



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

African Climate Policy Centre

**Programme Strategy
(2025-2035)**

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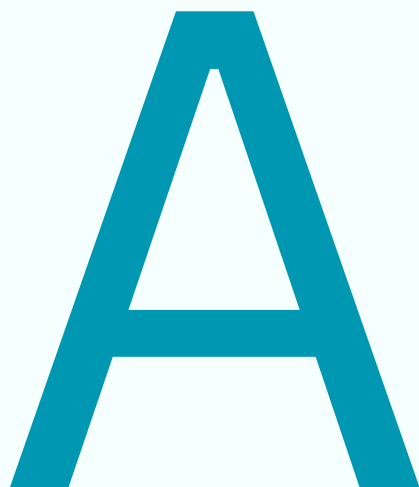
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Executive Summary



frica is recognized as one of the most severely impacted continents by climate variability and change. The projected increase in extreme weather events, rising temperatures, droughts, and floods will further pose significant threats to the continent's economies and critical sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, infrastructure, and health. Climate change is also resulting in increased social inequalities, human displacement, food insecurity, and poverty across the continent. The continent's high indebtedness and limited fiscal space, as well as inequitable global climate policy and governance regimes, will exacerbate the effects of climate change.

The African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) was established by the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) as the Secretariat of the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) initiative and support African member states in mainstreaming climate change interventions into their programmes. Since its operationalization in 2010, ACPC has been supporting African countries on climate change-related issues by providing technical support, knowledge transfer, capacity building, and climate advisory services to African governments and institutions. The activities of the Centre are critical to reinforcing Africa's climate resilience, promoting sustainable development, and enabling Africa's participation in global climate governance.

The entry points for the current cycle of the ACPC strategy to integrate climate action into national development plans, build climate governance and improve access for climate finance include global, regional and national frameworks and policy instruments such the Paris Agreement and its various instruments (Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage; Climate Financing provisions under Article 2; Market mechanisms under Article 6; the Global stocktake; Global goal on adaptation); the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063;

the AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Implementation Plan (2023-2032); member states' NDCs and Long-term Low-Emissions development Strategies; National Adaptation Plans; RECs climate change and development strategies; etc.

The ACPC strategy identifies eight key pillars to drive transformative action in response to the current and projected climate change impacts follows:

- **Pillar 1.** Strengthening institutional frameworks, policy coherence and climate governance
- **Pillar 2.** Building climate resilience through adaptation, investments, and early warning systems
- **Pillar 3.** Mobilizing climate finance for climate action through innovative financial mechanisms
- **Pillar 4.** Improving research, innovation, knowledge and technology to effectively implement climate action
- **Pillar 5.** Enhancing advocacy, awareness, communication and regional cooperation to ensure inclusive, equitable, and impactful climate action
- **Pillar 6.** Enhancing synergies for sustainable development in climate-resilient natural resource management and green economy in Africa
- **Pillar 7.** Analyzing key and emerging issues (e.g., just transition, loss and damage, private sector engagement, impacts of response measures, carbon markets, climate related health, etc) in the context of climate change
- **Pillar 8.** Renewing the ClimDev initiative through a revamped Phase II strategy to enhance synergies and collaboration between the participating Pan-African institutions to achieve better coordination of climate change interventions.

Gender equality, quality data collection, management and analysis, indigenous knowledge and innovation are the cross-cutting themes in each pillar. The strategy also places partnerships and collaboration at the forefront of its successes. The strategy further embraces public-private partnerships to promote climate-resilient infrastructure investment in Africa. The implementation of the strategy will also be made possible through resourcemobilization from multilateral and bilateral climate financing institutions such as the Green ClimateFund and the Global Environment Facility, along with private investment through greenbonds and blendedfinance. To keep the strategyresponsive and adaptable to climate challenges, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will be developed to guide monitoring, evaluation, impact assessment, periodic reporting, as well as update risks.

01. | INTRODUCTION

The African Climate Policy Centre (**ACPC**) was mandated by the Assembly of the African Union 8th Ordinary Session, which requested “the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, and the African Development Bank to develop and implement the Plan on Climate Change and Development in Africa and to report on progress biennially to the Assembly.” Assembly/AU/Dec.134 (VIII) (2007). The mandate was subsequently reaffirmed by the first Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, on the 10 April 2008. The ACPC thereafter became operational in 2009 with the dual mandate of Secretariat of the ClimDev-Africa programme, and as a Centre dedicated to mainstreaming climate change in the ECA. The ACPC aims to assist African countries in addressing the challenge of climate change through policy research and capacity-building for climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as support in the access to climate finance through innovative financing mechanisms.

Through sound partnerships with the AU, RECs, national governments, and international organizations, ACPC promotes collaboration and aids the development of climate policies tailored to the African context and guided by the global climate goals. By coordinating national and regional plans with the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2063, ACPC assists Africa in addressing its climate challenges and pursuing a low-carbon, sustainable future. Hence, ACPC’s interventions broadly fall into the categories of i) Knowledge Generation, Sharing and Networking, ii) Advocacy and Consensus Building and iii) Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation.

The specific objectives of ACPC are to assist in:

Strengthening the capacity of African countries to participate more effectively in international climate negotiations, particularly the development of comprehensive and equitable climate governance framework, 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 and climate information and knowledge generated at all levels.

Improving the capacity of member States and Regional Economic Communities for mainstreaming 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 guiding the related investment process over the next several decades.

Among its flagship programmes, the ClimDev-Africa, a tripartite initiative of UNECA, AUC and AfDB, has increased investments in climate infrastructure strengthened science-policy-practice platforms, and human and institutional capacity in the continent. ACPC's Pan-African component of the Weather and Climate Information Services (WISER) has also been at the forefront of increasing access to and analyses of weather climate data. ACPC in partnership with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), launched the Climate Research for Development in Africa (CR4D) program with the expectation that research outcomes from African-led climate studies would be translated into policy-relevant information and support national and regional climate mitigation and adaptation plans.

The Centre also implemented a programme of interventions in support of climate resilient development policies in Africa. This initiative contributed significantly to the development of the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032) that aligns with the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), supported national climate change actions through the development of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and strengthened the continent's participation in global and regional climate change policy dialogues.

The Centre's Africa Climate Resilient Infrastructure (AFRI-RES) initiative supports the transition to low-carbon economies through support for inclusive climate policies that not only guarantee environmental integrity but also drive sustainable economic development, renewable resource use, and increased climate finance for adaptation and mitigation. At the same time, ACPC continues to play an active role in ensuring that Africa has a voice in global climate policy forums. ACPC programming is informed by a commitment to gender-sensitive climate action which recognizes the gendered nature of climate impacts and the need to engage marginalized groups such as women, girls and youth in climate change mitigation and adaptation, especially in at-risk communities.

The African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has developed this 10-year programme strategy (2025-2035), based on the predecessor 5-year strategy (2017-2022), with the objective of guiding the Centre's support to member states, RECs and other stakeholders on climate change and development. The strategy will support African countries in building resilience through climate-resilient investment, nature-based solutions, and sustainable land management while promoting low-carbon sustainable development. The strategy also focuses on inclusive but context-specific climate action to enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities like women, young people, and poor people in the continent.

Africa's climate policy landscape is complex. It occupies a unique position in global climate discourse as both a minor emitter of global carbon and a region disproportionately affected by the impact of climate change. The continent, home to about 20 per cent of the global population, accounts for just about four per cent of historical and contemporary global GHG emissions (IPCC 2019). The African Union (AU) is a prominent player in the regional climate policy environment through Agenda 2063 and the AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy (2023-2032). Agenda 2063 envisions a prosperous, climate-resilient Africa, with a focus on adaptation, sustainable resource management, and low-carbon development. The AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Implementation Plan (2022 -2032) is a framework for integrated approaches to climate action. It seeks to enhance the participation of African Member states in key climate decision-making. The Strategy proposes the harmonization of climate efforts between the tripartite African climate negotiating bodies - the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), and the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC). These institutions were designed to harmonize Africa's positions in international climate negotiations, enhance intra-regional cooperation, and provide policy guidance for national climate strategies. The AU strategy also seeks to promote climate justice, ensuring fair representation in the international climate process. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) play a crucial role in executing climate policies that are consistent with Africa's overall objectives, focusing on region-specific concerns like agriculture, water, and access to energy. The African Development Bank (AfDB) also supports these frameworks with climate finance, technical support, and policy guidance.

International climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the UNDRR Sendai Framework, also shape Africa's climate policies. ACPC aligns its actions with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement to ensure Africa's actions to limit global warming to below 2°C are impactful. In this regard, a core aspect of ACPC support for member states focuses on the generation and implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-term low emissions development strategies (Lt-LEDS). The Centre helps African countries to develop, revise, and implement their NDCs to ensure sectoral targets are achieved and mitigation as well as adaptation actions are mainstreamed into national development planning and practice, and clear financing goals are incorporated. In this context, ACPC also supports countries to mobilize climate adaptation and mitigation funds from international financial institutions like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund (AF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and so on for the implementation of the NDCs. ACPC also supports the formulation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) that outline steps to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience in agriculture, water, and health. In addition to NAPs, ACPC assists the updating and monitoring of NDCs to ensure compliance with international targets under the Paris Agreement. The Centre further strengthens institutional mechanisms, provides technical capacity development, and facilitates knowledge sharing across countries.

Although many African nations have established climate change institutions to help coordinate climate activities, climate policy in Africa is characterized by a paucity of climate data, underdeveloped institutional frameworks, and capacity limitations. ACPC works with member states and other institutions to improve capacity, governance, and effective implementation and monitoring of climate policies. ACPC works with climate ministries, meteorological services, and environmental institutions to support the integration of climate concerns into key sectors like energy, transport, water, and agriculture towards ensuring a balanced response to climate change across Africa. At the national level, ACPC supports governments to mainstream climate action into development planning.

By aligning national and regional plans with the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, ACPC assists Africa in addressing its climate challenges and pursuing a low-carbon, sustainable future.

THE CENTRE'S MAIN KEY AREAS OF WORK ARE

- **Knowledge Generation, Sharing and Networking:** Knowledge generation, sharing and networking activities of ACPC are expected to support and inform critical concerns of African countries in their endeavor to mainstream climate change in their development plans, and in ongoing climate negotiations within the UNFCCC processes.
- **Advocacy and Consensus Building:** The ACPC's advocacy and consensus building activities will be informed by all the analytical work and background material prepared under C.2, to support the African negotiators' position on long term finance, fast start climate finance, REDD+, institutional aspect of adaptation and technology transfer. Workshops and dialogue will be organized with the negotiators.
- **Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation:** ACPC's advisory and Technical Cooperation Services are aimed at garnering support to the African Union Commission, re-assessing hydrological and meteorological information needs and systems, strengthening national Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems and at a fellowship programme to support its work programme in the area of climate adaptation and risk management, climate and development nexus, and a low carbon future for Africa.

02. | STRATEGIC VISION, MISSION, RATIONALE, GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Vision and Mission

ACPC's vision is "to make Africa's development sustainable, inclusive and climate-resilient".

The Centre's mission is "to influence, strengthen and support the transition to climate-resilient, low emissions development in Africa through responsive policies, plans and programmes towards transformed economies, healthy ecosystems and human wellbeing".

2.2 Rationale

Africa's vulnerability to climate change is undeniable, as rising temperatures, droughts, floods, and extreme weather conditions threaten climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, water, and health. Vulnerabilities are compounded by low technical capacity, limited access to climate finance, and weak institutional capacities, all of which, if unaddressed, will hinder development and exacerbate poverty, food insecurity and social inequality (UNFCCC, 2020). Incorporating climate considerations into national and regional development plans ensures that climate resilience is woven into the very fabric of Africa's growth trajectory. According to Bollinger et al. (2020) and Mathews and Sutherland (2019), aligning development objectives with climate adaptation and mitigation goals ensures countries achieve both sustainable growth and environmental protection.

ACPC's strategy prioritizes sustainable

utilization of natural resources and use of nature-based solutions without compromising the adaptation and mitigation goals stated under international climate agreements such as the Paris Agreement (UNFCCC, 2015). UNECA's focus on innovation and data-driven decision-making will also be reflected in the ACPC strategy, which supports the use of quality and timely climate data in the development of context-specific climate solutions that can be scaled across Africa. Promoting real-time information sharing and evidence-based decision-making will enhance Africa's ability to implement effective climate actions while responding to both local climate impacts and global climate goals (World Bank, 2020).

Regional coordination is also vital in addressing Africa's trans-boundary climate challenges. The ACPC strategy emphasizes fostering greater partnership and collaboration in RECs, between governments, research institutions, and the private sector. Through strategic convening and outreach platforms, ACPC strives for a unified African voice in international climate fora to ensure that the global climate governance framework is responsive to the continent's imperatives and priorities. The strategy prioritizes social equity by ensuring that climate actions benefit all sectors of society, particularly vulnerable groups such as women, youth, and marginalized communities. Incorporating gender equity, youth empowerment, and indigenous knowledge into climate policies is in line with UNECA's goal of fostering inclusive, equitable, and resilient climate action.

2.3 Scope of the strategy

The scope of this strategy encompasses a range of comprehensive interventions critical to addressing Africa's climate change challenges. Strengthening institutional frameworks and climate governance at national and regional levels is one of the ACPC strategy focus areas to effectively address climate change, enhance resilience, and ensure sustainable development through coordinated policies, resources, and collective action. The strategy also aims to mainstream climate action into national development policies and ensure that climate change is integrated into broader sustainable development agendas. It further promotes resilience building through adaptation strategies such as investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, nature-based approaches, and sustainable land and natural resource management practices. The strategy also prioritizes human and institutional capacity-building to enable climate-smart investments to address the wide-ranging impacts of climate change, including slow onset and extreme weather events.

Access to climate finance has been the major challenge faced by African member states as they seek to implement climate actions in their jurisdictions. Mobilization of financial resources for climate action through innovative funding mechanisms, private sector investment, and enhanced access to international climate finance is a key focus of this strategy. Alongside financial mobilization, the strategy underscores the need for improved research, knowledge transfer, and the use of evidence-based decision-making to enhance Africa's capacity to respond to emerging climate risks.

This includes fostering innovation in climate science and ensuring timely access to accurate climate data to inform climate policy formulation and governance.

The scope of the strategy extends to advocacy, awareness-raising, and regional coordination, recognizing that successful climate action requires partnership and collaboration between governments, the private sector, civil society, and local communities. It creates platforms for dialogue and consensus-building, empowering African negotiators and stakeholders to advocate for Africa's climate priorities in international forums. The strategy also promotes regional cooperation to harmonize climate actions and leverage synergies across the continent. By addressing emerging climate challenges (e.g., the just transition, carbon markets, and climate-induced human insecurities, impacts of climate response measures, loss and damage, etc.), the ACPC will provide African countries with the necessary tools to navigate an evolving climate context and adopt proactive measures. Incorporating cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, indigenous knowledge, and data-driven decision-making, the strategy ensures that climate actions are inclusive, context-sensitive, and tailored to the diverse needs of Africa's populations. This holistic approach guarantees that the benefits of climate resilience reach all sectors of society, particularly vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and marginalized communities. Ultimately, the ACPC strategy aims to create an equitable and sustainable climate action framework that fosters resilience, economic development, and social equity across the continent.

2.4 Goals and objectives

Our overall goal is to contribute to poverty reduction through successful mitigation and adaptation interventions to climate change in Africa while enhancing the capacities of African countries to participate effectively in multilateral climate negotiations.

THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Pillar 1. Strengthening institutional frameworks, policy coherence and climate governance

Pillar 2. Building climate resilience through adaptation, investments, and early warning systems

Pillar 3. Mobilizing finance for climate action through innovative financial mechanisms

Pillar 4. Improving research, innovation, knowledge and technology to effectively implement climate action

Pillar 5. Enhancing advocacy, awareness, communication and regional cooperation to ensure inclusive, equitable, and impactful climate action

Pillar 6. Enhancing synergies for sustainable development in climate-resilient natural resource management and green economy in Africa

Pillar 7. Analyzing key and emerging issues (e.g., just transitions, loss and damage, private sector engagement, impacts of response measures, carbon markets, climate related health, etc) in the context of climate change

Pillar 8. Renewing the ClimDev initiative through a revamped Phase II strategy to enhance synergies and collaboration between the participating Pan-African institutions to achieve better coordination of climate change interventions

Gender equality, quality data management and collection, indigenous knowledge and innovation are the cross-cutting themes in each pillar.

03. | CONTEXT AND ANALYSIS – CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The world is facing an extraordinary series of overlapping crises, and Africa is the most impacted. Conflict, climate change, biodiversity loss, higher interest rates, inflation, strained public finances, weakened value chains, and lack of crucial skills pose unprecedented challenges for all countries. Additionally, insufficient global decarbonization efforts and a global economic and technological confrontation, especially through trade distortions, are further exacerbating the crises. Africa is the most vulnerable continent to climate change.

World greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have risen exponentially over the years, dominated by industrialized and rapidly emerging economies. In 2023, the global GHG emissions reached 53.0 gigatons of CO₂-equivalent, up 1.9% from the previous year.

The top four emitters—China, the United States, the EU, and India—emitted over 60% of world emissions (EDGAR, 2023). On the contrary, Africa has always accounted for less than 4% of global GHG emissions while hosting about 18% of global population. Nevertheless, the continent's emissions are projected to increase by 60% to 8 gigatons by 2050, according to population growth and development needs. Despite this projected increase, Africa will remain at a relatively low emitter in comparison with other regions in the world (Climate Leadership Council, 2024). Africa, however, is disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including weather-related disasters, sea-level rise, and food insecurity. This underscores the imperative to adopt low-carbon development pathways and access climate finance to enhance resilience and sustainable development (WMO, 2023).

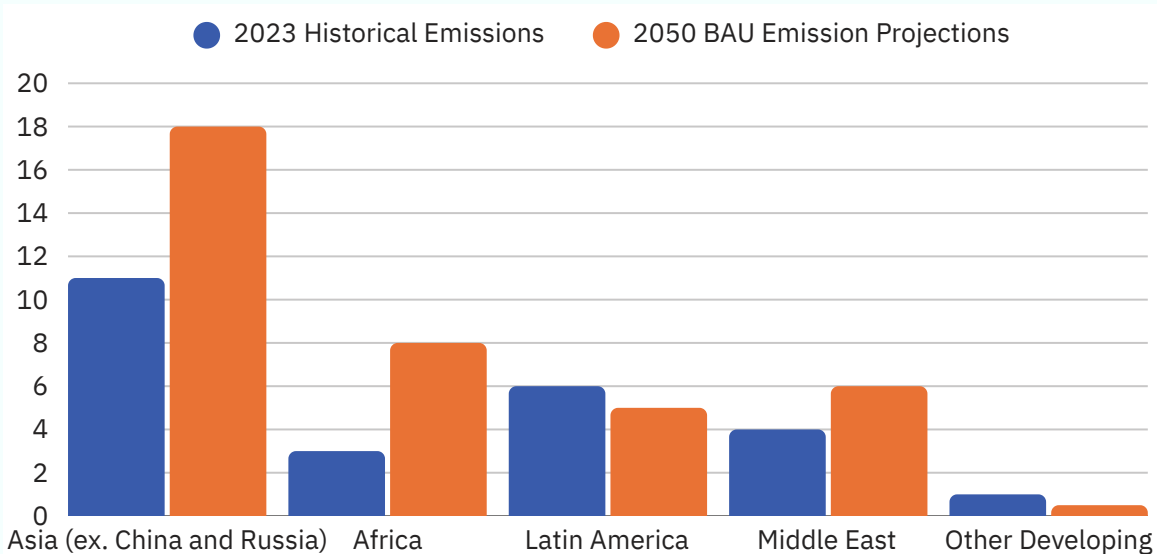


Figure 1. Visualizing mid-century emissions for a BAU for Developing Regions (GT). Source: Climate Leadership Council (2024). *Developing countries are aggregated per region.

Africa is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its high dependence on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, limited adaptive capacity, and widespread poverty, placing nearly 600 million people at heightened risk from climate-related shocks (IPCC, 2022; UNEP, 2021). Figure 2 shows population vulnerability in selected African countries. The IPCC defines vulnerability as “[V]ulnerability is the propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected and encompasses a variety of concepts and elements, including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt.” African economies are predominantly agrarian. Climate variability and change poses challenges for African agriculture at its multiple levels of value. Beyond the agricultural sector, the adverse effects of climate change are permeating critical development areas, including energy, industry, health, mining, transport and water.

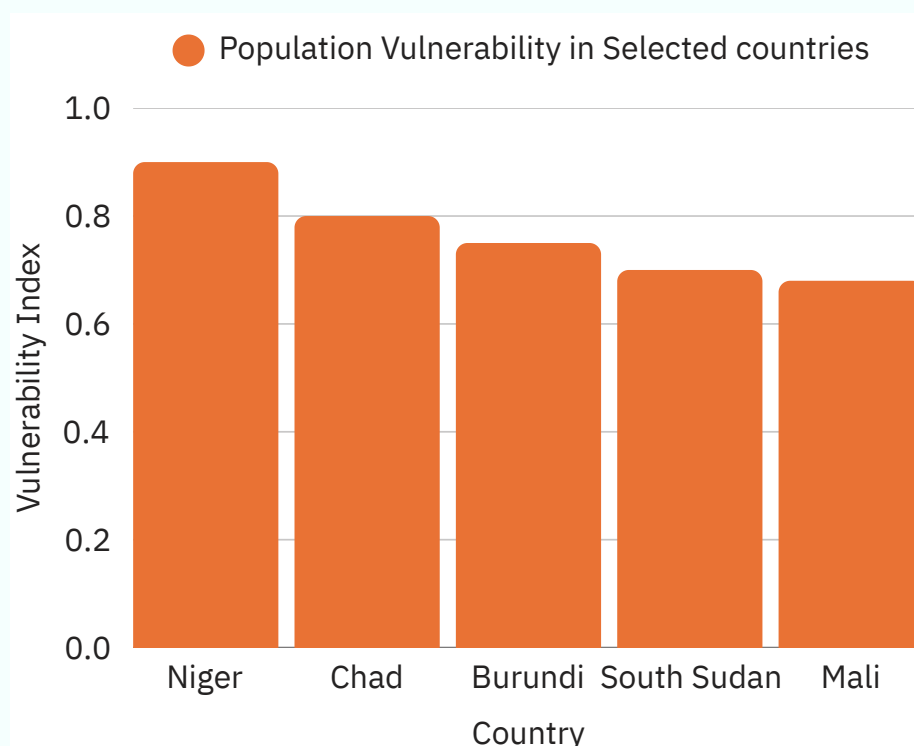


Figure 2. Population vulnerability in selected countries

As the climate crisis intensifies at an alarming pace, extreme events have become the new normal, and the costs of these events are rising exponentially. The African continent has the deepest development challenges in the world and is not on track to meet the SDG targets by 2030. Added to the historical and structural underdevelopment, the continent is facing an existential threat from climate change, bearing the brunt of climate change despite its negligible contribution to carbon emissions.

The Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC – AR6) concludes that Africa will be impacted by climate change under all mitigation scenarios, thus requiring accelerated adaptation and response measures on loss and damage actions to enable communities at the frontline of the crisis to cope with the impacts of climate change. Climate change has contributed to resource scarcity, food insecurity (due to low yields or failed harvests),

prolonged droughts, regular floods, wildfires, locust invasions, and a rise in the disease burden. Extreme climate events have devastated the little infrastructure on the continent and cost African economies up between 2% and 15% of their GDP. Many people in Africa are directly affected by weather, climate and water-related hazards with more than US\$ 8.5 billion in economic damages and 5 000 fatalities in 2022; and 3% of African GDP could be lost to loss and damage by 2050 in a 30C world. Also 2022, African countries spent close to \$9 billion on climate related disasters and spend over 5-15% of their GDP per capita on reconstruction. The loss and damage costs in Africa due to climate change are projected to reach at least USD 290 billion (in a 2 °C warming scenario).

The continent is warming faster than other regions (ref), has the least developed infrastructure, and the poorest economies. 34 of the 46 Least Developed Countries (low-income countries that face significant challenges in their efforts to develop a sustainable and self-supporting economy) are in Africa (UN HDI 2021). According to the Human Development Index (2021), the 10 least developed countries - Niger, Central African Republic, Chad, Burundi, South Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, and Eritrea – are all in Africa. Because their industrial and economic ecosystems are fragile and underdeveloped, LDCs are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks. The wide-ranging impacts of climate change disproportionately affect vulnerable groups across the continent, particularly in rural areas.

Further, Africa's fragile states face governance challenges and instabilities which are bound to be exacerbated by climate change. The continent is already characterized by conflicts over scarce resources and mass unrest in urban areas due to failing economies, rife poverty because of unsustainable debt burdens and unfavorable terms of trade, are likely to increase in Africa. Poverty and inequality are already rife because of the debt burden, and unsustainable exploitation of its natural resources. All these are bound to be accelerated by climate change.

Africa's vulnerabilities to climate change are also due to its weak institutions, as well as structural issues due to its unequal articulation into global financial, economic and governance systems. Africa's economies are predominantly agrarian, depending mostly on nature-based tourism, agriculture, and fishing, which are all highly vulnerable to climate impacts. The low levels of industrialization, coupled with climate impacts on agriculture, are resulting in rural displacement and unemployed migration into urban areas. Due to the absence of industrialization, cities in Africa are largely sprawling shantytowns without commensurate social amenities, security, or even dignity for most of the inhabitants.

Africa has been the least polluting continent over the past hundred years, and the continent possesses some of the largest and least disrupted ecological regions and natural landscapes in the world. The survival of Africa's ecosystems is due to historical reasons, including colonialism, as well as, in large part, to the cultures and cosmologies of the continent which have not only predisposed production systems to be in harmony with nature, but have also equipped

communities with creative solutions. The African population's usage of natural resources and their intrinsic relationship with the natural elements should be considered an example of sustainability at its best. For example, Africa has five of the most important naturally occurring "water towers" of the world—in Ethiopia, Angola, Lesotho, the Lufilian Arc, and the Albertine Rift—elevated surfaces that store large quantities of water. And thanks to local communities, these water towers are largely intact—up until now, at least. In the Angolan Highlands Water Tower (AHWT), we find ourselves in a unique and delicate position. Africa's carbon sinks help to slow the speed of global warming and provide a global public good to the planet. African Tropical forests hold more carbon than previously believed and together sequester more carbon than any other forests in the world. 26% of land in Africa is classified as forest. In this regard, the continent's ecosystems and biomes have acted as counterweight to the emissions from the industrialized and industrializing world.

The continent's development is constrained by many historical and structural impediments. The continent is in debt distress, caused by the high costs of borrowing, the Covid pandemic and climate change impacts. The impact on lives and livelihoods is devastating. Over 110 million people in 2022 were impacted by the climate crisis in Africa. Food inflation reached its highest levels in three decades at on average 30%, compounded by the war in Ukraine. It is estimated that nearly 282 million people in Africa (about 20% of the population) are undernourished, and suffer from food insecurity. Droughts and floods are worsening agriculture productivity and increasing Africa's dependence on food imports, worsening the current account balance, and displacing productive investments.

The structural imbalances in global economic, trade and financial institutions mean that the continent generally has limited capacities to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Despite the global flows of climate finance increased steadily over the past decade to some USD 1.3 trillion in 2021–2022, more than double the levels in 2013–2014 (Climate Policy Initiative, 2023), Africa's share remains disproportionately low, with the continent having received only about 3% of total global climate finance (AfDB, 2022). The African Development Bank estimates that Africa needs USD 277 billion annually by 2030 to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), yet current flows are less than USD 30 billion annually—a staggering climate finance gap that undermines the continent's capacity for adaptation and transition towards low-carbon development (AfDB, 2022; UNECA, 2021). The need for finance is growing over time but the adaptation finance gap remains big (Figure 3).

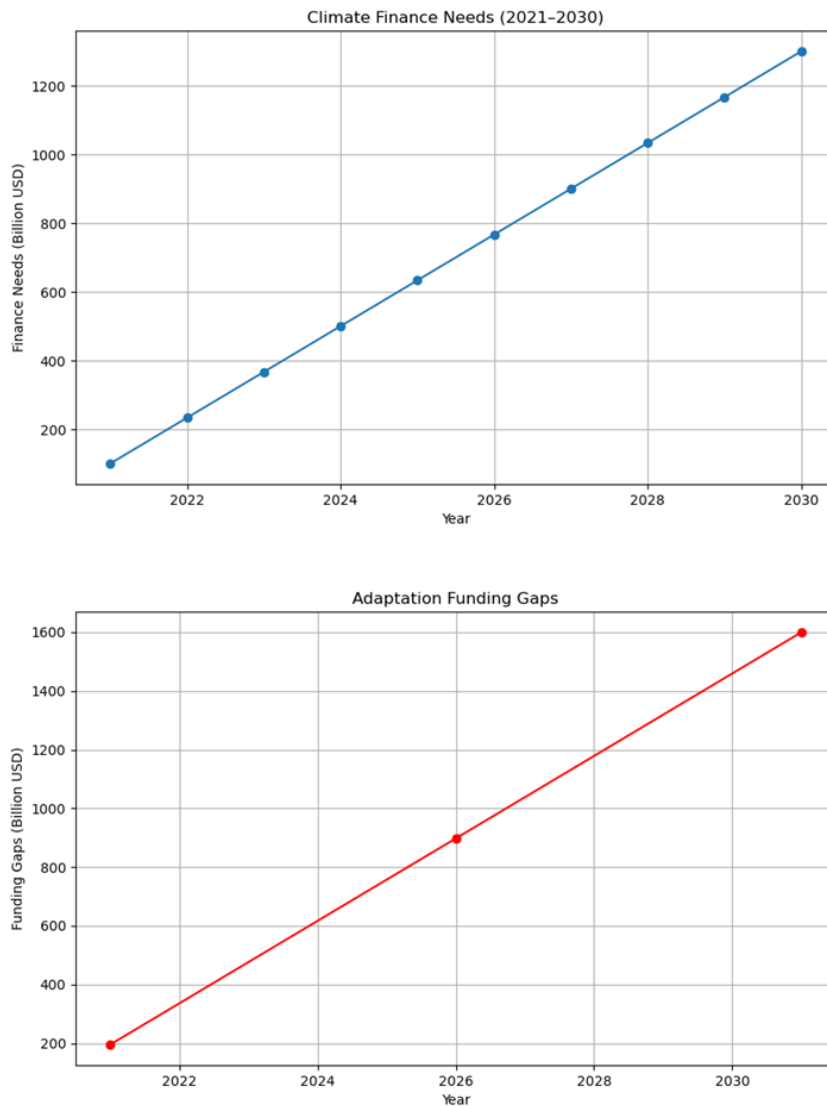


Figure 3. Climate Finance Needs (2021-2030) (a) and Adaptation Funding Gaps (b)

The need to transition in the context of limited finance has led to calls for climate justice on the continent. Just transitions are called for in all sectors and have become priorities for the African countries. African countries and communities urgently require investment in development solutions including zero carbon energy, which ensures energy access across the continent, resilient agriculture systems for food security, and efforts to conserve its nature and revitalize ecosystems which have been degraded. But African countries need to take agency of their own development and investment future.

As of 2021, 21 countries were in, or at risk of, debt distress. African countries owed US\$644.9 billion to external creditors as of 2021, and due to pay US\$68.9 billion in debt service in 2023. Debt owed by African countries is equivalent to 24.1% of their combined GDP in 2021. The total external public debt in Africa reached 726.55 billion U.S. dollars as of 2021. The average ratio of debt to gross domestic products across Africa is expected to increase from 60% in 2019 to 70% .

Although the continent's contributions to greenhouse gas emissions have historically been negligible, since 1990 Africa's emissions have grown by 59% from about 2,928 MtCO₂e to about 4,640 MtCO₂e in 2020. This change corresponds to a 1.1% increase in the continent's contribution to global annual emissions, from about 7.7% in 1990 to about 8.8% in 2020. The highest annual contributors to Africa's GHG emissions are the LULUCF and Energy sectors with contributions ranging between 30% and 40% each year, followed by Agriculture which contributes about 23% annually. AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use) emissions, i.e. (Agriculture + LULUCF) account for about 55% of the continent's annual GHG emissions.

If the historical emission trends of the past 15 years (2006 – 2020) are to continue for the next 30 years, it is expected that Africa's emissions will increase by a further 47% compared to 1990 levels, reaching 5,974 MtCO₂e by 2050, and increasing the continent's annual emissions contribution to about 9.5%. All this means that in addition to adapting to the impacts of climate change, the continent also has a responsibility to mitigate emissions.

Africa is energy rich and energy-access poor and has the lowest primary energy consumption per capita. The continent is well endowed with renewable energy potential, but a large part of its current energy consumption comes from coal and other fossil fuels. Of the 1.2 gigatons (Gt) of carbon dioxide emitted in 2020 in Africa, 40% came from fossil fuel-based electricity and heat generation, a quarter from transport and another 17% from productive uses. Closing the energy access gap will require an estimated annual investment of over \$25 billion up to 2030. At least 600 million Africans have no access to electricity and number of populations who are without energy from five African countries are given in Figure 4. The average US citizen consumes 120 times more energy than an average Tanzanian citizen. The consumption of oil in Africa is the lowest in the world, with, for example, Nigeria consuming 721kgs of oil/capita compared to 7.032/capita in the USA.

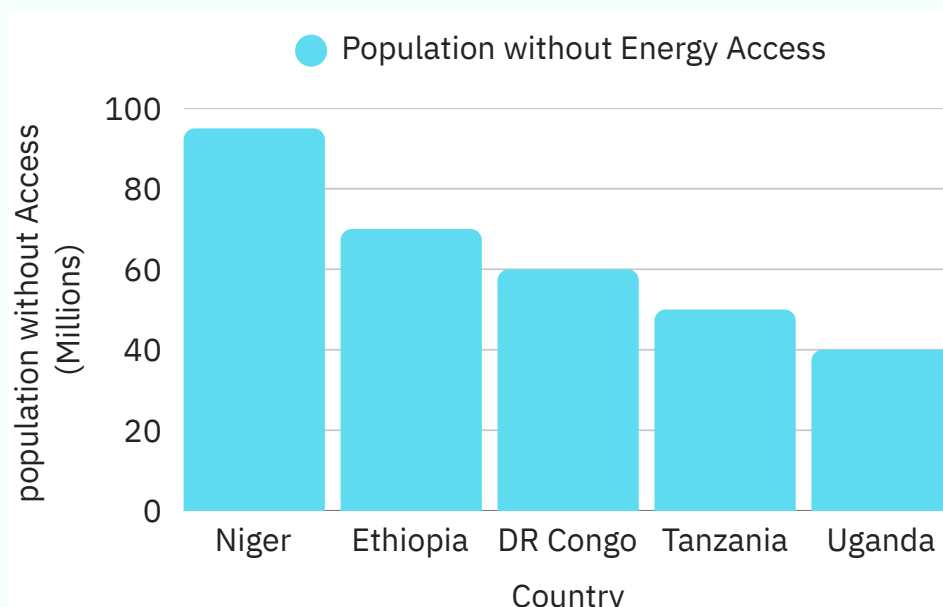


Figure 4. Population without energy access

There is a direct linear relationship between energy consumption and GDP Growth (Table 1). For the past 40 years energy consumption per capita in Africa has stagnated while most geographical regions have achieved significantly higher energy consumption per capita. For Africa to transcend to the trajectory of higher economic development, primary energy consumption per capita will have to increase substantially over the historical levels.

Table 1: GDP and Energy Consumption Comparison

	GDP (actual)/ tCO ₂ e	GDP/ Capital (2022)	CO ₂ /Cap ita	Share of Global Trade	Ppl living in MDP (2021)	GJoules Primary Energy/ca pita
World	1,898.71	12,647	6.95			
EU	5,627.32	41,110	6.62	15.30%	8 000 000	140
SS Africa	889.93	1,690	1.88	3.00%	556 000 000	6

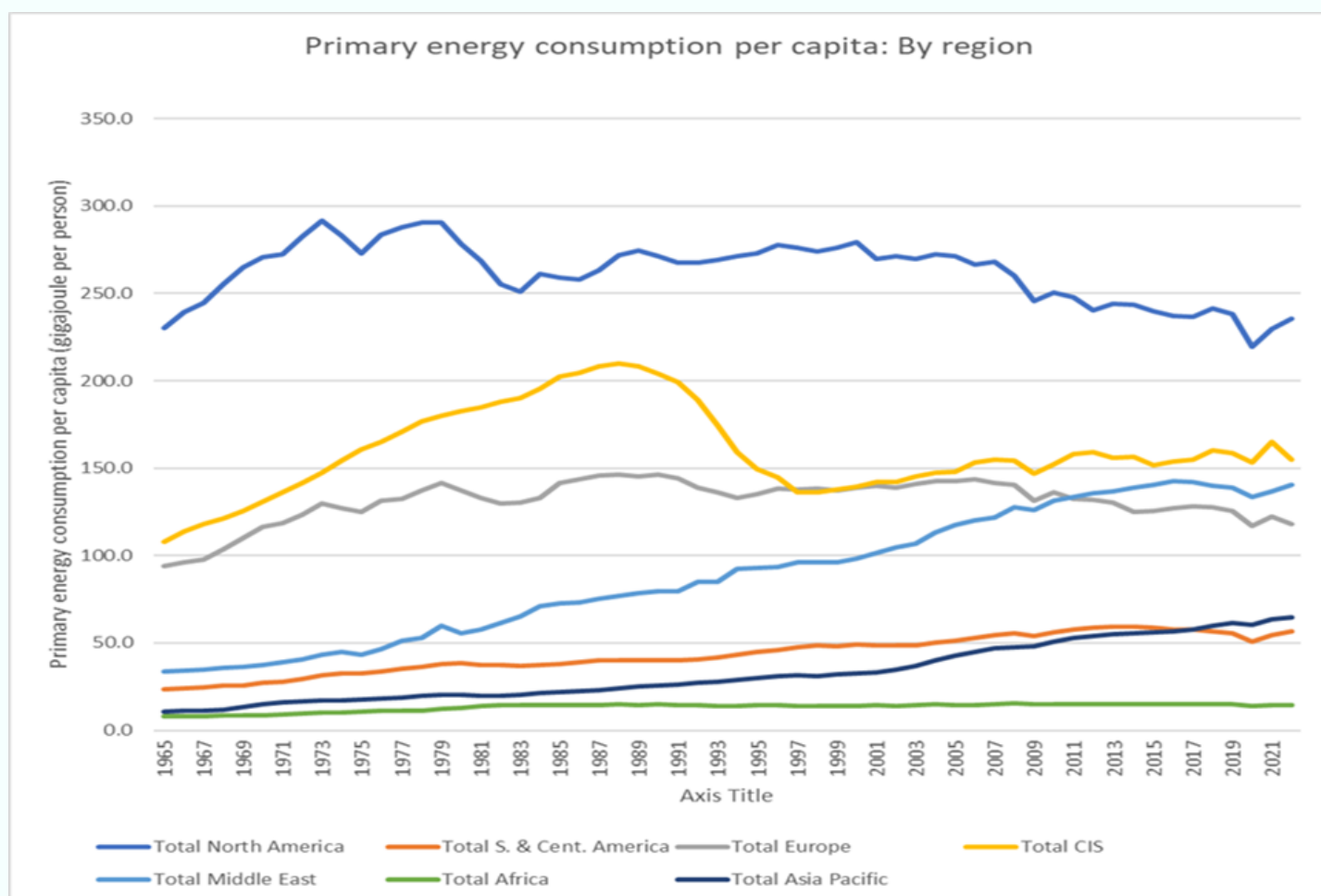


Figure 5. Source: Energy Institute Statistical Review of World Energy 2023

Climate change will continuously cause human migration, and in turn undermine national development, create inequalities, violate human rights, and promote insecurity. The climate change-migration nexus has gained prominence among scholars and policy makers. The Kampala Convention (2009) recognized that the challenge of climate-induced internal migration encourages the protection of people affected by climate-induced migration through proper planning (e.g. early warning systems), humanitarian assistance, community engagement, remediation, and proper documentation of displaced persons. The Sustainable Development Goal (10.7) seeks to “facilitate orderly, safe and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”. The IPCC and other research have established that there will be an increase in human migration due to the inability of people to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The World Bank (2019) projected that by 2050, up to 143 million persons could potentially lose their homes to climate-related events in SSA, Latin America, and Southeast Asia alone.

Migration drivers in the continent include economic disparities, political instability, and the impacts of climate change. According to IOM, in sub-Saharan Africa nine million people were displaced in 2022, with climate shocks responsible for 7.4 million. Since 2010, the number of migrant workers in Africa has increased by 53%. Migrants from West, Central, Southern, and East Africa predominantly reside in neighboring African nations, highlighting the significance of return migration within Africa, particularly in countries sharing land borders. Thus, assessing the consequences of climate change on migration has become increasingly relevant, especially in Asian and African countries where climate vulnerability is high.

It is against this backdrop that countries are looking for ways to balance their development needs with the added demands created by the climate crisis. Current responses to climate change in Africa demonstrate an evolving understanding of the issues. Yet, there is a notable shallowness in recognizing the systemic nature, magnitude, and the potential existential threats posed by climate change to the continent.

Transitioning to a more inclusive green industrial growth agenda offers Africa the best opportunity to accelerate its growth, provide jobs, transform its economies, and build thriving, prosperous societies. Transitioning to the climate economy consistently delivers a higher growth trajectory for African countries. Studies by Oxford University and UNECA for South Africa, DRC, and Egypt in collaboration with the authorities highlight this growth potential. The Automotive Masterplan in South Africa could double employment from 120,000 to 240,000 and increase domestic vehicle production to 1% of global output, of which 20% will be EVs by 2030. These results are similar for Egypt, Senegal, Kenya, and DRC.

The “global stock take”, finalized at COP28, was the first time the global climate regime took stock of how the international community has collectively reduced its greenhouse gas emissions since the Paris Agreement in 2015.

The biggest takeaway from the stock take, which was not surprising, was that the world is way behind and the 1.5°C warming limit agreed in Paris is at risk. This means that the impacts of climate change will worsen globally and in Africa in particular. The GST further recommended drastic actions to avoid irreversible interference with the climate system, and to get back on course restricting global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. Countries therefore have to come up with more ambitious goals for decarbonization and adaptation, as well as the necessary financial and other resources to get climate action back on track. The ratcheting up of ambition will need to be reflected in the next iteration of NDCs, to be communicated by February 2025. At COP28, countries also came up with a deal that calls for transitioning away from fossil fuels while acknowledging the need for a “deep, rapid” reduction in emissions. This is significant for the just transition, and for Africa’s industrialization objectives.

An assessment of the 2030 emission targets of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), commissioned by the Climate Vulnerable Forum, utilizing the Traffic Light Assessment (TLA) method, evaluated NDCs according to equity criteria such as population, wealth and human development, and past emissions. The assessment which sought to establish the extent to which countries were pledging their fair share contributions to the Paris Agreement goal, established that over half of all Parties (99 countries representing 21.2% of current global emissions), have set NDC targets that are fully compliant with the temperature goal and equity principles of the Paris Agreement. The compliant countries represent over half the global population

(or 4.2 billion people), but just 15% of the world economy (GDP, current US\$).

Conversely, 40% of Parties (84 countries), with 46% (3.7 billion) of global population, 84% of global GDP, and accounting for nearly 80% of current emissions, have set 2030 NDC targets that are non-compliant with the temperature goal and equity principles of the Paris Agreement. These non-compliant countries have an average human development index (HDI) score of 0.79, equivalent to “high human development” and include the G7 (23.4% of current global emissions), G20 (78.5%), EU (7.1%), and developed economies (23.9%) all have set NDCs which, when assessed in their aggregate, are non-compliant with the temperature goal and equity principles of the Paris Agreement.

Thus, according to the CVF assessment, when calculated on this fair share basis, the G7 has already exhausted its carbon budget for the Paris target of 1.5 degrees of warming and would have to cut its emissions by 82% below current levels immediately to be 1.5 degrees Celsius compatible on a fair share basis. In this view, if high-income countries cannot immediately reduce their emissions by the required 82%, the only way to restore some justice and trust to the climate regime is for historically high emitters to invest in countries with very low emissions. Such investments can help low-emitting countries, who are still well below the trajectory needed for their emissions to be fully compatible with 1.5 degrees, to pursue low-carbon development so that they remain low-emissions status forever rather than pursuing the fossil-intensive development path of the industrialized world.

04. | STRATEGIC INTERVENTION AREAS

ACPC interventions contributed to developing the capacities of member states to streamline their NDCs and to align climate actions with development programmes through Long-term Low Emissions Development Strategies (LT-LEDS). Following on the outcomes of the first GST, and with a view to continue supporting African states to build resilience and attain their SDGs in a changing climate. The ACPC has updated its theory of change to reflect the priorities emerging from the GST.

4.1 ACPC Theory of Change

The ACPC theory of change provides the results chain that outlines the logical flow of actions from planned activities, and how they culminate in impact of the project interventions for the benefit of African countries. A detailed illustration of the theory of change is in **Annex I**.

4.2 Strategic pillars

The global framework guiding the global climate agreement is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The long -term goal of the Paris Agreement (PA) of the UNFCCC contains the mechanisms to guide national climate responses, whose aggregate effect is designed to prevent global warming of 2°C, and if possible, keep warming at no more than 1.5°C. The principal mechanisms of the PA are mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage responses. Nations develop their own nationally determined commitments - Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) - to implement climate actions , and communicate their commitments to the Conference of Parties (COP) to the PA. The global stocktake (GST) of the PA is a process for taking stock of the implementation of the Agreement with the aim to assess the world's collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the agreement and its long-term goals (Article 14).

The PA provides for means of implementation (i.e. finance, capacity

building and technology transfer) to assist developing countries to implement their national commitments.

UNECA, through ACPC, has identified the following eight strategic key pillars to drive transformative action in response to the current and projected climate change impacts and to support strengthening resilience of African countries:



Pillar 1 – Strengthening institutional frameworks, policy coherence and climate governance

Nationally Determined contributions (NDCs) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of its long-term goals. NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions. The NDCs are periodically reviewed upwards to ensure that the impact of the aggregated national actions would meet the goal of the Agreement (1.5 degrees). The first global review of the NDCs was undertaken in 2023. In terms of Article 14.3 “[T]he outcome of the global stock take shall inform Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Agreement, as well as in enhancing international cooperation for climate action.” The Global Stock take of 2023 demonstrated that we are way off track on all the main goals of the PA. It is also concluded that the next round of NDCs (NDC 3.0) are to be prepared with a longer 10-year time frame for implementation (2025-2035). All Parties are required to submit their NDC 3.0, latest by February 2025, to allow for sufficient time for the preparation of the compilation and synthesis report in advance of CMA7 (November 2025).

NDC 3.0 are expected to be a progression beyond previous NDCs and should reflect the highest possible ambition. Pursuant to the outcome of GST/1, action to be taken by governments includes tripling of renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency improvements by 2030, phase-down of unabated coal power, phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems so as to achieve net zero by 2050, accelerating the reduction of emissions from road transport and methane emissions as well as

halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. NDC 3.0 is to be guided by the outcome of GST/1 and should contain information on how the GST/1 outcome has been reflected. The NDCs 3.0 will largely determine whether the world will get back on a global GHG emissions trajectory that is in line with the 1.5C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement and whether countries will build up resilience for such a scenario. Ideally, the next NDCs should not only be ambitious in terms of numbers on paper. They should also help to accelerate implementation, unlock finance, and be well positioned to credibly move the needle on climate action.

Further, the global stock take process through decision 1/CMA.5, para 189 requested organizations in a position to do so and the UNFCCC secretariat, including through its regional collaboration centers, to provide capacity-building support for the preparation and communication of the next nationally determined contributions. UNECA, through ACPC has supported African member states to develop, implement and revise their NDCs. ACPC has, since COP 20 in 2014, supported African countries to develop first their INDCs and then their NDC, and to update and revise the NDCs in the lead up to COP 27. The Centre has documented the major challenges of developing and implementing the NDCs, including the fragmented nature of the first generation NDC's, the inadequate consideration for impacts of the implementation of proposed climate actions on development and other objectives, the lack of tools and methodologies for calculating the costs of the proposed mitigation and adaptation actions, and the expectation that the implementation of the proposed climate actions would be conditional on the availability of finance.

In the UNFCCC negotiations, the African common position, spearheaded by the African Union and represented by the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) continues to emphasize financial compensation for natural, economic and social resources that have been lost as well as finance for mitigation; the historical responsibility of developed countries with regard to climate change; and for the differentiated reduction of GHG emissions by developed and developing countries. For the AGN, the emphasis still lies on the right to develop and on limiting the impact of climate change on development, based on the fact that Africa is still underdeveloped and their contribution to climate change is marginal.

Development partners at the ECA Medium Business Plan (2024 – 2026): Harnessing opportunities and the potential of Africa to rescue the SDGs and achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 (19 October 2023), proposed strengthening, inter alia, “Support the implementation of NDCs. Partners expressed interest in seeing stronger ECA support for the implementation of NDCs at the country level through a systematic framework for engagement on climate change, access to climate finance, and international financial reforms.

A major challenge for the climate response in Africa is policy incoherence. Policies meant to achieve similar goals are developed in isolation from each other, with divergent objectives and action plans that are not well implemented. SDG 13 on climate action emphasizes that the commitments within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement, should ensure policy coherence across different sectors to effectively

address climate change challenges. While policy incoherence is a challenge for most governments, developing countries generally face additional constraints due to the scale of their economic development needs, limited domestic resources and insufficient capacity to both design and implement the necessary interventions. Hence the first generation NDCs of Africa were typically drawn up by ministries of environment in complete sectoral isolation from other ministries. The priorities of the NDC did not adequately reflect the broader developmental priorities of governments, and implementation was dependent on provision of external resources and technology transfers (i) Deploying methodologies to assist countries to develop coherent, economy wide NDCs which will utilize existing data and analytics and meet the minimum standards specified in the relevant UNFCCC agreements (Art 9.3), (ii) By developing properly calibrated and costed NDCs, leverage funds for climate action from national budgets, access conditional funding and engage other actors to finance the implementation of the NDCs.

In practice, long-term national strategies that identify opportunities or pathways for low-emission development that also consider broader socio-economic goals - Long-term Low Emissions Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) - have emerged as the key policy mechanism to build coherence. Article 4.19 of the Paris Agreement states that all countries “should strive to formulate and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies mindful of the long-term goals of the... Agreement”. In essence, LT-LEDS serve as strategic frameworks that bridge climate action, sustainable development, and international cooperation, laying the groundwork for a resilient and low-emission future. LT-LEDS contributes to policy

coherence by linking short-term to long-term goals and supporting whole-of-government approaches to the climate response. They also identify and design pathways to maximize socioeconomic and achieve a just transition, facilitate finance and support by providing clear signals and direction of travel. The LT-LED can also support buy-in and ownership across numerous stakeholders around a shared vision, and thus enhance international trust, commitment, and credibility

The programme will continue to support Africa's engagement in global climate policy and governance, particularly through supporting the African Group of Negotiators by providing analytical backstopping (analytics, data and expert support); building the capacities of young negotiators through training and support for participation in COPs; convening African constituencies in support of the African common position (ACTs, CCDA, Africa Pavilion). Previous analytical support has included technical reports for the African Group of Negotiators and African policy makers on a wide range of climate policy and governance issues. The ACPC also led the drafting as well as convening of member states on the African Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy.

Overall, this pillar encompasses the following broad intervention areas:



Provide technical assistance and training for NDC implementation and enhance climate governance frameworks



Integrate climate change considerations into broader national development planning and strategy



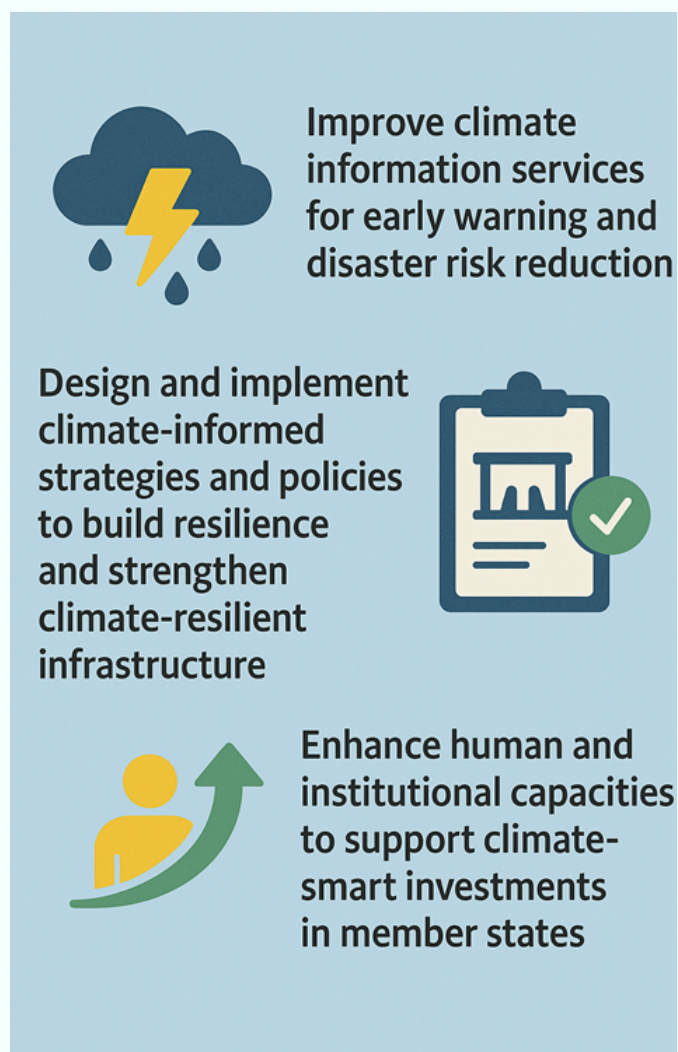
Ensure policy coherence and low emission development strategy to achieve sustainable growth



Pillar 2 – Building resilience through climate adaptation and climate-resilient infrastructure investments

Building resilience through climate adaptation and climate-resilient infrastructure investments is essential for Africa, where the impacts of climate change are intensifying in recent years (WMO, 2022), particularly in vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, water, and infrastructure. Climate change will increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, threatening millions of livelihoods and further exacerbating poverty. Africa's infrastructure is underdeveloped and not in a good position to adapt to the climate change impacts, with over 600 million people still lacking electricity access (International Energy Agency, 2020). Moreover, 60% of the population in Africa is agricultural reliant, yet the sector is most vulnerable to climate variability (African Development Bank, 2021). Climate change adaptation should thus entail investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and early warning systems that

can assist in reducing risks and conveying timely information to exposed communities for climate-induced disaster risk. Building capacity in data and analytics is also highly essential in enabling evidence-based decision-making in infrastructure development because many African countries lack the necessary instruments and capacities to comprehensively assess and address climate risks (World Bank, 2020). It will help make Africa more climate-resilient, improve resource efficiency, and enable sustainable development. The following intervention areas are proposed to guide these efforts



Pillar 3 – Mobilizing financial resources for climate action

Africa is one of the most affected regions by climate change and its current and historical greenhouse gas emissions are minuscule at a global scale. However, the region received only 20% of global adaptation finance flows (USD 13 billion) annually in 2021–2022. This is less than half of the finance going to the East Asia and Pacific region, which received about 45% of global adaptation finance flows. Moreover, available climate finance tends to be skewed towards mitigation. For Africa, adaptation finance was only 36% of total climate finance in 2021–2022. This was a decrease from 39% of total climate finance in 2019–2020. Adaptation is losing ground to mitigation financing on the continent. If the current level of adaptation funding flows continues, Africa will only mobilize USD 195 billion by 2035. The adaptation needs of the continent may be as high as USD 1.6 trillion. Africa's adaptation needs are about eight times larger than the funds available. Close to 80% of adaptation finance in Africa comes from loans or government budgets, and African governments themselves invest more resources in climate adaptation than the support provided by bilateral development finance institutions to the region (19% vs 11%).

Comparison of flows going into public emergency response and climate adaptation flows show that In Africa, between 2019 and 2021, the international funding for public emergency response funding was similar to public adaptation finance (USD 26 billion and USD 28 billion, respectively).

The opportunity to reduce the need for emergency funding by investing more in climate adaptation is clear. The African private sector has consistently financed less than 3% of adaptation activities from 2019–2022, with a substantial portion of these funds coming from philanthropies. The opportunity for commercial financiers and private enterprises to develop and finance adaptation solutions, products, and services is enormous.

Climate finance has been a contentious issue for decades in climate negotiations. According to the IPCC, there is no agreed definition of climate finance. “The term ‘climate finance’ is applied to the financial resources devoted to addressing climate change by all public and private actors from global to local scales, including international financial flows to developing countries to assist them in addressing climate change. Total climate finance includes all financial flows whose expected effect aims to reduce net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and/or to enhance resilience to the impacts of current and projected climate change. This includes private and public funds, domestic and international flows and expenditures. Tracking of climate finance flows faces limitations, in particular for national climate finance flows.”

Nearly 50% of the low-income countries are currently either in or near debt distress, recently exacerbated by the pandemic, recent spikes in interest rates and recurring climate disasters. As such, they have limited opportunities to borrow. Much of the money is owed to the high-emitting countries that are overwhelmingly responsible for causing the climate crisis.

African’s common position in the UNFCCC has always insisted on adaptation as the priority for the continent. However, more finance has gone towards mitigation. The largest sources of adaptation finance are multilateral development institutions (53%), African governments (23%), and bilateral agencies (16%). The private sector represents a very small fraction of adaptation finance (3%) and out of this nearly 90% was committed by institutional investors (foundations, insurance companies, asset management firms, pension funds, and endowments). More than half (53%) of the adaptation finance commitments to Africa were loans. While current climate actions are insufficient to help countries meet their climate targets, scaling up action will only lead to more debt, unless more grant funding is made available.

Finance and the provision of other means of implementation for climate action (technology transfer and capacity building). African countries called on the Paris Agreement to deliver transformative climate finance in the form of debt relief, grants and transfer of life-saving technology for climate adaptation. However, the anticipated climate finance has not been made available, even despite the creation of vehicles such as the Green Climate Finance. Available finance has become increasingly market-based loans, as well as incentives for investors in carbon credits and other de-risked extractive investments. At the same time, African countries have committed more and more of their own resources and domestic budgets to finance climate actions.

The following three intervention areas are proposed to achieve these objectives:



Identify and promote innovative financial instruments and mechanisms to support climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience projects across Africa



Enhance Africa's access to global climate finance mechanisms



Catalyze private sector investment in climate-resilient projects, including clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and green infrastructure

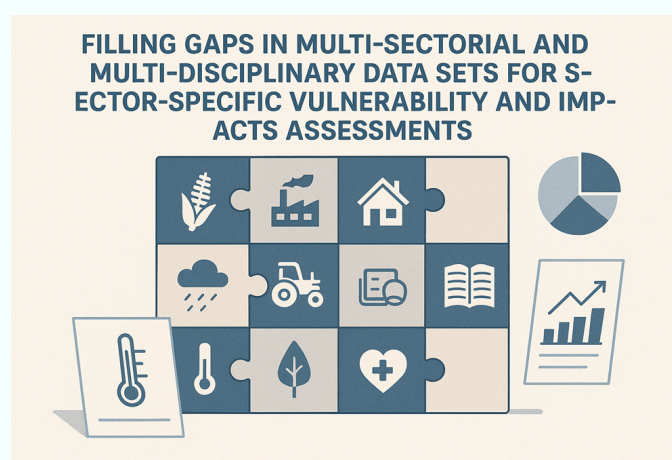
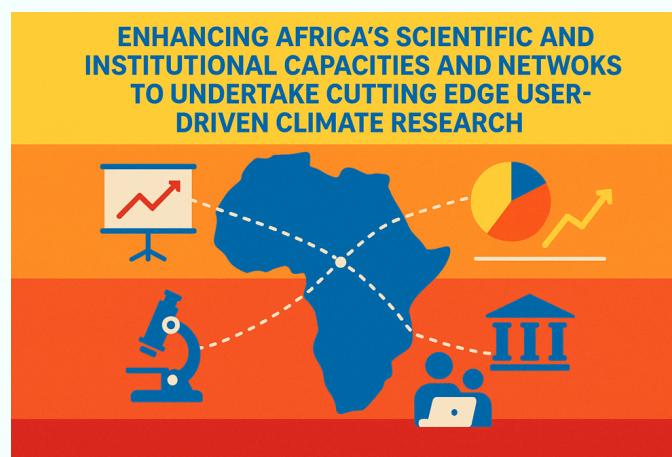
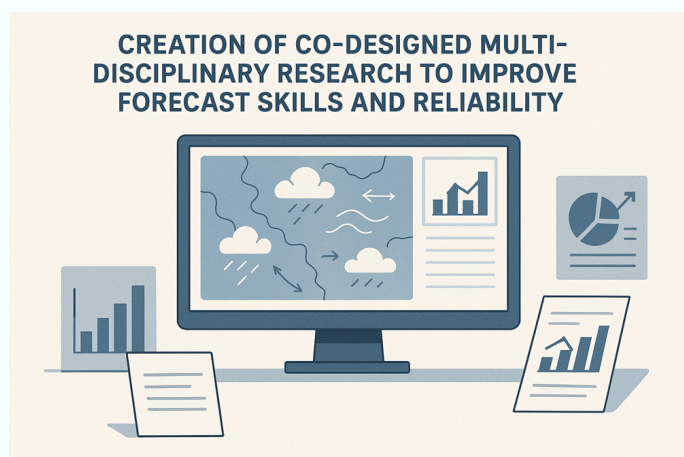


Pillar 4 – Enhancing research, innovation, and the transfer of knowledge and technology

The global climate response is based on the scientific evidence produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) through its Assessment Reports. UNECA has demonstrated that, since the First Assessment Report (AR1), African science has not been adequately referenced in the IPCC Reports. The Africa Group of Negotiators (AGNES) noted that only 11 per cent of the scientists contributing to the last assessment cycle (AR6) are from Africa the current Sixth Assessment report (AR6). This implies that the models and scenarios informing the recommendations of the IPCC continue with the narrative of disparity between Africa and the global north. There are several reasons for the under-representation of climate science in the assessment process, principal among which is the under-investment in research and development, and the subsequent dearth of published African science on climate change which the IPCC can reference in the assessment process.

The African Climate Change Conference held in Arusha, Tanzania in 2013 (ACC-2013) mandated UNECA to develop a Climate Research for Development in Africa (CR4D) programme to close the African climate science capacity gaps and provide policy and decision makers timely and accurate climate information to guide decision making. CR4D is an African-led initiative supported by a partnership between African Climate Policy Center (ACPC) of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). The ACC-2013

recommended the establishment of an African Climate Research Agenda for Climate Services and Development (see here) in order to advance new frontiers of African climate research, focusing on four priority areas:



CR4D thus seeks to socialize climate science through an interactive and collaborative approach that brings climate science, services and policy-making under a coordinated multi-disciplinary network of expertise and institutions to collectively address the challenges while maximizing on the opportunities presented by climate change and variability to socio-economic development in Africa.

As the IPCC 7th assessment process begins, it is therefore imperative to support African climate research, through the CR4D framework, to ensure adequate representation in the models and scenarios which will inform the design of the next round of climate action.

Enhancing research, innovation, and the transfer of knowledge and technology is, therefore, crucial for advancing climate action in Africa. Given the continent's vulnerability to climate change, building capacity for climate-informed planning and sustainable development is essential. Conducting research and analysis to support climate-informed decision-making will provide the necessary data to develop policies that are tailored to local climate risks and vulnerabilities (ClimDev-Africa, 2020). This research can inform the design of effective adaptation and mitigation strategies that address both immediate and long-term challenges. Moreover, developing human and institutional capacity for enhanced weather and climate data collection and analysis is critical for improving the accuracy and timeliness of

climate information, which is essential for effective policy implementation and climate resilience (WISER, 2020). Strengthening Africa's capacity to use climate data in development planning will also support the design of robust early warning systems, disaster risk reduction strategies, and climate-resilient infrastructure (CR4D, 2020). Furthermore, bridging the gap between climate science research and the needs of Climate Information Services (CIS) in support of development planning is vital for ensuring that scientific knowledge is effectively translated into actionable insights for decision-makers across sectors. The ACPC and institutions like the CR4D initiative have highlighted the importance of improving this interface to enhance the impact of climate science on practical climate adaptation and mitigation strategies (ACPC, 2021). By fostering innovation, building human capacity, and ensuring the effective transfer of knowledge and technology, this pillar will enable Africa to better address its climate challenges and accelerate progress towards sustainable development.

- Conduct research, study and analysis in support of climate-informed sustainable planning and development
- Develop human and institutional capacity for enhanced weather and climate data and information
- Bridge the existing weak link between climate science research and CIS needs in support of development planning



Pillar 5 – Advocacy, raising awareness, and promoting regional cooperation

Advocacy, raising awareness, and promoting regional cooperation are crucial for ensuring that climate action in Africa is inclusive, equitable, and impactful. Providing spaces for science, policy, and practice dialogues plays a vital role in catalyzing common positions that align with Africa's development agenda, facilitating coordinated and collective efforts in addressing climate challenges.

In the global cooperation mechanisms, novel cooperative mechanisms are being developed to meet climate objectives. The most visible are the Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JET-Ps). These emerging forms of cooperation offer alternative opportunities for supporting the transitions. However, there remain many challenges regarding the effectiveness and credibility

of these mechanisms. In particular, there are credibility issues regarding the extent to which they are in fact economy wide mechanisms for just transition, or whether they are just meant to promote a narrative.

The global climate discourse also enable African countries to forge unified positions, thus strengthening the continent's influence in international climate negotiations. Additionally, empowering African negotiators, legislators, young researchers, fellows, and legal experts is essential for advocating for Africa's climate interests in global forums and ensuring that African perspectives are central in shaping global climate policy. This includes enhancing the capacity of these stakeholders to influence key climate discussions, as seen in initiatives such as the African Group of Negotiators (AGN, 2020). Furthermore, supporting the generation, packaging, and dissemination of knowledge products is fundamental for equipping key constituencies, such as local governments,

civil society organizations, and the private sector, with the necessary tools and information for climate-smart development. These actions are critical for increasing the accessibility of climate-related information and enabling communities to make informed decisions that promote sustainable development. By fostering greater awareness, empowering stakeholders, and enhancing regional cooperation, Africa can ensure that its climate responses are not only ambitious but also effective and equitable for all sectors of society (ACPC, 2021). These efforts will be critical to achieving continent's climate goals while improving overall development outcomes.

To support this, the following three intervention areas are proposed:

- Conduct research, studies, and analysis in support of climate-informed sustainable planning and development
- Develop human and institutional capacity for enhanced weather and climate data and information
- Bridge the existing weak link between climate science research and CIS needs in support of development planning



Pillar 6 – Analyzing key and emerging issues in the context of climate change

Analyzing the impacts of emerging issues (e.g., just transition, loss and damage, Article 6 and carbon markets, climate induced human insecurities, impacts of climate response measure, loss of biodiversity and ecosystems, technology and innovation for climate solutions, etc.) is crucial for addressing Africa's unique challenges in the climate crisis.

a)

Just transition

Although the debate on just transitions in the context of the Paris Agreement started at the 24th **Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (the Katowice COP, 2018) a just transition work programme of the UNFCCC was only launched at COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh. That notwithstanding, there are still many unresolved issues in the work programme, and there is still no just transition framework for African countries which can guide the negotiations of the African Group. It is thus urgent to develop a coherent analytical framework which can contextualise the framework. The NDC framework requires an assessment of equity, and typically the metric used is how each country compares with respect to the 1.5 degrees objective, but no information is provided on the socio-economic impact of the NDC. (Para 52 Decision 1 CMA4)

With developed countries leading, transition to a low-carbon pathway should be differentiated in respect of net zero and fossil fuel phase-out; opportunity for shared growth in development and deployment of renewable energy technologies; international cooperation that is based on needs of African countries and ensuring no workers or groups most affected are left behind in the transition process.

Global targets decision and implementation as per Global Goal Adaptation (GGA) Framework; grant-based support of adaptation action as a restorative justice imperative, recognising lost economic and socio-economic losses from current impacts.

The quantum of finance should be based on needs of developing countries for climate action; financing arrangements and instrument should not deepen indebtedness of African countries; restructuring of the global finance system to include developing countries in decision-making.

The transition to a low carbon emission economy is likely to be difficult and disruptive for Africa. The implementation of climate response measures such as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), and deforestation free products regulations will result in decline in foreign demand for fossil fuel products and deforestation products. As a consequence, the narrow base of exports of many countries in Africa is likely to shrink further. There is evidence to suggest that unless new sources of finance and foreign exchange are found and domestic capacity to manufacture green products enhanced, the transition to a low carbon emission economy appears to be unviable. Further, emerging trade rules prohibiting export taxes and export restrictions could impede the efforts of the African countries to create a vibrant downstream processing industry of critical minerals.

Just Transition must include the following two fundamental tenets: (i) gains from trade-related mitigation measures should be distributed more evenly among countries, and not remain concentrated in a handful of countries; and (ii) developing countries must be allowed to preserve policy space so that the transition to renewable energy does not make Africa overwhelmingly dependent on imports.

As countries prepare their next generation NDCs, the focus will be on ensuring ambitious climate actions that will be in line

with bringing the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement back on track. Low emissions development strategies will be central in Africa's NDCs. This means that the continent will need to make informed decisions about just transitions in all its key sectors. The implications of just transitions on Africa's economies and on the climatic system are not clearly understood. Africa remains a low contributor to global emissions and continues to bear the brunt of climate impacts. Consequently, Africa has in the past submitted overly ambitious NDCs and transition plans which may have the effect of stymieing its development prospects. At the same time, an ambitious mitigation effort on the part of the continent would not have significant impact changes in the climate system if the global community lacks ambition. Experience since the signing of the Paris Agreement, as demonstrated in the Global Stock take, shows that the developed world has generally had very low mitigation ambition, with emissions increasing since the signing of the Paris Agreement (Graph here on emissions trend by region since 2015).

Africa is rich in carbon sinks which can assist in the continent's just transition and present an opportunity for Africa in carbon markets, where Africa can supply global markets with the goods and services for low-carbon economies.

b)

Loss and damage

At COP 28, US\$700 million was pledged. However, US\$400 billion is needed to address current climate related losses and damages.

The fund will be an independent entity under the UNFCCC's financial mechanism. The fund will be administered by the World Bank for a negotiated fee of 24%. It will have its own 26-person board, with the majority of members coming from developing countries. The board would not be bound by World Bank operating modalities. The board will also be tasked with giving the fund a name. This came as the US – which for decades resisted the entire concept of “loss and damage” – pushed back against references to a “loss and damage fund”. Currently, the fund is known as the **Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)**

It is still not clear how the fund will work, what the major funding streams will be or whether the allocation of finance will be community-driven. Despite being generally perceived as an early win, the fund remained highly contentious. Unlike other forms of climate finance, there is no firm obligation for developed countries to pay into the fund. It will, therefore, depend on the generosity of wealthy nations and any other sources of money that can be leveraged. This means that the Loss and Damage fund is effectively disarticulated from CBDR.

Through the Climate Research for Development initiative, the programme will contribute towards enhancing the prediction and attribution of extremes of climate and impact. The programme interventions will include exploration of the nature of climate extremes (e.g., singular, compound, slow onset, long and short duration), and the improvement of methodologies for attribution of extremes of climate and impacts relative to natural climate variability and change. This second component will build on the model developed by UNECA in 2013.

c)

Article 6 and Carbon Markets

Africa is richly endowed with biodiversity, and this has led to increased interest in the continent's carbon sinks, as a big contribution to the mitigation challenges of polluting entities, while also presenting possible sources of finance to fill the huge gaps left by the limited available finance from public resources. Carbon offsets from nature-based solutions (forests, climate-smart agriculture, grasslands, wetlands, and oceans) are expected to grow to \$600 billion by 2050 (African Forest Forum).

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement is a largely market-based mechanism which provides for the trading of carbon credits as mechanisms to progressively force the internalization of the costs of emissions by emitting entities. Articles 6.2 and 6.3 provide for bilateral and multilateral cooperation between countries, involving international transfers of the mitigation outcomes produced through such cooperation. Article 6.4 provides for the creation of emission reductions credits (ERs) by public and private sector actors and regulates the international transfer of those credits or use for any other purpose. Finally, article 6.8 is a non-market mechanism intended to facilitate climate action through international cooperation focused on sustainable development and poverty eradication and does not involve trading of mitigation outcomes.

Given the low levels of emissions across Africa, many African governments

view Article 6 as therefore also creating opportunities to mobilize finance for climate adaptation. However, as the experiences with the Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM) provided for in Article 6.2 have shown, the African carbon market is not well developed, and African countries need to develop rules and regulations to fully benefit from global carbon markets. For example, the continent receives less than 29% of returns through Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) framework. In the case of voluntary carbon markets (Article 6.2), project developers carry out a series of activities that are expected to prevent deforestation, and to measure the prevented deforestation. As result, they can offer carbon credits in the carbon market where private actors (from individuals to corporations) can purchase them to sustain claims about the offsetting of their carbon emissions.

REDD+ projects are already dynamizing important flows of capital worldwide through the voluntary carbon market. According to estimates by market research firms, the voluntary carbon market size reached \$2 billion dollars in 2023 (Forest Trends' Ecosystem Marketplace, 2023), and others have said that it could reach \$1 trillion dollars by 2037 if the "right rules" get established (Bloomberg NEF, 2023). In the current market, nearly half of the purchased carbon credits worldwide were issued by REDD+ projects (Trove Research, 2024).

There are doubts regarding the extent to which carbon offsetting through the VCM creates incentives for emissions reductions. In Africa, the price of carbon credit remains below \$10/ton, compared to the EU where the price has risen to above \$100/ton until 2023. There are many reasons for this,

including particularly the unregulated and untransparent nature of the VCM. At the same time, African states continue to enter into public and private agreements to research land for carbon sequestration. Africa holds 60% of the world's uncultivated arable land and needs to increase its food production from the current 20% to 80% to achieve food self-sufficiency by 2050. However, public expenditure on agriculture has been declining in Africa. Worldwide, the average share of government expenditure allocated to agriculture declined by about 0.13 percentage points between 2015 and 2021. Africa experienced a larger decline (0.21 percentage points) during the same period (UNECA 2024).

UNECA (2024) recommends that "In order to sustain livelihoods and improve nutritional outcomes, States ... need to recognize and protect small-scale farmers, while providing equal access to land, technology, sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices." However, an effect of the carbon market, as already observed in REDD+, is the alienation of land through the limitation of smallholders' rights to cultivate it, resulting in immediate threats to food security without the carbon markets creating alternative livelihoods. This tenure insecurity constitutes a serious governance challenge for carbon markets on the continent, which can be resolved through improving governance and transparency.

Scarcity of climate data, limited oversight and accountability, limited awareness and understanding of carbon markets, and governance complexities, as the challenges African countries face in tapping into the carbon market. Inaccurate information like deforestation rates also hamper the process of identifying a viable carbon offset project,

its feasibility, and verifying the actual credits it can generate. Limited oversight and accountability in the carbon market space attract unethical practices like greenwashing (see e.g. reports on performance of VERRA credits). Limited awareness and understanding of carbon markets among policymakers, businesses, and communities impede the establishment of clear regulations, standards, and incentives needed to operate carbon markets. Governance complexities raise the challenge of human rights violations like land grabbing and corruption. (KIPPR, 2024). The ECA, through the Congo Basin carbon registry, is working towards improving the efficacy of carbon trading on the continent.

This pillar will also cover a range of emerging issues such as climate induced human insecurities, impacts of climate response measure, loss of biodiversity and ecosystems, technology and innovation for climate solutions, etc.

Hence, this pillar will address the following intervention areas:

- Analyze the impacts of emerging issues (e.g., Article 6 and carbon markets, just transition, loss and damage, climate induced human insecurities, impacts of climate response measure, loss of biodiversity and ecosystems, technology and innovation for climate solutions, etc) to create pathways for sustainable development
- Enhance knowledge sharing, capacity building, and partnership on emerging issues
- Empower African countries with data-driven insights on emerging issues for effective and targeted climate actions



Pillar 7 – Strengthening synergies between climate-land-natural resource-green economy

Strengthening climate-resilient land resource management and green economy synergies in Africa is vital to counteract the growing climate vulnerabilities of the continent while enhancing long-term economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Africa's vulnerability to climate change—highlighted by erratic weather conditions, changed patterns of rainfall, and sea level rise—calls for policy harmonization that encompasses land governance, natural resource management, and climate resilience. Hence, Africa must develop climate-sensitive strategies to sustainably utilize natural resources, including strategic minerals such as cobalt and rare earths, which are increasing in significance in the global shift to renewable energy technologies (UNECA, 2019). Integrating climate adaptation and mitigation into land use policy frameworks encourage sustainable means in the green and blue economies, enhance capacity building and knowledge sharing—are critical to realizing this aspiration. By aligning land and resource management with climate resilience, Africa can lock up its natural legacy, enhance food and water security, and build better livelihoods. Such an integration would assist in the efficient use of natural resources such as agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, while making these climates resilient as well. Moreover, increasing African countries' capacity by providing training programs, data-exchange platforms, and knowledge networks will ensure the enforcement of climate-smart policies. The proposed synergies between climate-land-natural resources can be positive forces in

the realms of economic growth, social justice, and environmental sustainability, ultimately promoting Africa's sustainable development and resilience to the impacts of climate change.

- Strengthen integrated policy frameworks for climate-resilient land and resource management
- Promote climate-smart practices in agriculture, green and blue economies
- Capacity building and knowledge sharing on climate, land, and other critical mineral resource governance



Pillar 8 – Renewing the ClimDev-Africa Phase 2 strategy

Overhauling the ClimDev-Africa Phase 2 strategy is critical to addressing the increasingly urgent and complex climate challenges facing the continent. Africa is experiencing climate-induced displacement, heightened resource scarcity, and more frequent extreme weather events, which threaten sustainable development and exacerbate vulnerability, particularly in the Sahel and coastal regions (IPCC, 2022). Updating the ClimDev-Africa strategy will ensure it is aligned with emerging challenges, particularly the growing need for climate-resilient infrastructure and adaptive strategies. With only a fraction of the continent's population having access to adequate climate information and early warning systems (WISER, 2020), it is essential to enhance the capacity of ClimDev-Africa to mobilize resources and implement impactful climate resilience initiatives. This requires strengthening both institutional frameworks and financing mechanisms to support regional projects that are context-specific and aligned with Africa's diverse development goals.

Furthermore, building stronger partnerships and networks within Africa and with international actors will create a collaborative approach to climate resilience. Regional cooperation is crucial to address transboundary challenges like water management, disaster response, and agricultural resilience (UNECA, 2021). These partnerships will ensure that African countries are better positioned to tackle the climate crisis collectively, driving inclusive growth and resilience. This pillar will enable the ClimDev-Africa program to effectively contribute to the achievement of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the global climate goals set out in the Paris Agreement. The pillar covers,

- Updating and aligning the ClimDev-Africa phase 2 strategy to respond to emerging climate challenges, such as climate-induced displacement, increased resource scarcity, and the intensification of extreme weather events
- Enhance the capacity of the ClimDev-Africa program to mobilize resources for the implementation of impactful climate resilience initiatives across Africa
- Build stronger partnerships and networks to support the effective implementation of climate resilience projects, ensuring that regional collaboration is prioritized for collective action



Cross-cutting issues

The strategy also addresses cross-cutting issues such as gender, data, innovation and indigenous knowledge as they play pivotal roles in supporting the achievement of the strategic goals outlined in the climate action pillars. By integrating gender equality,

gender-responsive policies, and data-driven approaches, this pillar ensures that the diverse needs of all groups, especially women, youth, and marginalized communities, are addressed across all climate actions. Gender equality promotes inclusive decision-making in climate governance, while data ensures the formulation of evidence-based policies tailored to the specific vulnerabilities of these groups. Additionally, indigenous knowledge enhances climate resilience by providing culturally relevant, locally accepted solutions and practices for natural resource management and climate adaptation. In the context of the pillars, Gender ensures that women and marginalized groups are included in climate policy-making, resource management, and decision-making processes, fostering empowerment and equal access to climate adaptation tools. Data supports the development of targeted policies and strategies by providing disaggregated, real-time information that helps ensure more equitable climate action. Indigenous Knowledge ensures that traditional practices and local knowledge systems are integrated into climate solutions, enhancing the relevance and sustainability of interventions while respecting local cultures. This cross-cutting approach reinforces the overall goals of strengthening institutional frameworks, building resilience, mobilizing financial resources, enhancing research, and promoting regional cooperation. It also ensures that emerging issues, such as climate-induced displacement and just transitions, are addressed from an inclusive and data-informed perspective. Integrating gender, data, and indigenous knowledge across the pillars ensures that climate actions are not only effective but also equitable and culturally appropriate, fostering sustainable development and long-term resilience for all communities in Africa.

05. | IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

5.1

Methodological approaches

This strategy will employ a methodological toolset to enable its pillars to be implemented effectively, including integrated planning, capacity building, and inclusive governance to integrate climate resilience and sustainable development in Africa. Integrated planning and policymaking will mainstream climate change into national development plans. Inclusive stakeholder engagement—governments, private sector, and civil society—will be central to co-developing context-based policies. This strategy ensures that policy making is evidence-based, policy coherence and

consistency of climate action with the overall national objectives foster sustainable development.

The second strategic priority is the enhancement of human and institutional capacity through massive training, peer education, and institutional strengthening. This will better equip governments, sub-national governments, and communities with the capacity and competencies to implement climate action. Gender and social inclusion will receive particular attention, enabling poor groups such as women and youth to be empowered to fully participate in the climate action process. To develop data-driven knowledge on climate solutions and impacts, the process will entail current research, knowledge management and innovation strategies, technology, and

knowledge transfer. The strategy will include robust information management systems to offer real-time information support to climate action and develop according to emerging problems, to ensure sustainability in the long run.

Participatory and inclusive climate governance will be facilitated by stakeholder engagement, which engages respective stakeholders in active decision-making. Awareness and advocacy campaigns will promote heightened awareness of climate change and mobilize a broad cross-section of stakeholders to foster collective action. These measures will guarantee a culture of shared commitment and responsibility towards climate resilience. New financing mechanisms such as climate bonds, blended finance, and public-private partnerships will be utilized to raise funds needed for investment in green infrastructure and climate-resilient agriculture. These financing mechanisms will provide finance needed for scaling up climate actions and projects.

The strategy will employ a strong monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment framework to track its performance. The M&E systems that are effective will employ real-time data to inform intervention changes as a reaction to emerging trends and patterns, so that their relevance and effectiveness are continually ensured. Impact assessments over the long term will also be conducted to examine the strategy's contribution to sustainable development, poverty reduction, and climate resilience. The strategy will adopt modalities to enhance cooperation and coordination such as mechanisms like OIBC4, South-South cooperation, and other continental climate dialogue platforms. Such modalities will align climate action, be in accordance with Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, and utilize collective best practices and solutions that are African in context.

5.2

ACPC delivery framework and operational model

ACPC has developed a delivery framework and operational model to support its new strategic direction. The delivery framework (see figure 1) builds on ClimDev-Africa's experiences and capitalizes on the comparative advantages of ACPC as a Pan-African centre within the Economic Commission for Africa of the United Nations.

ACPC intends to strengthen its internal capacity to respond to the multiple requests for assistance received from member States and African stakeholders. The new delivery framework of ACPC will include a new frontiers component that will guide engagement with emerging climate change and development issues and the Centre's provision of services to member States on the basis of scientific information and expertise.

The delivery framework requires an operational model that guides the implementation of the different components. This model envisages an organizational set-up that ensures that the Centre operates as a think tank, generating analytical output to support the development and implementation of climate responses on the continent, and building on its management and communication capacities to deliver these analyses widely on the continent. The delivery model is designed to ensure optimum programme delivery and synergy within and outside of ECA and prioritizes the development of an operation and performance cluster to ensure internal consistency.

There are six clusters in the ACPC operational model, as indicated in figure 2: knowledge generation; knowledge delivery (operations and performance); strategic partnerships and resource mobilization; programme management and support; production of conceptual ideas and bankable projects; decentralized pipeline management.

5.3

Collaboration and partnership

The successful implementation of the ACPC 10-year strategy relies on strong collaboration and partnerships at multiple levels. National governments will play a central role in driving climate action, integrating climate policies into national development plans, and ensuring alignment with regional and global frameworks such as the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Paris Agreement. Regional bodies, including the African Union and its specialized agencies, will facilitate coordination and cooperation across borders, ensuring a unified approach to climate resilience. International organizations, such as the United Nations and multilateral climate funds, will provide essential technical support, funding, and policy guidance to complement national efforts. Public-private partnerships are vital for mobilizing the financial resources needed to scale up climate investments, particularly in green infrastructure, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture. By leveraging the innovation and investment capacity of the private sector, these partnerships will help unlock the potential of low-carbon development across Africa. Civil society organizations and local communities will be key actors in ensuring that climate action is

inclusive, participatory, and responsive to local needs. Their involvement in decision-making processes, advocacy, and the implementation of community-based climate adaptation measures will ensure that the strategy addresses the needs of vulnerable populations and fosters equitable outcomes. Ultimately, these collaborative efforts will create synergies that strengthen Africa's collective capacity to tackle climate change, build resilience, and promote sustainable development.

5.4

Resources requirements

Human Resource

The operationalization and implementation of this strategy will involve ACPC programmatic and strategic partners. The specific details of the implementation phase will be worked out and agreed upon during an inception workshop, which will be convened to launch the strategy. Overall, the implementation of this strategy will be undertaken in accordance with existing UNECA procedures and rules of engagement, including the involvement of all UN agencies in the selected project countries, as well as in an integrated manner in collaboration with other UNECA divisions and units. The implementation of the proposed interventions will predominantly be undertaken within the ACPC; the human resource costs of the intervention are budgeted to cover ACPC staff time, comprising professional, administrative, and programmatic support staff. ACPC will also engage local and international advisers and consultants as detailed in the budget. Table 2 below details the allocation of funds to ACPC's staff time requirements from the various available resources.

Table 2: *Human resource support*

Staff type	Staff allocation	
	Existing	Demanded
Professional	5	
Program support	2	
Admin support	2	
Senior fellows/consultants	4	

Financial Resources

To effectively deliver on the ACPC 10-year strategy and address Africa's climate challenges, substantial financial investments will be required. The strategy's ambitious goals of enhancing climate resilience, fostering green industrialization, and ensuring sustainable development across the continent necessitate a significant and diversified funding approach. Central to this is the mobilization of both public and private financial resources to support key areas such as climate adaptation, green infrastructure development, and the transition to renewable energy. Africa's high vulnerability to climate change—manifested in extreme weather events, droughts, floods, and rising temperatures—calls for immediate and sustained funding to build resilient infrastructure, implement nature-based solutions, and support sustainable land management practices. Furthermore, the strategy emphasizes the need for innovative financing mechanisms, such as climate bonds, blended finance, and public-private partnerships, to bridge the financing gap and unlock the necessary resources for climate action. Accessing global climate funds, particularly through initiatives like the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment

Facility, will also be crucial in mobilizing additional financial support. In light of the continent's high debt burden and limited fiscal capacity, leveraging international climate finance and ensuring equitable access to technology transfer is imperative to ensuring that Africa's climate goals are met without exacerbating existing inequalities. With the global climate action shortfall, as highlighted in the COP28 stocktake, increased investments from high-income countries are essential to provide the necessary support for Africa's climate transition, allowing for the realization of both mitigation and adaptation objectives. The financial needs to achieve these goals are extensive, but by focusing on green growth strategies, such as renewable energy and climate-resilient agriculture, Africa can not only build resilience but also seize new economic opportunities, positioning the continent to align its development trajectory with global climate targets. The ACPC will develop for a robust, inclusive financial mobilization plan that incorporates innovative funding sources, international partnerships, and long-term investments to ensure the success of Africa's climate agenda and to position it as a global leader in sustainable, climate-resilient development.

5.5

Communication and advocacy

Effective communication and advocacy are integral to the success of the ACPC 10-year strategy. Public awareness campaigns will be pivotal in educating and engaging diverse stakeholders—ranging from local communities to policymakers—on the urgent need for climate action and the benefits of climate resilience. These campaigns will emphasize the importance of sustainable practices and mobilize public support for climate policies and initiatives. Media and outreach strategies will leverage traditional and digital platforms to disseminate information, share success stories, and raise awareness about climate impacts and solutions. These strategies will aim to inspire action at all levels, ensuring that climate change becomes a priority issue for both the public and decision-makers. Additionally, climate advocacy will be crucial at regional and global platforms, including international climate conferences and forums. By actively engaging in dialogues at the African Union, UN climate negotiations, and other key global platforms, the strategy will advocate for stronger commitments, more financial resources, and policy reforms that are necessary to achieve Africa's climate goals. These advocacy efforts will ensure that Africa's climate challenges and priorities are firmly represented on the global stage, helping to secure the support needed for transformative action and sustainable development.

5.6

Funding and resource mobilization

Securing adequate climate financing is critical to the successful implementation of the ACPC 10-year strategy. To address the significant financial needs, the strategy will employ a multi-faceted approach to resource mobilization. This will include leveraging multilateral and bilateral funding mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and climate-focused development banks to secure necessary resources for climate action. The strategy will also actively engage the private sector, fostering public-private partnerships that promote investments in green infrastructure, renewable energy, and climate-resilient agriculture. By exploring innovative financing options, such as green bonds, blended finance, and impact investing, the strategy will attract private capital to support climate projects. Additionally, development partners will play a crucial role in providing technical assistance and financial support, ensuring that African countries have the resources and expertise required to implement climate policies effectively. A concerted effort will be made to create sustainable financial ecosystems that enable long-term climate investments and foster a resilient, low-carbon economy across the continent.

06. | RISKS AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

This section identifies key challenges that could hinder the successful implementation of the proposed interventions. Broadly, these risks include political instability, limited financial resources, capacity and knowledge gaps, and environmental impacts of large-scale projects. To address these risks, the strategy incorporates mitigation measures such as fostering multi-stakeholder engagement, strengthening regional cooperation, leveraging innovative financing models, and enhancing data collection and technological capacity. Additionally, the strategy emphasizes social equity, ensuring vulnerable groups are included in decision-making processes and benefits. By addressing these risks proactively (Table 3), the ACPC aims to ensure the successful implementation of the proposed interventions.

Table 3. Risk category, risk type and risk mitigation measures

No.	Risk category	Risk types	Mitigation measures
1	Political and Institutional Risks	Political instability or weak governance may hinder climate policy implementation and long-term climate resilience	Engage multi-stakeholders to ensure political support across sectors, build regional cooperation, encourage cross-party committees on climate change, and provide technical assistance to integrate climate action into national strategies.
2	Financial and Resource Risks	Limited access to financial resources may delay or prevent climate-resilient projects, especially in vulnerable countries	Strengthening partnerships with international finance mechanisms, leverage public-private partnerships, develop a resource mobilization strategy, and build financial capacity at the national and regional levels.
3	Capacity and Knowledge Gaps	Lack of technical capacity, weak frameworks, and limited climate data may hinder effective climate policy design and implementation	Implement capacity-building programs, establish knowledge-sharing platforms, strengthen collaborations with academic institutions, and develop localized climate tools for decision-makers
4	Technical and Implementation Risks	The complexity of cross-sectoral climate resilience integration may lead to fragmented implementation	Design integrated multi-sectoral policies, establish strong monitoring and evaluation frameworks, promote climate-smart technologies, and partner with technical experts and regional organizations

5	Social and Equity Risks	Vulnerable groups may be excluded from climate decision-making and benefits	Integrate gender and social equity considerations, ensure inclusive policies, develop accessible climate solutions for local communities, and provide targeted capacity-building for vulnerable groups
6	Environmental and Ecological Risks	Proposed climate resilience interventions may cause environmental or biodiversity loss	Prioritize nature-based solutions, conduct environmental impact assessments, integrate sustainable resource management, and incentivize biodiversity protection
7	Data and Technological Risks	Insufficient climate data may lead to ineffective decision-making	Strengthening data collection and monitoring systems, use digital tools and GIS for climate data, establish regional data-sharing platforms, and invest in climate science research to improve understanding of emerging risks
8	External and Global Risks	Global economic crises or shifts in climate finance priorities may disrupt Africa's climate action progress	Build strong regional partnerships, advocate for Africa's climate priorities in international forums, diversify funding sources, and foster South-South cooperation for knowledge-sharing and resource exchange

07. | MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The 10-year ACPC plan will be guided by a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Impact Assessment (MEIA) strategy that will support effective progress monitoring, outcome evaluation, and adaptive management of interventions. The strategy is essential in evaluating the effectiveness of the plan and making the required adjustments for the achievement of climate resilience and sustainable development in Africa.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the Climate Policy Implementation will form the foundation of measuring progress during the lifetime of the strategy. Important indicators will focus on climate resilience, e.g., achievement in vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, water, and health. Mobilization of climate finance will be tracked, with a focus on investments in green infrastructure and climate-resilient agriculture. Institutional capacity development will be monitored through the number of trained government and local institutions for climate action. Stakeholder participation, including governments, private

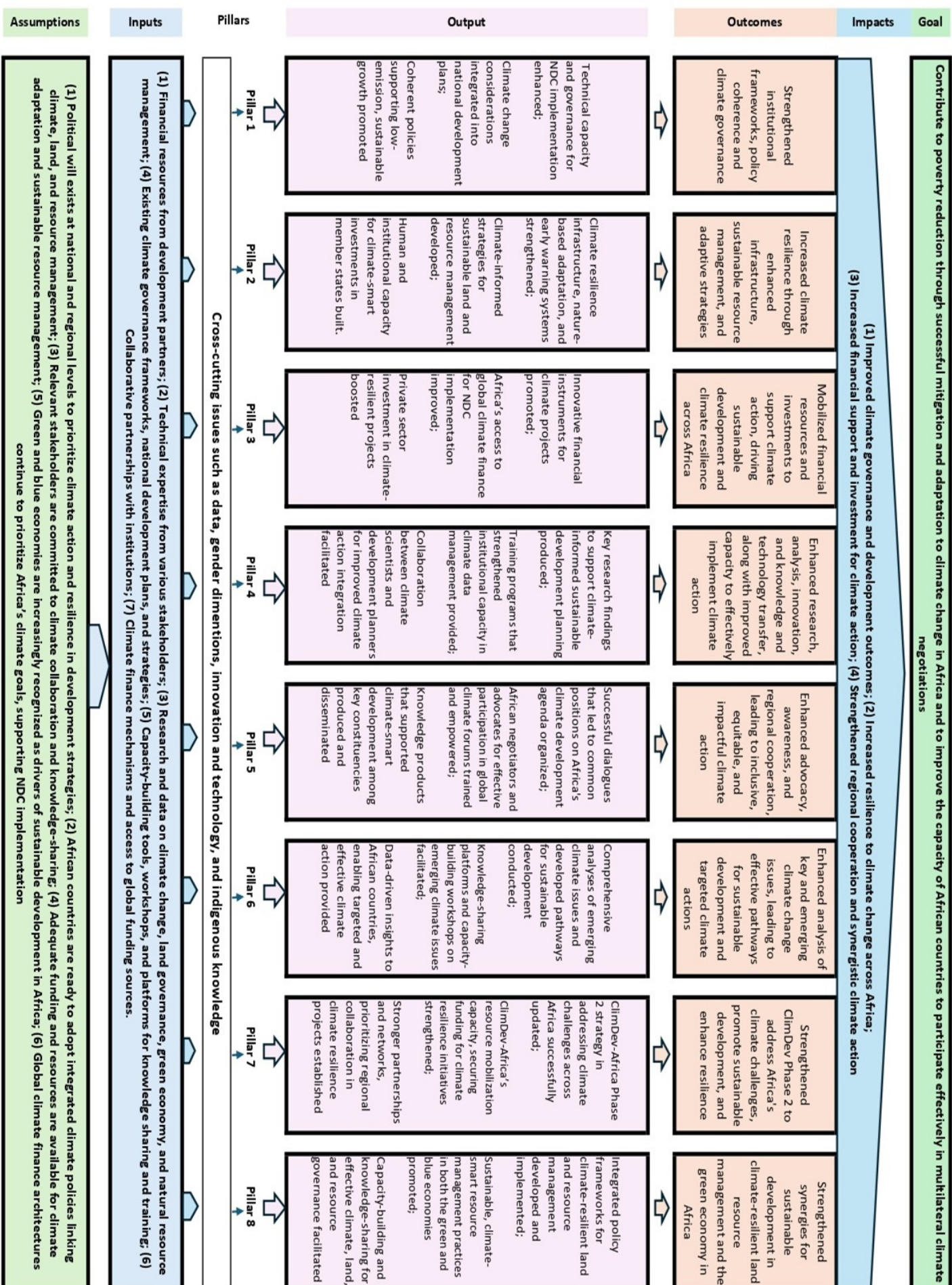
sector, civil society, and vulnerable groups, will also be monitored to enhance inclusive policy making. Specific KPIs will also track the adaptation and mitigation efforts under climate and their effectiveness, such as renewable energy use and sustainable land use. Finally, gender and social inclusion indicators will track the level of engagement by vulnerable groups like women and the youth in decision-making on climate.

The Evaluation Framework will also offer a formal framework for assessing the strategy's progress at all stages. Baseline measurement will be done during the commencement to ascertain the initial data on climate vulnerabilities, policy guidelines, and institutional capacities in Africa. A mid-term review will be done every five years to ascertain the progress in achieving the objectives of the strategy, identify the gaps, and recommend changes needed. There will be an end-term evaluation at the terminal end of 10 years to reflect on the aggregate impact of the strategy, focusing on its contribution towards sustainable development, climate resilience, and poverty alleviation. In addition to this evaluation, process evaluation will continually assess the quality of stakeholder engagement and the level of implementation effectiveness of the strategy, while the impact evaluation will focus on determining the long-term impacts of the strategy on climate resilience as well as social equity.

Reporting Mechanisms will establish transparency and account for accountability during the implementation phase of the strategy. Annual progress reports will keep stakeholders up to date regularly on implementation progress, stating achievements, challenges, and any remedies taken. Additionally, real-time dashboards of data will be used to provide transparent, up-to-date information on the progress of climate action and movement of finance flows so that all levels of stakeholders are kept adequately informed. Stakeholder comments will also be part of the reporting process, with surveys, consultations, and focus groups being used to record the views of national governments, local communities, and other stakeholders. Furthermore, the strategy will ensure that evaluation findings, performance indicators, and any changes to the strategy are made publicly available through publicly accessible reports, to provide transparency and accountability in the process.

The Adaptive Management Strategy will be pivotal in ensuring that the strategy remains relevant and effective during its 10-year plan implementation period. Real-time monitoring of climate impacts, policy implementation, and the status of the environment will be established, with the strategy regularly updated with the latest information. Adjustments in interventions will be responsive to the real-time information as required, allowing the strategy to remain effective in addressing the evolving climate challenges. Moreover, the strategy will enable nimble policy integration through national and regional climate policy adaptation to new science, innovation, and emerging climate risks. Learning loops and feedback will also be incorporated into the strategy to enable ongoing learning and adaptation. This will involve integrating successes and learning from failures and ongoing improvement of climate action accordingly. Furthermore, stakeholders will also be involved completely in the process of revising and refining the strategy so that the changes made are context-specific and responsive to local conditions and requirements.

Annex I: Theory of Change (ToC)



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