

12th conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA XII)

“Financing Climate Adaptation in Africa”

Draft Concept Note

Introduction

The consequences of the climate crisis extend far beyond rising temperatures. It includes devastating impacts on economies, ecosystems, weather patterns, vulnerable communities[1] and exposed infrastructure and assets. Scientists attribute a discernible surge in weather-related disaster frequency and losses in the past two decades to climate change. In the 42 years from 1980 to 2022, more than 10 000 weather-related disasters were recorded in the International Disaster Database (EM-DAT), of which 69% were recorded after 2000. Disaster losses have risen by more than 200% in the last two decades. The trend highlights the intensification and acceleration of the challenges posed by climate change. Concurrently, climate-induced displacement is also rising, with millions of people forced to relocate due to the adverse effects of changing weather patterns. According to the iDMC[2] database, more than 260 million internal displacements occurred between 2012 and 2022 due to natural disasters (the vast majority due to flooding and storms).

The first Global Stock Take (GST), concluded at COP28 in December 2023, showed that the implementation of measures provided for in the Paris Agreement has fallen far short of the intended outcomes of the agreement. The world is offtrack in meeting the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal set under the Paris Agreement. The outcome of this GST called on parties to contribute to global efforts to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in this critical decade. This decision also encourages the next round of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), due in February 2025, to include ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets aligned with the objective to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The course correction called for by the GST would extend beyond more ambitious NDCs to also include increased means of implementation support for the developing world through a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance, faster technology development and transfer, a Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), as well as finalization of the rules and modalities regulating carbon markets in the context of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

African region is significantly impacted by the changing climate, the increasing temperatures, frequencies of drought and floods, sea level rise, shift in weather patterns

and other extremes that have adverse effects on human welfare and natural ecosystems and development. These impacts pose formidable challenges to Africa's socio-economic development prospects including realisation of the targets of Africa's Agenda 2063; the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Goal 13 on taking urgent actions to combat climate change and its Impacts, and achievement of economic prosperity and improvement of social wellbeing of the citizens. These climate change challenges, and associated risks heightened the need by African Union (AU) member states, regional and Sub-regional organisations and pan African organisations in collaboration to develop a robust approach that would give direction, coherence, focus and collective efforts in confronting the climate change challenges. Further, the African Cities and Local Governments plays a significant role in addressing the climate change discourses in the continent as demonstrated by the latest IPCC report including the recognition for a special report on cities during the AR7 cycle of the IPCC.

Africa is uniquely positioned as a minor emitter yet at the same time disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of global emissions on the climate system. The continent's priority is climate resilient development, as reflected in its NDCs and long-term low emissions development strategies (LT-LEDS). The key challenge facing the continent, therefore, is how to adapt to the impacts of climate change, while at the same time investing in climate informed development. This clearly depends on the availability of adequate finance, technology transfer and capacity building, led by developed countries based on Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR), as specified in article 2 of the Paris Agreement. However, financing climate action remains elusive. The goal of providing \$100 billion per year, pledged in 2009, was only putatively reached in 2022, and falls far short of the estimated requirement of \$1.3 trillion. Global climate finance for adaptation was supposed to double by 2025 but is instead declining, jeopardizing the UN's sustainable development goals and threatening investment already made in resilience solutions. Without investing in adaptation, the continent will not be able to capitalize on opportunities for job creation, green growth and avoided losses.

Yet, according to Global Center for Adaptation (GCA), African States are paying twice as much on adaptation than they receive in bilateral aid. Scaling adaptation action will require integrated climate and biodiversity action requiring huge levels of financing. Globally, an estimated extra funding of \$700 billion is required each year to halt global biodiversity decline by 2030^[1], yet less than 5% of global climate finance is directed towards nature-based solutions. Africa has one of the lowest levels of access to green finance. Low levels of green investments are compounded by the growing debt burden, the impact of which is that poorer countries, most of them in Africa, spend five times as much on debt repayments as they do on climate action^{[2], [3]}. This impedes tangible action at scale to cope with climate change and carry out ecosystem restoration and management. Carbon markets have grown rapidly in recent years

as an innovative source of green finance, but it remains poorly developed in Africa. The region has therefore not reaped commensurate compensation for its vast carbon sinks and pools in its forests and water resources, including in the Congo basin.

^[1] Andrew Deutz and others, *Financing Nature: Closing the Global Biodiversity Financing Gap* (Paulson Institute, The Nature Conservancy and Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability, 2020). https://www.paulsoninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINANCING-NATURE_Full-Report_Final-with-endorsements_101420.pdf

^[2] <https://www.bond.org.uk/news/2024/06/urgent-action-required-why-rich-countries-must-address-debt-to-combat-the-climate-emergency/#:~:text=To%20keep%20up%20with%20debt,impacts%20of%20the%20climate%20crisis>

^[3] <https://debtjustice.org.uk/press-release/lower-income-countries-spend-five-times-more-on-debt-than-dealing-with-climate-change#:~:text=The%20figures%2C%20released%20today%20by,payments%20which%20leave%20the%20country>

The mid sessional meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC in June 2024 were the first opportunity for parties to map out the details and modalities for more ambitious NDCs, financing climate action through the NCQG, and map out the indicators of the GGA, among others. However, the SB60 meeting did not resolve many of these issues. Little progress was made on the modalities of implementing the outcomes and recommendations of the GST. There was also limited progress made on the Global Goal on Adaptation, Article 6, as well as the linkages between the governance process and the scientific inputs of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). COP29 is therefore expected to make progress towards addressing the outstanding issues preventing agreement on the NCQG, GGA, Loss and Damage financing, and so on. CCDA-XII, therefore, aims to provide a platform for the concretization of Africa's positions on these key issues of the Paris Agreement.

Similarly to the rest of the globe, Africa continues to experience warming temperatures, accelerating sea level rise, and extreme weather and climate events such as floods and droughts and associated devastating impacts. This heightens the urgency for climate action in Africa and the need for pathways to address critical gaps and challenges, enhance resilience, improve disaster preparedness through early warning systems, and channel climate finance into sustainable development practices and adequately characterize loss and damage in the continent.

The State of the Climate in Africa Report for 2023, which will be released at the Conference shines a spotlight on the above challenges. It is science-based and authoritative scientific information in the continent on climate trends, observed high-impact weather and climate events and their associated impacts in key sensitive sectors.

The report is a collaborative product of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the African Union Commission (AUC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) through the Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC), other United Nations Agencies, Regional Organizations and Institutes, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, Disaster Management Agencies, climate, socioeconomic and policy experts from Africa and experts from partner international scientific and technical institutions.

Objectives

CCDA XII will bring together multiple stakeholders to contribute to the concretization of Africa's common position on climate actions which are responsive to the outcomes of the 2023 GST.

The specific objectives are:

1. To create a common understanding on and implications of and define Africa's priorities in response to the GST
2. To establish frameworks to support member states to review and produce robust NCDs (NDC 3.0) in line with the GST
3. To examine progress made by countries on the new generation of NDCs.
4. To mobilize multistakeholder engagement, including involvement of local governments, and partnerships to support member States and non-state actors to design and implement response measures to the GST
5. Identify potential opportunities to build the capacity of African climate lawyers to litigate on losses and damages linked to climate impacts.
6. To identify financing needs and explore financing options for Africa's adaptation and other climate investments including carbon markets.
7. To articulate needs and opportunities for scaled action on the climate-biodiversity nexus including integrated/coherent implementation of the AU strategies and action plans for climate resilience and sustainable use and management of biodiversity.

Outcomes

1. Coherent and evidence based African common position on the key issues of implementing responses to the GST, including domestic and other finance, litigating on losses and damages linked to anthropogenic climate and disasters, adaptation, access to technologies, and carbon trading.
2. Concrete framework and resources for the elaboration and implantation of progressive NDCs which deliver both climate resilience and sustainable development outcomes.

3. Enhanced interaction between the AGN and multiple African stakeholders.
4. Developed framework to publicize AGN and its services across Africa.
5. Enhanced action for coherent implementation of the AU Climate resilience and biodiversity strategies and action plans.
6. Identified financing options for Africa's adaptation and other climate investments aligned with the outcomes of the GST.