. the European Union – EU), political or constructed (e.g. JUSSCANNZ).
- * The disadvantage of coalitions is that although in theory, one has the flexibility to maneuver in different groups, in practice it is very difficult to move out of a specific coalition.

3. Understanding the language of negotiations

- * Climate change, and especially climate change negotiation is a relatively new subject outside professional circles.
- * New words and acronyms are constantly coming into use and need to be mastered by all negotiators to be able to follow the negotiations.

- * UNFCCC has published and regularly updates a glossary of climate change terminologies. It is also posted on the ACPC website <http://www.uneca.org/acpc>

4. The divisions across the groups in Non-Annex I

The non-Annex I countries too have diverse groupings.

- * The Africa Group consists of 53 (54) countries.
- * The Group of Latin America & the Caribbean has 33 members.
- * Asia does not have a regional group in the negotiations.
- * There is AOSIS which has 42 members of which four are not independent States and five are not members of G-77.
- * OPEC has 11 members in Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- * GRILA is an informal group in Latin America.
- * The non-G-77 non-Annex I countries consists of 23.

5. The Africa Group

The African countries also have diverse groupings.

- * The Africa Group hosts the highest number of Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

- * Africa also has members of the AOSIS.
- * For some African countries, GHG emission-per capita is considerable.
- * Africa also has member states that belong to OPEC, with varying financial concerns.

6. Challenges Africa faces within UNFCCC process

- * Lack of institutional capacity.
- * Weak climate change adaptive capacity and coping ability.
- * Need for improved awareness and internalised climate change assessment.
- * Absence of a legislative framework to stimulate climate change strategies.

7. Role of African Climate Policy Centre

To address the gaps identified in paragraph 6 above, ACPC has to participate in:-

- * strengthening the capacity of African countries to participate more effectively in international climate negotiations, particularly the development of a comprehensive and equitable post-2012 climate agreement, and to benefit from the emerging carbon trading system and adaptation/mitigation financing;

- * enhancing the capacity of African countries to develop coherent policy frameworks for coordinating adaptation and mitigation investment; as well as for disseminating climate information and knowledge generated at all levels;
- * improving the capacity of member States and Regional Economic Communities for integrating climate-related concerns in their development policies, frameworks and plans;
- * ensuring a solid foundation of applied climate science and assessments of climate vulnerability, risks and impacts; and,
- * identifying sectoral priorities and responses for managing climate risks, and guide the related investment process over the next several decades.

ACPC is one of the clear manifestations of the political will necessary for all the

major development partners in Africa to collectively face the impacts of climate change head-on.

It will continue to:-

- * assist African governments and institutions to benefit, as much as possible, from the opportunities climate change offers;
- * federate, or at least synergize ongoing initiatives on climate change so as to minimize duplication and reduce waste;
- * foster more understanding of the risks posed by climate change in Africa;
- * garner the necessary political support for Africa to speak with one voice on climate change issues; and,
- * steer the process and organise dialogue to reduce climate change risks.

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ClimDev Africa Partners



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