

## Africa in the Post –Kyoto Climate Governance Framework

The 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) scheduled for Paris in December 2015 will be a landmark event in the trajectory of global climate governance framework, especially for Africa. Africa contributes the least to atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations, but is already the most affected by the impacts of climate change, and most at risk from increased global warming. Already, climate change is posing a serious threat to Africa's development potential, and temperature increases above 2<sup>o</sup>C will spell disaster for the continent. COP 21 will seek to establish a successor climate regime to the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2015. For Africa, a progressive agreement in Paris should be ambitious and as close as possible to the recommendations of the IPCC 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report, and should include:

- The adoption of a binding climate change agreement which addresses the key pillars of the Bali framework and is based on the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities
- A strong commitment to keep temperature increased below 1.5<sup>o</sup>C.
- An emphasis on the importance of adaptation for Africa, and
- Additional and adequate finance, including a strong commitment to capitalize the Global Climate Fund (GCF)

In preparation for COP 21, ClimDev Africa has already launched several preparatory activities to support the development of the Africa Common position on the post-Kyoto agreement. From January 21-23<sup>rd</sup>, the ACPC convened a meeting of the African Group of Negotiators in Addis Ababa. The meeting traced the evolution of the African position in global climate governance from the inception of the UNFCCC, discussed major milestones in the trajectory of the Convention, identified key issues for consideration in the process leading up to Paris, and clarified the key elements of the emerging Common African Position on Climate Change. ClimDev will also provide support for the upcoming Africa Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), and the Committee of African Heads of State on Climate Change (CAHOSCC). These milestone meetings will culminate in the hosting of the African participants in COP 21 at a proposed Africa Pavilion in Paris.

The Africa Pavilion was mandated by the African Heads of state and is a physical space where Africans meet to strategize and synchronize their participation in the COP process. It was successfully launched at COP 17 in Durban. It is envisaged that given the significance of CCOP 21, the proposed Africa Pavilion will be more than just the physical space hosting African dialogues, events and exhibitions, but will also symbolize the unity of purpose of Africa in the face of climate change, and the importance of a global climate agreement that adequately addresses Africa's concerns and sets the foundation for sustainable climate smart development. ClimDev Africa has initiated the processes towards the establishment and organization of the Africa Pavilion at COP 21, and discussions with the host nation and other key stakeholders towards this end have commenced.

This side event will present and discuss the main conclusions from the AGN Addis Ababa meeting; the preparations for the AMCEN meeting and for the CAHOSCC and provide updates on the key themes under development for the Africa Pavilion.