

Africa Adaptation Initiative - AAI

Enhancing action on adaptation in Africa

Newsletter - Roundtable Special Edition



Africa Union



Republic of Gabon



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His Excellency Ali Bongo Ondimba
President of Gabon and the Coordinator of
the Committee of African Heads of State and
Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC)

My Commitment To Africa's Adaptation To Climate Change

Africa's development is today not only an economic and social issue but also strongly connected to the challenge of climate change.

Indeed, since 2009, after my accession to the Supreme Judiciary of Gabon, I was able to measure in Copenhagen during the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change the vulnerability of all the development processes undertaken by our continent. To remedy this, I immediately adjusted my economic development strategy, the Gabon Emergent Strategic Plan, with a low-carbon development strategy, the National Climate Plan.

Indeed, my conviction is that without an alignment between economic, social and environmental issues, our development processes will never be sustainable and will reproduce the evil development in which the world has been engaged for decades and above all we will aggravate its consequences.

What is changing today with this sustainability approach is essentially the paradigm shift needed to disconnect our economic growth from our greenhouse gas emissions. Because we have more proof than ever every day with floods, desertification, climate-related migration and instabilities associated with the scarcity of natural resources.

The world is changing and Africa is equally changing.

This is particularly reflected in the climate commitment of our countries, which, within the framework of the regional institutions we have built, have implemented several initiatives.

We have in particular on renewable energies, the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), on tropical forests, the Congo Basin Commission, on desertification, the Sahel Commission, on coastal and ocean problems, the Commission of Island States and on Adaptation, the African Adaptation Initiative. Not to mention initiatives dedicated to specific themes such as agriculture through the initiative for the adaptation of agriculture in Africa.

That is why, on 24 September 2018, in the margins of the General Assembly, I convened a round table of partners to:

- * present the continent's progress in the fight against climate change,
- * announce significant contributions from our partners,
- * mobilize USD 5 million to finance in the short term the coordination of action between our various initiatives and put in place the necessary tools for a greater mobilization of financing.

Africa, with its means, is deploying all its energy to fight the cancer of modern development that is climate change.

This must therefore also lead our partners to mobilise their efforts relentlessly, in accordance with commitments that are continually repeated but still insufficiently implemented.

I therefore invite all our partners to join the transformation train to boost Paris' momentum and turn our words into deeds.

For as I have said since Paris, **"The cost of inaction will be greater and heavier than that of action".**

Climate Change is one of the biggest challenge of our century, especially for African countries

The UN Environment Programme's Adaptation Gap report has estimated that about **US\$380 billion** will be needed per year **by 2050 for climate adaptation**.

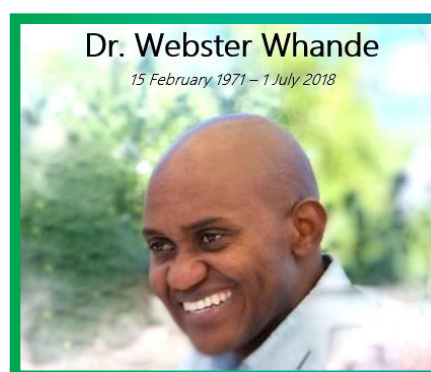
First Stakeholder Meeting

The Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) held the first Stakeholder Meeting to gather insights from partners on the first Africa State of Adaptation Report (SoAR), which seeks to establish a baseline of adaptation actions on the continent, as well as galvanizing climate action and mobilizing finance for African countries.

The meeting was held at the beautiful setting of La Baie des Tortues Luth Hotel (<https://labaiedestortues.com>) at the Pongara National Park, where the thousands of Gabon's iconic sea turtles migrate every year and yet only 1 in 1000 hatchlings manage to survive the environmental and human threats they currently face to reach adulthood.

Over thirty delegates, representing 25 countries and 20 institutions, including the UNFCCC, UNEP, AfDB and many others, were welcomed by Mr Stephen Jackson, Resident Coordinator for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Gabon. Keynote speakers were Mr Rodrigue Abourou, Deputy General Director of Environment on behalf of the Government of Gabon and Ambassador Seyni Nafo, former Chair of the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN).

Ms Kulthoum Omari, Coordinator of AAI gave a touching tribute to Dr Webster Whande, the Lead Researcher for the SoAR, who passed away before the meeting and a moment of silence was held in remembrance of our colleague.



The report will provide an analysis of adaptation action on the continent, adaptation priorities as outlined in national documents and an analysis of how much Africa is investing in adaptation from domestic resources. The report will also outline where partners can add value by investing in Africa to close the adaptation gap.



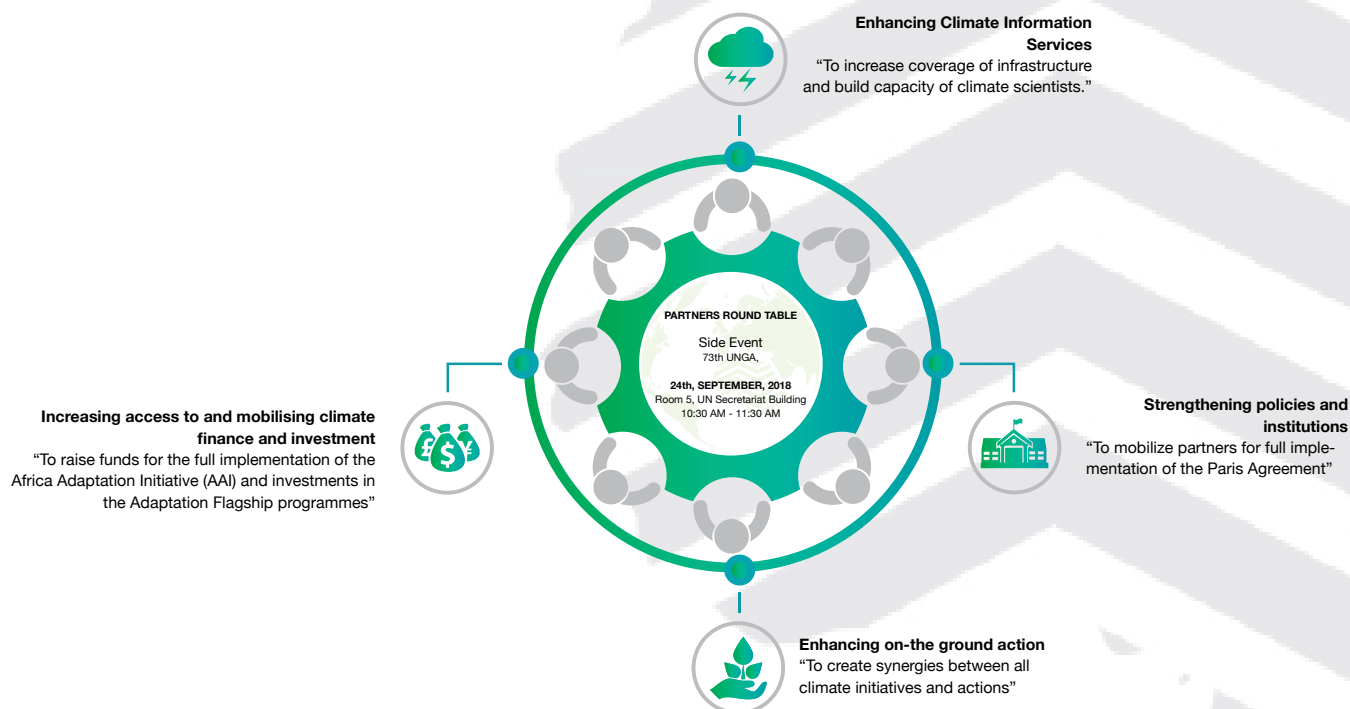
Delegates at the first Stakeholder Meeting on the Africa State of Adaptation Report (SoAR) - Pongara National Park, Gabon August 2018

Mobilizing Climate Investment - the Donor Roundtable Meeting

The Government of Gabon, is spearheading the resource mobilization drive on behalf of 54 African countries who are members of the Committee of African Heads of States and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC). Co-hosted by Gabon and UNDP, this high-level event will be used as a platform to present a synthesis report of the first Africa State of Adaptation in Africa (SoAR), and to secure further support and pledges to implement the AAI and its flagship programmes.

30 guests from 14 countries and organizations have been invited and together they will consider the most effective measures to be taken to close the Adaptation gap in Africa, which experts estimate will reach USD 7 billion and 15 billion per year by 2020, increasing thereafter. While all African countries are investing significant domestic resources in their own response to climate change, through their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), there is still a significant gap that needs international support in terms of finance, technology development and transfer and capacity building.

Africa is in the greatest danger of being struck by the worst impacts of climate change, as it threatens the continued economic growth and livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations. By 2020, between 75 and 250 million people on the continent are projected to be exposed to increased water stress due to climate change.



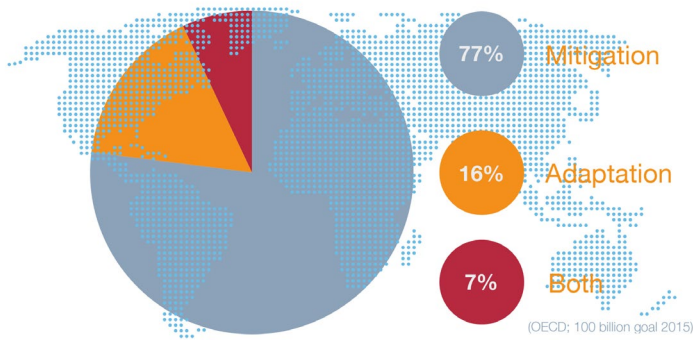
"Africa cannot continue to be short changed on adaptation financing, it is hampering progress on development because funds are constantly being spent on emergency costs for floods, droughts and various disasters" said H.E. Mr. Régis Immongault, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, Francophonie and Regional Integration of Gabon.

"These unplanned expenditures deplete our long-term provisions for health, education, and major infrastructure projects. It keeps us tied to unsustainable cycles of managing the worst effects of climate change, rather than tackling the root causes. We are therefore fully committed to breaking this cycle through effective adaptation measures in our countries."

The AAI was launched during the 21st Conference of Parties (CoP) on Climate Change, in December 2015, to support the scaling up of adaptation measures in Africa. The goals of AAI are to improve the provision of climate information services to support better decision-making; strengthen policies and institutions; enhance on-the-ground action; and to mobilize climate investment.

Each year the presiding Chair of CAHOSCC and AMCEN taken on the leadership of the AAI. This year the Government of Gabon have embraced that challenge by making a USD 500,000 contribution of support – the first by an African country to the AAI. The Interim secretariat is currently located in Libreville, Gabon

KEY FACTS OF THE WEEK



The image shows that 77% of current funding goes towards mitigation projects undertaken by richer, developed countries and only 16% of funds are reaching developing countries who need it most.

In the run-up to and at COP21 in Paris, a number of developed countries and multilateral institutions made significant climate finance pledges, as acknowledged in the COP21 Decision relating to long-term finance (5/CP.21). Further, Decision 1/CP.21 accompanying the

Paris Agreement “strongly urges developed country Parties to scale up their level of financial support, with a concrete roadmap to achieve the commitment of jointly providing USD 100 billion annually by 2020 for mitigation and adaptation while significantly increasing adaptation finance from current levels” (UNFCCC, 2015). The Paris Decision made clear that developed countries intended to continue their existing collective mobilisation commitment through to 2025, with a new collective quantified goal to be agreed prior to 2025, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries.

Against this background, the OECD was asked to provide analytical support to the preparation by developed countries of a concrete roadmap for meeting the commitment of mobilising USD 100 billion per year by 2020. The image above is taken from “2020 projections of Climate Finance towards the USD 100 billion goal: Technical Note” (OECD 2016) which provided an analysis of the scale of future climate finance.

Find out more at: <http://www.oecd.org/env/cc/oecd-climate-finance-projection.htm>

I remain convinced that funding the fight against climate change is a cost that is much more bearable than the one of having to observe its consequences on our planet

His Excellency Ali Bongo Ondimba
President of Gabon

Related Links:

1. www.adaptation-undp.org
2. www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/Home.aspx
3. www.un.org/en/ga/4
5. <https://au.int/>
6. www.unenvironment.org/regions/africa/african-ministerial-conference-environment
6. www.conseilnationalclimat.ga/fr/accueil/
7. www.jeuneafrique.com

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The African Group of Negotiators (AGN)
Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

