AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT 2

8–10 September, 2025
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

High-Level Side Event

African Islands Innovations:

Powering Resilience and Sustainability

10th September 2025 11h30-13h | African Development Bank Pavilion | ACS-2, Addis Ababa

1. Background & Context

Africa's island states are on the frontline of the climate crisis, facing acute and intersecting vulnerabilities from rising sea levels, shifting oceanic patterns, extreme weather events, and accelerating biodiversity loss. Despite these challenges, they are also emerging as hubs of climate innovation and resilience, advancing locally led solutions grounded in indigenous knowledge, blue and green economy models, biodiversity conservation, and ocean- and nature-based development strategies.

To build on this momentum, the African Island States Climate Commission (AISCC) has been working to strengthen partnerships with key regional and international stakeholders, including the African Union Commission (AUC), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other vertical climate and environment funds, UN agencies, bilateral donors, and philanthropic foundations.

As a political and technical platform mandated by the African Union, AISCC plays a key role in championing the unique priorities of African Island States on climate finance, adaptation, and sustainable development, while advancing common positions in regional and global fora.

While the African Development Bank is advancing a dedicated, integrated approach to climate resilience in African Island States—tailored to their unique development needs and environmental realities—the AISCC and UNECA, with support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), are implementing the RESIslands initiative. This pioneering platform unites nine member states—Cabo Verde, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritius, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, and Tanzania (Zanzibar)—to strengthen resilience through regional collaboration on climate innovation, risk management, and sustainable development.

This side event at the Second Africa Climate Summit will serve as a strategic platform to showcase island-led climate solutions, elevate the voices of African Island States and SIDS, and catalyze new partnerships to expand the RESIslands initiative. It will position African Island States as champions in regional climate resilience and innovation.

2. Objectives

- To spotlight innovative climate resilience and sustainability solutions being developed and deployed by African Island States.
- To amplify the AISCC led initiatives and the AfDB African Island States approach.
- To showcase RESIslands initiative as a strategic platform for inter-island collaboration and innovation exchange.
- To catalyze support from development partners, donors, and the private sector for scaling island-led innovations.
- To strengthen cooperation between African Island States and continental and global partners in advancing the SIDS climate agenda.

3. Expected Outcomes

- Increased outreach for the AISCC initiatives—including RESIslands and its country-led innovations initiatives, as well as AfDB, GCF and other partners projects with African Island States
- Strengthened political and development partner engagement for African Island States' climate agendas.
- Identification of opportunities for scaling innovations, financing, and cross-island collaboration.
- Affirmation of the role of African islands in continental climate leadership.

4. Target Audience

- African government officials and climate negotiators
- Donor agencies and climate finance institutions
- Development partners and multilateral organizations
- Private sector and climate innovators
- Academia and research institutions
- NGOs and civil society organizations

- Media and communication partners

5. Key Partners & Stakeholders

- African Island States Climate Commission (AISCC)
- African Union Commission (AUC)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Governments of the nine AISCC Member States
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

6. Tentative Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Lead/Speaker
11h30	Welcome & Opening Remarks	AUC ARBE Commissioner AfDB VP UNECA ES AISCC chair
11h45	Framing Keynotes: -AfDB African Island States approach -RESIslands Initiative	AfDB UNECA

11h55	High-Level Panel: Island-Led Innovation for Resilience and Sustainability.
	  - Part I: AISCC Member States
	  - Part II: Donors and Partners
	Each speaker shares a short spotlight (max 2–3 minutes) on innovations from their country or institution.
		Ministers and HL Reps from AISCC Member States
		GCF Director for Africa
		HL Representatives from Development Partners

12h40	Interactive Q&A with Audience	Moderator
12h50	Closing & Call to Action	AfDB Director AISCC Minister

7. Background documentation

- African and Asian Island States Issue Bold Call for Financing Reform
- African Island States Advance Ocean Partnerships and Finance Innovation at 3rd UN Ocean Conference
- Island States commit to improve coordination at High-Level Dialogue at 4th International SIDS Conference
- COP29: High Level Dialogue on Climate Finance and Resilience for SIDS

- [African Island States at the center of a new partnership between ECA and Green Climate Fund announced at the 37th African Union Summit](#)
- [COP 28: African Small Island Developing States press for adaptation finance to fight climate change](#)
- Port Louis Recommendations
- [Beau-Vallon Outcome Document](#)
- [Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa](#)
- [Blue Future Conference](#)
- [Santa Maria Call to Action](#)

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